

Osgoode Construction Liaison Committee (CLC)**MEETING MINUTES**

November 22, 2023

2:00PM-3:00PM

ATTENDEES:BIAs/Community Groups/Non-Profit Organizations/Residents

- Jacob Bakan (Office of Justice)
- Grant Humes (Financial District BIA)
- Ahmed Mesbah (GWL Realty Advisors)
- Liz Driver (Campbell House Museum, BOLD Coalition)
- Alan Liu (Queen Street West BIA)
- Simon Di Vincenzo (Law Society of Ontario)
- Amy Mushinski (Canadian Opera Company)
- Ram Nadarajan (Resident - 215 Queen Street West)
- Keyaan Nejud (PAA Advisory)
- Max Allen (Grange Community Association)
- Diana Ferrari (MP Kevin Vuong's Office)
- Caroline Ramos (MP Kevin Vuong's Office)
- David Robitaille (Four Seasons)

City of Toronto

- Richard Borbridge
- Michael Paolucci
- Vanessa Cipriani

Metrolinx

- Mark Clancy
- Daniel Cicero
- Amanda Kusick
- Thomas Wicks
- Robert Chisholm
- Jesse Pakkala
- Antonio Capobianco

Ontario Transit Group (OG)

- Juan Mendez Preciado
- Jennifer Marques
- Flavie Hamelin
- Allison Dewhirst
- Bella Santos
- Emaan Ali
- Ryan Sebastain

OVERVIEW:

On Wednesday, November 22, Metrolinx hosted an Osgoode CLC meeting in partnership with Ontario Transit Group (OTG). The meeting commenced with **Metrolinx** welcoming attendees to the space and presenting a brief overview of the agenda and format of the session.

Metrolinx started the meeting by inviting attendees to rotate between three sections of the room, each section sharing updates on either (1) archeological findings, (2) advanced (early) works and (3) upcoming construction activities. For each section, attendees were able to hear updates on current or upcoming work and ask questions about what they heard to team members from Metrolinx, OTG or the City of Toronto. These updates, questions and responses are described below.

Archaeological Findings

The first table focused on providing members with updates on archaeological findings from the construction site.

For the University Avenue work, **Metrolinx** outlined its process before construction initiates, which commenced with an archeological assessment that involves test pitting, soil screening and site monitoring across the line of Southwest corner of Queen Street

Metrolinx continued to explain the excavation procedures, detailing how provincial ministries are updated on the archaeological assessment and that discoveries are documented in the Ontario Public Register of Archaeological Reports. They also disclosed the results of their stage 2 fieldwork, which included uncovering ceramic earthenware, stoneware, coins, predominantly domesticated animal bones, structural components like bricks and nails, as well as clay remnants dating back to the 19th and 20th centuries.

During this segment, attendees had questions and were primarily interested in the discoveries made by the excavation team.

- **PAA Advisory: Do you follow an excavation process after every step of construction?**
 - **Metrolinx** confirmed that there is no monitoring while construction is active. However, for every site, on each stage of fieldwork, they consult with the ministry and their team of in-house archaeologists to identify the historical significance associated to their findings and only then they proceed to continuing construction.

Advanced Works

The second table focused on the topic of advanced works and shared updates on two projects currently underway: utility work at University Avenue and track construction at York Street.

For the University Avenue work, **Metrolinx** explained the work is in its final stage and shared that new water samples have recently passed testing. One of the final steps is connecting

water mains on the south end and tying them to the north end, all of which is estimated to be complete by Friday, December 1. At that point, lanes will be reopened, and traffic will be restored.

Attendees asked about next steps surrounding station work and associated lane closures in December. **Metrolinx** clarified that the South African War Memorial statue is to be removed by specialized heritage preservation team and that the median lane in both directions will be closed to support the work. Attendees were curious about potential impacts to the South African War Memorial statue, to which the team explained that a monitor has been installed at its base to track vibration impacts and that there is tolerance with the water mains at a 45-degree angle down and up to 11 meters deep.

For the York Street work, **Metrolinx** discussed the steps being undertaken to lay new streetcar tracks from York Street to Adelaide Street, including associated traffic impacts including road closures on Adelaide Street and a detour on Queen Street. Rebuilding two hydro poles in the south and north should be complete around the holidays, with the tracks themselves being laid in early May 2024 and the entire process being complete in Fall 2024.

After this update, attendees asked various questions related to parking impacts, transit impacts and construction processes. On parking, **Metrolinx** explained that the tracks are going to be laid in batches at night to minimize impacts and provide opportunities to coordinate with residents and businesses. The team was questions about streetcar stops and indicated safety measures surrounding proper lighting would be maintained like other locations. Finally, regarding construction processes, the team explained that the work is being undertaken by Clearway Construction and its subcontractors and that the streetcar rails, as they come in, will be stored on York Street.

Upcoming Works

OTG provided an update on the current and upcoming works at University Ave and Queen St, with focus on the abatement, removal, and preservation works of the heritage fencing along the south and west area of the Osgoode grounds. Additional information was provided on the demolition on the interior of the South station site at Simcoe St, and the City of Toronto watermain in tandem with OTG works on University Ave. Throughout this conversation, **BPS** and **KEZ** fielded questions. Specific areas of interest included:

Campbell House Museum: What portion or sections of the heritage fencing will be removed and how will the removal and restoration affect the remaining fencing?

- **Metrolinx/OTG** The section to the west and southside of Osgoode Hall will be removed following the abatement process. The integrity of the remaining fence will not be affected.

Grange Community Association: Is the removal of the fence difficult and why is a practice exercise required?

- **OTG** has tented a small section of the fencing to carefully carry out procedures to ensure the abatement of the mastic is done safely and properly, and the integrity of the fence remains intact throughout the exercise.

Campbell House Museum: What is the process for removing the fencing?

- **OTG** The process of removing the fencing will begin where the columns meet the stone foundation. The steel caps will be separated from the columns and the abatement process will be completed to the steel caps. The columns and panels will be carefully cut at the foundation and either side of the panels. The panels will then be lifted out, mounted on an A frame and transferred to the Clifford Restoration property site.

Campbell House Museum: Who will be overseeing and conducting the removal of the fencing and where will the panels be stored?

- **Metrolinx/ OTG** Clifford Restoration in collaboration with a contamination consultant will be onsite to oversee and direct Priestly Demolition when the removal of the fence is conducted. The panels will be stored at Clifford Restoration's property. When construction of the new station is completed the fencing will be installed in its new position.

Campbell House Museum: We don't feel that adequate information being provided by Metrolinx to the public of the removal and preservation plans of the heritage fencing.

- **Metrolinx** suggested providing additional details of the fence abatement, removal, storage and preservation efforts to Campbell House Museum directly as documents are available. Metrolinx suggests an information session dedicated to the heritage fencing with Clifford Restoration in attendance.

Grange Community Association: Can the original foundation stones be reused or salvaged?

- **Metrolinx:** Construction plans and design consultations are ongoing. Considerations are being given to responsibly recycle any remaining materials onsite.

Law Society of Ontario: What works are currently taking place and what activities are planned over the month of December at 205 Queen St W?

- **OTG** Bell is currently working on the exterior of the building on Simcoe St, repairing a broken cable. On the interior of the building, asbestos was detected. Abatement and decontamination work is currently underway and expected to continue over the next months.

Law Society of Ontario: Should the area at Queen St and University Ave anticipate any vibration or noise disruption from the current work at 205 Queen St W?

- **OTG** As the demolition is being completed by hand and considered light work, these are not producing any vibration or excessive noise.

A CLC member: With the removal of the South African War Memorial and current road works on University Ave, will additional lanes be affected?

- **OTG** The City of Toronto is currently performing watermain works in the two southbound lanes. OTG will perform additional work that will require the closure of the southbound lane next to the median. OTG and the City of Toronto will coordinate construction schedules to maintain traffic and to not close additional lanes.

Law Society of Ontario: Will ground monitoring devices be installed along the west lawn and can these disturb the ground settlement and affect the recently restored LSO grounds and property?

- **OTG** A thorough and comprehensive ground monitoring plan is in place to install additional ground monitoring devices at various stages of the project throughout Osgoode north and south. These devices will assist in monitoring and tracking various construction activities and all findings affecting the LSO properties will be communicated.

Conclusion

The meeting concluded with **Metrolinx** bringing the group together for a final round of questions and discussion. A summary of these questions is outlined below.

QUESTIONS:

- **Campbell House Museum: As a follow-up from last meeting, how accurate is the rendering of the station regarding the footprint of the building? What are its dimensions, and how far back will it be from the property line?**
 - **Metrolinx** explained that any dimensions would come with caveats at this stage in the design process and that, generally, the renderings are conceptual but are meant to be accurate to the intent of the plan. The intent is to have a small building close to the property line that is based on technical considerations. The team is working with the City of Toronto on designing a wider sidewalk that can form include public amenities for pedestrian use based on City standards or plans.
 - **Campbell House Museum** reiterated that the street belongs to everyone and that, in the case of the expanded sidewalk, the community should have an opportunity to input.

- **Campbell House Museum: In previous discussions about the number of escalators in the station, there was an impression that only engineering and financial matters were important to decision-making. How will the team take into account other criteria like people flow and green spaces? What are the tolerances?**
 - **Metrolinx** responded that the team is here to listen and will rely on technical considerations to inform minor design changes. He offered to discuss tolerances as an ongoing matter with attendees.

- **Campbell House Museum: Why was the community not given notice about tree pruning at Osgoode?**
 - **Metrolinx** confirmed that the Law Society of Ontario required that signage be placed on the construction fence to give notice, but unfortunately, that sign was ripped off over the weekend.
 - **Metrolinx** reiterated the importance of signage communicating that the work is being done by Metrolinx. Beyond that, there needs to be greater discussion about what work requires notices. This conversation can be carried forward into ongoing discussions surrounding the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the CLC.

- **Grange Community Association: Information exchange is an essential way to bridge the hard job being done by Metrolinx and the perspectives being shared by the community. How is Metrolinx going to provide adequate information for the people impacted by the work, even if notices are not required? In the case of the tree pruning, a notice should have been issued.**
 - **Metrolinx** expressed appreciation for the feedback and confirmed that it will be taken into consideration for future engagement. He reiterated a commitment to being transparent and collaborative with the community, but noted that formal construction notices will be focused on works with public impact, and will not be developed for every piece of work undertaken at the sites.

ACTION ITEMS:

- **Metrolinx** to carry forward conversation on what type of work requires notices into ongoing discussions surrounding the Terms of Reference for the CLC.
- **Metrolinx** to continue to discuss how best to promote information exchange with attendees and the broader community.