



Toronto Metropolitan Association of  
Planning Students



Metropolitan Planning Graduate  
Students' Association



School of Urban and  
Regional Planning  
Alumni Association

November 25, 2022

**VIA EMAIL ([chair@metrolinx.com](mailto:chair@metrolinx.com))**

Mr. Donald Wright, Chair, Board of Directors, Metrolinx

**Re: Thank you to Metrolinx staff for speaking at the Fourth Annual Bike Tour**

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Metrolinx staff members for being guest speakers at the Fourth Annual Bike Tour on Saturday, September 23rd and Saturday, September 30th, 2023.

The Bike Tour is a free and fun event for Toronto Metropolitan University (TMU) planning students, alumni, and guests where we cycle to various sites and hear from guest speakers. These tours offer a wonderful opportunity for participants to see exciting projects, ask questions, network, and in some cases, cycle for the first time in Toronto (including using Bike Share Toronto bikes) and check out new places.



*Preparing to depart the School of Urban and Regional Planning at TMU.*

This year, after gathering at the TMU School of Urban and Regional Planning on Bond Street and having a safety briefing, we stopped at Sugar Beach, the new Love Park, Garrison Common Bridge, a proposed new mixed use development at Queen Street West and University Avenue near the Ontario Line, Regent Park, Riverdale Farm in Cabbagetown, and Corktown Common. In addition to speakers from Metrolinx, other speakers included leaders from the Community Planning and the Cycling and Pedestrian Projects Unit at the City of Toronto, Waterfront Toronto, and a private sector developer. We are grateful for our volunteers including from the Chechen Canadian community and the Bicycle Mayor of Toronto, Lanrick Bennet Jr.

At Corktown Common, Jodi Parps and Patricia Pytel from Metrolinx provided an overview of the exciting transit projects under construction including their roles in communicating, working with stakeholders, planning, and delivering the projects. The future Ontario Line's East Harbour Station is visible from Corktown Common. GO Expansion's future electrification can also be seen from Corktown Common. Participants had the opportunity to ask Jodi and Patricia about these transit projects and their careers at Metrolinx. Students benefited from this opportunity by gaining a greater understanding of future career opportunities building and planning transit. Thank you to Jodi and Patricia for joining us.

Promoting and experiencing cycling is a key goal of the tour as it demonstrates how cycling can connect people to key transit stations and is part of a multimodal network across our region. A network that continues to grow through all the new Metrolinx transit projects under construction.

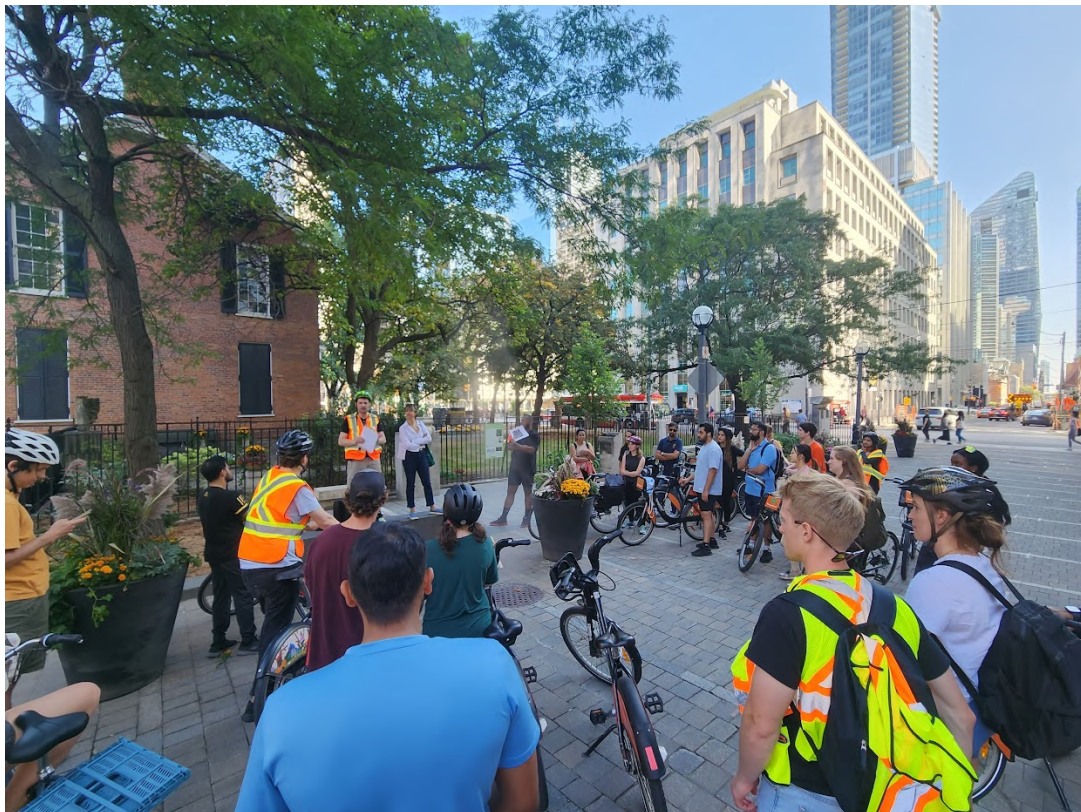


*Jodi Parps at the Corktown Common Stop.*





*Volunteer Lanrick Bennet Jr. leading the group over Garrison Common Bridge with the future Ontario Line Exhibition Station in the distance and GO Expansion project work on the rail corridors. GO bus pictured in the distance on the Gardiner Expressway.*



*Stop at looking south at a mixed use development application next to the future Ontario Line Station at Queen Street West and University Avenue.*





*Becky Katz from the City's Pedestrian and Cycling Unit speaking at Riverdale Farm.*



*Patricia Pytel speaking at Corktown Common.*





*Rachel Bregman speaking at the new Love Park which was a former off-ramp for the Gardiner Expressway.*



*City of Toronto Planner Al Rezoski speaking at Sugar Beach.*





We look forward to inviting Metrolinx staff as guest speakers for future bike tours.

Sincerely,

Alexandria Ellington-Hayden and Kevin Nunn, Co-Chairs  
School of Urban and Regional Planning Alumni (SURPA) Association at TMU

Chris Drew  
Tour Director, SURPA volunteer

Ryan Cheng, President  
Metropolitan Planning Graduate Students' Association (MPGSA) at TMU

Jenna Auger, President  
Toronto Metropolitan Association of Planning Students (TMAPS) at TMU

CC:

Hon. Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation

Mohamed Lachemi, President and Vice-Chancellor at TMU

Lisa-Marie Williams, Board of Governor for Alumni, TMU (B.U.R.PI 2010)

Raktim Mitra, Director of the School of Urban and Regional Planning, TMU

Zhixi Zhuang, Director of the School of Urban and Regional Planning Graduate Studies program,  
TMU

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