

**Moss Park CLC
MEETING MINUTES**
September 26, 2023
6:00PM-7:30PM

ATTENDEES:

Ontario Legislature

- Varshaa Punithchelvan (MPP Kristyn Wong-Tam)

City of Toronto

- Councillor Chris Moise
- Edward LaRusic (Councillor Chris Moise)
- Suzanne Cooke-Woodland (City of Toronto, PFR Capital Projects Design & Delivery)
- Michael Paolucci
- Julia Murnaghan
- Nazli Dehghani
- Vitha S

Community Groups/Non-Profit Organizations/Residents

- Jerome Leach (Toronto Community Housing)
- Sylvie (197 Queen Street East)
- Andre Bermon (The Bridge Community Newspaper)
- Walied Khogali Ali (Moss Park Coalition)
- Diane Devenyi (The Learning Force Inc.)
- Nick Culverwell (Garden District Residents Association)
- Carol Mark (Amazing Moss Park Art Collective)
- David Anderson
- Sahana Gunaratnam
- Henry Hong
- Marilyn
- Peter
- Terry
- AB

Metrolinx

- Amanda Kusick
- Daniel Cicero
- Jihad Bouzid
- Jodi Parps
- Judy Brooks
- Kelli Charbonneau
- Sarah Conway
- Zahrah Munas
- Malcolm MacKay

- Ross Anderson
- Matthew Beaudoin
- Malcolm MacKay
- Flavia Santiago
- Jason Hall

OTG

- Allison Dewhirst
- Emaan Ali
- Julia Orsini
- Carlos Ramos Cruz
- Eric Devera
- Francisco Metcalf

OVERVIEW:

The Metrolinx and OTG teams hosted a CLC meeting for Moss Park on September 26, 2023. The meeting commenced with Metrolinx welcoming attendees to the space, providing a land acknowledgement and sharing safety tips with the group.

Metrolinx proceeded by providing an overview of the Ontario Line project, including site details and area renderings for Moss Park station. Metrolinx then offered an update on archeological findings along Queen Street. From there, OTG shared a construction update with the group, covering topics such as utilities investigations, borehole drilling, site preparation activities, pedestrian scaffolding installation and sewer works at Sherbourne Street. Metrolinx came back in to provide details on signage that will be appearing around Moss Park. Metrolinx finished the presentation by summarizing upcoming community engagement activities and giving the group a sense of the Community Benefits and Support Program.

The presentation paused at a few moments to take questions from attendees, and in addition to that, attendees were invited to more formally ask questions once the presentation was complete. A summary of the questions posed by attendees and the responses offered by the presenters is outlined below.

QUESTIONS:

- A CLC member commented that the team should not leave any space between the station and Sherbourne Street.
- A CLC member asked the team to give an example of an artifact during the archeological update.
- A CLC member asked who is in charge of ensuring that contractors complete their work.

- **A representative of the Moss Park Coalition wanted to know if local social enterprises be contracted to deliver security services rather than Toronto Police Services (TPS) given that local enterprises can engage historically disfranchised community members.**
 - **OTG** responded that, once site access has been granted to their team with the perimeter fencing, they can look into this opportunity for community members.
 - **Metrolinx** recalled that TPS is only used for traffic management purposes and will bring the suggestion back to the team at Metrolinx.
- **A CLC member asked whether residents will be notified about noise depending on phases of construction and added that noise is easier to deal with when you know what and why it is happening.**
 - **Metrolinx** replied that updates regarding noise are typically provided in the community notices.
 - **OTG** added that the noise associated with construction is temporary and that, once hoarding is installed, noise will be mitigated.
- **A member of the CLC group expressed concerns that residents are not being given accurate information when it comes to Permission to Enter (PTE) Notices.**
 - **OTG** recommended a separate conversation to discuss any further questions or concerns on PTEs and will reach out.
- **A representative of Councillor Chris Moise’s office recommended that attractive hoarding be used during construction.**
 - **Metrolinx** agreed that attractive hoarding is important and addressed the topic later in the presentation.
- **A member of the CLC group mentioned that its art gallery can help with attractive hoarding.**
 - **Metrolinx** commented that the team would be happy to discuss and provided contact information to the Collective.
- **A member of the CLC group shared concerns surrounding the ability to distribute food and clothing once hoarding goes up on Queen Street.**
- **A representative for Toronto Community Housing asked whether it could offer any support processes regarding tenant queries.**
 - **Metrolinx** offered to connect offline to filter questions from tenants with THC.
- **A member of the CLC asked if the contractor could use broadband reversing alarms on construction trucks to mitigate noise.**
 - **OTG** explained that the alarms are needed based on regulations and that the team has attempted to use them in places and sections that are less disruptive.
 - **Metrolinx** -it is a project agreement obligation for the contractor to have broadband backup alarms installed in all their construction vehicles while working overnight and we will make sure through our environmental compliance program that this is followed.

- **A member of the CLC group** asked about how local businesses are going to be supported during construction, especially given that Moss Park does not have a BIA. It also asked about what benefits are available for seniors.
 - **Metrolinx** answered that the team is working with constructors and engagement staff to support local businesses through events like a job fair.
 - **Metrolinx** commented that the team is looking forward to engaging with local storefronts to ensure that business owners are kept aware and have access to community benefits.
 - **A representative for the Moss Park Coalition** commented on the importance of ensuring that businesses and residents can access benefits despite them being made available. As a recommendation, it suggested engaging with community members to better understand what benefits are most useful to them and, along the way, monitoring and evaluating the impacts of benefits.
 - **Metrolinx** responded that the team is looking forward to discussing this matter at the next meeting with the MPC.

- **A representative for MPP Wong-Tam's Office** echoed the feedback shared on community benefits and added that constituents have asked for tangible next steps on taking advantage of them.
 - **Metrolinx** offered CLC meetings and upcoming pop-up events as tangible opportunities for community members to engage with Metrolinx. Beyond that, the team reiterated existing commitments to community benefits, including hiring members that are Black, Indigenous and people of colour (BIPOC).

- **A resident** asked for an update on engaging community members that are BIPOC as a way to meet the benefits objectives of the community. They mentioned ensuring representation in an apprentice program but understands that it was not part of the original contract for this station's engagement plan.
 - **Metrolinx** responded that representation continues to be an objective but that there are no updates on the specifics of the program.

- **A representative for the Moss Park Coalition** asked what types of employment opportunities will be offered within community benefits and what supports will be available to help community members take advantage of them.
 - **Metrolinx** answered that, based on past light rail transit projects, the jobs range from engineering to administrative to technical positions. The team also added that it is their job to connect with workforce development agencies and unions to share information and provide opportunities.
 - **A member of the CLC group** offered to post opportunities on its website for greater visibility.

- **A resident** asked if there are any updates on the trade show that is part of the community benefits plan.
 - **OTG** responded that the trade show is part of its responsibility and that the team is working with Metrolinx on timing with the goal of hosting it late this year or early in 2024.

- **Members of the CLC** shared various concerns with construction work happening at night. They articulated that community members need predictability on noise so that they can make plans around it in order to get sleep, as sleep is vital to leading healthy lives and avoiding potential accidents down the line.
 - **OTG** explained that working during the night avoids interface with residents and businesses and allows the arena to remain open as much as possible.
 - **OTG** added that the team is making every effort to finish night work and that, eventually, work will transition to the day within the hoarding that suppresses noise.
 - **A representative for the Moss Park Coalition** asked that residents be consulted on planning around noise.
 - **A representative for MPP Wong-Tam's Office** added that the community should be given ample prior notice to disruptive noise and that any studies to assess noise levels should be communicated back to community members.
 - **Metrolinx** shared that the team can provide more information on the equipment being used and the noise levels associated with it.
- **A resident** asked about the status of the haul routes for construction vehicles, especially when it comes to Shuter Street.
 - **OTG** referenced the Traffic Management Plan shared during the presentation and expressed that the goal is to minimize traffic impacts on the public. After conducting studies to analyze traffic patterns and routes, OTG recommends using Richmond, Adelaide and Jarvis as preliminary haul routes. Shuter will not be used for staging.
 - **A member** added that Shuter will have the new community centre.
 - **A member of the CLC group** added that the team should be mindful of a farmer's market opening in the area.
- **A member of the CLC commented about construction workers not being good neighbours in the community.**
 - **Metrolinx** was appreciative of the comment and assured the CLC that the team is taking that comment back.
- **A member of the CLC group** shared a recommendation on wetting soil to reduce dust and asthma.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. **OTG** to connect with Carol on the topic of PTEs.
2. **Metrolinx** to connect with representative of Toronto Community Housing to discuss opportunities for supporting tenant queries.
3. **Metrolinx** to reach out to Carol regarding hoarding and signage.
4. **Metrolinx and all** to share information on the equipment being used and noise.