



Aurora GO & Yonge Street Bridge Construction Liaison Committee – November 23, 2023

ATTENDEES

Town of Aurora

- Councillor Weese (Ward 1)

Community Representatives

- Paddy Honey (Town Park Area Residents Rate Payers Association)
- John Green (Ratepayers of Yonge Street South)
- Rebecca Beaton (Regency Acres Ratepayers Association)
- Bob McRoberts (Northeast Old Aurora Ratepayers Association)
- Alison Mumford (Aurora Chamber of Commerce)
- Owen Heritage (Aurora BIA)
- Neil Asselin (GO Transit User)

Metrolinx

- Jessica Cho (Community Engagement Advisor, York/Simcoe)
- Ella Bognot (Community Engagement Advisor, York/Simcoe)
- Anneliesa McLean (Community Engagement Advisor, York/Simcoe)
- Alyx Hopton (Senior Manager, Community Engagement, York/Simcoe)
- Laura Adams (Director, Community Engagement, 905 East)
- Sarina Grewal (Stakeholder Engagement & Communications Lead, GO Expansion Project Delivery Partner)

Overview

The first Aurora GO & Yonge Street Bridge Construction Liaison Committee meeting took place on Thursday, November 23, 2023 from 3:00 to 5:00 PM at the Aurora Family Leisure Complex. This Committee covers two Metrolinx projects happening in Aurora: the Aurora GO Station works and the twinning of the Yonge Street Bridge. The meeting started with a presentation that covered introductions, recent milestones and upcoming works. This was followed by a Q&A session for each project.

Questions

Aurora GO:

1. **A lot of people who have paid to secure reserved parking spaces at Aurora GO only use them every now and then. Have you considered reworking the way reserved parking works, so that those spaces can be used by others when it is unused by the individual who holds the reservation? (Takeaway question)**

GO Transit customers are able to rent a parking space at their preferred GO station from Monday to Friday for a monthly rate of \$98 (including HST). Exclusive access, however, does not extend to weekends or holidays. At the moment, individuals renting a parking space must also commit to a 6-month term, and pay for each month in full even if there are days that they won't be using the parking space. Our operational teams are constantly monitoring utilization rates and are able to reduce the number of reserved parking spaces if demand stagnates. Metrolinx is also continuing to explore more flexible parking arrangements as the employment landscape changes and hybrid work becomes more common.

2. **Will a traffic study be conducted for the Aurora GO project?**

Yes, we have conducted a traffic analysis prior to the start of construction.

3. **Have the traffic studies been submitted to the Town?**

Yes, it was shared with the Town.

4. **What is the status of the heritage property discussions near Aurora GO? I was told all expropriation property discussions have been completed. (Takeaway question)**

Property discussions for the Aurora GO project and the larger GO Expansion project are ongoing. We always strive to limit our property needs as much as possible to support construction of new transit and this project is no exception. Multiple meetings will take place throughout the property acquisition process to ensure the property owner has the information and support they need. These discussions, however, are private and confidential.

5. **How far north of Aurora GO will the double track go? Will it be impacting heritage buildings northeast and northwest of the station? (Takeaway question)**

The double track will go past Centre Street. As property discussions for the larger GO Expansion project are ongoing, and because each property discussion is unique and confidential, we are unable to confirm impacts at this time. It is worth noting, however, that there are a range of property discussions that can take place, depending on what is needed by Metrolinx. In some cases, all that is needed is temporary access by way of an easement.

- 6. The plaques taken off the station building at Aurora GO have not been replaced. Can you provide a status update? (Takeaway question)**

We have gotten in touch with our Station Facilities team and are working with them to locate and reinstall the plaques. We will provide an update in the next CLC meeting.

- 7. Will the parkette on the east side of Wellington be impacted by the Aurora GO project?**

This area will not be touched. We will only be working on the signal arms at the crossing.

- 8. If the pedestrian tunnels have already been built in part, can they be accessed right now? And when they are completed, will they be accessible?**

No, they are currently capped off. When the tunnels are completed, they will be fully accessible with elevators.

- 9. Will Berczy Street have access to Wellington Street?**

Yes, this project will not impact access to Berczy Street from Wellington Street.

- 10. Do you have a rendering of the new west platform that you can share with us? (Takeaway question)**

We don't have any renderings of the new west platform at the moment, but we are working on getting some made. We will be sure to share them with the group once available.

Yonge Street Bridge:

- 1. Can area residents help to replant trees? (Takeaway question)**

The Community Engagement team has connected with the Metrolinx team responsible for tree replanting to explore this request further. We will provide an update at the next CLC meeting.

- 2. Will these tree removals impact any residents (i.e. by creating light pollution)? At Scanlon, there are now bright lights shining into properties in the area. What can be done to block out the light once trees are removed?**

Near the Yonge Street Bridge, there will only be a few tree removals, and these are unlikely to create light pollution for nearby residents. However, if an issue like this does arise, here or elsewhere, our Community Engagement (CE) team will work with residents to explore short-term and long-term mitigations to address any impacts. Each situation is unique, so residents are encouraged to contact the CE team at YorkRegion@metrolinx.com.

3. Will there be any dewatering near the Yonge Street Bridge? If so, will there be any impacts to neighbouring wells (aquifers)?

Depending on the foundation design for the Yonge Street Bridge, there may or may not be dewatering. However, in the case that there is, the amount will likely be insignificant. It should not have an impact on any neighbouring wells.

Other:

1. Will there be a Construction Liaison Committee for the Wellington Grade Separation?

Metrolinx, along with its partner ONxpress, are currently in a development phase where we are assessing all level crossings on the network. As potential projects are confirmed, we will be able to provide you with more information. The Community Engagement team uses multiple channels to keep residents informed including but not limited to: Construction Liaison Committees (CLCs), Open Houses, accepting invitations to present, and Council presentations. Any future CLCs would include community stakeholders most impacted by the project and its construction.

2. Has anyone from the Town been invited to attend the Construction Liaison Committee Meeting?

Metrolinx's project team is working closely with the Town of Aurora's municipal staff to provide them with updates and information on Aurora GO as we progress with the project. Moving forward, meeting invites will be extended to municipal staff.