

**Exhibition Station CLC
MINUTES**

April 22, 2024

12:00 - 1:00 pm (Teams Meeting)

39 Attendees including:

BIAs/Community Groups/Non-Profit Organizations/Residents

- Abhi Kathuria (LVBIA)
- Flaers Serjanj (Crossbridge Condominium Services Ltd)
- Winnie W. Mak (Board of Directors, Liberty Place)
- Elijah Johnson (Board President, 150 E Liberty St)
- Robert Howley (Liberty Village Residents Association)
- Stephanie McEwan (Board Member, 5 Hanna Ave)
- Aaron Silverberg (Assistant Property Manager, 15 Solidarity Way)
- Ellen Lai (Board Member, 65-75-85 E Liberty St)
- Hussein Dhalla (Board Member, 5 Hanna Ave)
- Paola Palazzo (Liberty Village Residents Association)
- John Lee
- Leonel Delgado
- Ross Howey

Metrolinx

- Bradley Naismith
- Ross Andersen
- Saikat Basak
- Brandon Gaffoor
- James Francis
- Mohamed El Hendy
- Franca DiGiovanni (Bechtel Corporation)
- Kristin Jenkins (Bechtel Corporation)

City of Toronto

- Chris Haskim (Deputy Mayor Malik's Office)
- Tom Davidson (Deputy Mayor Malik's Office)
- Vienna O'Shea (Deputy Mayor r Malik's Office)
- Mohamed Ibrahim
- Louie Lenti
- Nazil Dehghani
- Julia Murnaghan
- Jo Ann Pynn
- Michael Paolucci
- Nancy Aranha

Ontario Transit Group (OTG)

- Emanuel Gameiro
- Flavie Hamelin
- Garrick McIntosh
- Juan Marcos Edo Leon
- Sevim Coskun
- Sarah Kabani
- Alonso Ortega

OVERVIEW:

On April 22, 2024, Metrolinx in collaboration with OTG, conducted a Community Liaison Committee (CLC) meeting to provide an overview of the Ontario Line. This was the first CLC meeting to be held for Exhibition Station/Liberty Village.

The meeting began with a land acknowledgement and an introduction to the Ontario Line by Ross Andersen from Metrolinx. He highlighted its accessibility and efficiency, and specifically discussed the Exhibition Station. Representatives from Metrolinx, City of Toronto officials, Liberty Village BIA, and residential groups were present. Emanuel Gameiro from OTG provided a construction update on the Exhibition Station, discussing progress to date, upcoming work, traffic management proposals, and mitigation strategies to reduce impacts on residents and businesses.

Ross provided more context around CLC meetings and their purpose, attendees, and Metrolinx's collaboration partners. He also discussed progress to date in terms of Exhibition Station advancements, adjacent demolition, utilities relocations, proposed traffic and trucking routes, piling works, long-term signage, hoarding, and major milestones for the station build. The team provided their contact information for further queries.

After the Q&A session, Ross presented artist renderings of the future Exhibition Station and reiterated Metrolinx's commitment to addressing issues. He promoted Metrolinx's newsletter and social channels and announced that the next meeting would be a virtual open house focused on piling. Ross concluded that regular CLC format meetings will resume in May, with updates to be provided.

QUESTIONS:

- **A resident inquired about the accessibility options of a pedestrian bridge, which currently only has stairs.**
 - **Metrolinx** clarified that this bridge is a temporary structure, and the existing tunnel already offers suitable alternatives for those unable to use stairs. An elevator remains available for passengers and pedestrians in the existing Exhibition Station tunnel.

- **A resident raised a concern about potential road closures near and around Liberty Village due to construction, given the already heavy traffic in the area.**
 - **Metrolinx** assured that there are no road closures planned for the station in the foreseeable future.
- **A resident questioned whether the station and the new bridge would be able to accommodate the high foot traffic that passes through the corridor, specifically for the pedestrian bridge.**
 - **Metrolinx** acknowledged the high volume of foot traffic in the area and explained that they have already installed a pedestrian bridge for this reason, and that there are operational protocols in place for events to ensure people can properly navigate to and from the area.
- **A resident inquired into the ownership of the park at the end of Ordnance Street where an emergency evacuation building (EEB) is being installed, and whether it would integrate well with the community in a visually pleasing manner.**
 - **Metrolinx** clarified that the emergency exit will be situated at the rail corridor level, not at the park level, which leaves room for future park development. Metrolinx is collaborating with the City of Toronto on future plans for the area, ensuring no interference between park users and emergency exit users. Additionally, Metrolinx will use clearer and more intuitive images for the audience's understanding moving forward.
- **A resident asked for confirmation about whether there was only one path for traffic in and out.**
 - **Metrolinx** responded that OTG has proposed trucking and vehicle routes, but these are still being finalized in conjunction with the City of Toronto.
 - **OTG** added that currently, they are not considering placing trucks between Hanna Avenue and Strachan Avenue in on East Liberty Street in Liberty Village.
- **A resident asked about the volume of traffic being considered and why traffic was not being directed north.**
 - **OTG** responded that they are currently not considering a path North of Strachan Avenue due to site constraints, and that the portal will be between Jefferson Avenue and Atlantic Avenue.
 - **Metrolinx** added that once concept level plans and safety issues or technical requirements are addressed, they will work with the City of Toronto and the residents to ensure track renovations are safe and efficient.
- **A resident expressed her concern about the impact of hundreds of trucks during the excavation process on Strachan Avenue.**

- **Metrolinx** acknowledged that there's no easy solution for managing these trucks and emphasized the need to balance all stakeholder needs while minimizing impact. Metrolinx stated that OTG/sub-contractors would return with an update on the traffic plan.
- **A condominium manager for 5 Hanna Avenue expressed concerns about the condition of the north side of 5 Hanna Avenue and the police station, anticipating increased traffic on Hanna Avenue due to construction on East Liberty Street. He asked if this could be added to the meeting agenda with the city.**
 - **Metrolinx** responded that any damage caused during the Ontario Line construction would be repaired once construction is complete. For pre-existing damage, he suggested addressing it with the City of Toronto. Ross offered to discuss the matter further offline and provided his contact information.
 - **Metrolinx** also suggested sending pictures and specific locations to Ross, so he could pass the information on to transportation colleagues in the city.
- **A condominium manager for 5 Hanna Avenue reported that he had received information about work being done after midnight hours and asked if there was a timeline for when work is being done.**
 - **Metrolinx** requested this information be shared so it could be passed on to the appropriate parties.
- **Liberty Village BIA (LVBIA) didn't have a question but wanted to share some topics of concern. These included receiving construction notices promptly for stakeholder distribution, preserving silos for future station design, stricter timings for snow cleaning during winter, current plywood fencing, and bike accessibility plans. He mentioned that these topics are currently in discussion with Metrolinx in their monthly meetings. Additionally, LBVIA has been advocating for the re-naming of the Exhibition Station.**
 - **Metrolinx/Ross Andersen** indicated that he appreciated these comments.
- **Liberty Village Residents Association voiced resident concerns including safety, noise, excavation of dirt, and traffic. He identified East Liberty Street and Strachan Avenue as danger zones and emphasized the need for more than one access route to the village. He also mentioned the temporary bridge and the tunnel as potentially dangerous for people coming out of TFC games, suggesting a secondary crossing. He agreed with the need for prompt construction notices.**
 - **Metrolinx** responded that there would be an opportunity to discuss these items in more detail at the next meeting. Metrolinx also noted that not

everyone coming to games would use the tunnel option, acknowledging the risks involved.

- **A resident made a statement regarding the seven condos proposed for development. He worried that their construction might overlap with approvals, compounding the traffic issue, and was particularly concerned about the total number of dump trucks this would involve.**
 - **Metrolinx** responded that they would discuss this matter with their members and in future CLCs.

ACTION ITEMS:

- **Metrolinx** to use clearer and more intuitive images (for Ordnance Park EEB) for the audience's understanding in slide decks moving forward.
- **Metrolinx** to discuss the matter regarding the condition of the north side of 5 Hanna Avenue and construction work being done past midnight hours further.
- **Metrolinx** to discuss concerns about the potential traffic issues and dump truck volume due to the proposed condo developments with their members and in future CLCs.
- **Metrolinx** to share presented slide deck with all attendees after the meeting.