

**Ontario Line****Lakeshore East Joint Corridor Construction Liaison Committee (CLC)**

September 19, 2024

Meeting Minutes

6:00 pm to 8:00 pm (Teams Meeting)

**ATTENDEES****Elected Officials/Staff**

MPP Peter Tabuns  
Taamara Thanaraja (Councillor Fletcher's office)

**BIAs/Community Groups/Residents**

Shelley Kline (Lakeshore East CAC)  
Linda Sargeant (Lakeshore East CAC)  
Kit Chapman (Lakeshore East CAC)  
Tony Whitaker (Lakeshore East CAC)  
Catherine Riddell (Lakeshore East CAC)  
Stephen Davies (Lakeshore East CAC)  
Katherine Mellin (Lakeshore East CAC)

Jennifer Lay (Riverside BIA)  
Cathy Quinton (Leslieville BIA)

**City of Toronto**

Julia Murnagham- Transit Expansion  
Safder Haider- Transportation Services  
Louie Lenti- Transit Expansion

**Dufferin Construction Company /LURA**

Michael Macaluso  
Ryan Lazzarato  
Hasnaa Maher  
Nico Zucco  
James Knott

**Metrolinx**

Alexandra Grgas-Sorge  
Frankie Lam  
Katiana Moussa  
Darren Cooney  
Nima Nouri  
James Murphy  
Jesse Pakkala  
John Potter

**OVERVIEW**

The sixteenth Lakeshore East Joint Corridor CLC took place at 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. on September 19, 2024, via Microsoft Teams. During this meeting, the discussion was focused on a complaints overview, complaints protocol, tree removals and mitigation measures being implemented to reduce the impact of construction on the community.

**DISCUSSION****1. Review of Completed Action Items from August CLC**

- **Lakeshore East Community Advisory Committee (LSE CAC) Item number 1:**

Expressed concern with actions being mismarked as complete. Is item number 1 going to be discussed further in this meeting?

  - Corresponding action: Metrolinx will discuss the complaint regarding the format and process of CLC summaries with LSE CAC offline.
  - **Metrolinx (MX):** MX is working to refine the format of meeting summaries with the goal of consistency across all Ontario Line projects in terms of style, tone, format, and level of information. We are in the midst of looking at resources for best practices of designation for the body of the board of directors through the trusted input of United Way staff.
  - **LSE CAC:** Reiterated the need to ensure that the language surrounding these summaries is clear and consistent.
  
- **LSE CAC Item number 6:** There are ongoing graffiti issues. The filter cloth was replaced, however, is there a larger process in place to improve and respond to graffiti?
  - Corresponding action: Metrolinx will address and respond to complaint #11 regarding street maintenance and cleaning on the north side of Queen Street, as well as the tagged fence filter cloth.
  - **MX:** Many of the sites are being frequently reconfigured as construction progresses. Please reach out to MX via the project email or community office when you see any graffiti on site. MX staff will also keep an eye out when in the area.
  - **LSE CAC:** It would also be helpful to inform the community on how to report graffiti, as it is an ongoing issue. Perhaps consider creating a handout.
  - **MX:** Will consider this suggestion. The MX field services team also has an internal process, with a site visit checklist that they run through weekly, which includes checking for graffiti on-site and on the fences. However, considering that the bridges are technically City-owned, the responsibility for maintenance is in a grey area. Regardless, Dufferin Construction Company (DCC) responded to the graffiti on the Queen Bridge the date of the CLC.
  - **LSE CAC:** MX and the City should clarify who is responsible for the bridges' maintenance and inform the CLC membership of this at the next meeting. Additionally, there is graffiti on the new retaining wall on Gerrard in the LCBO parking lot facing south for about 4-6 weeks now. MX should share the graffiti removal plan.
  - **MX:** There is a plan. Once construction is complete, DCC will coat all concrete surfaces with a standard coating. Therefore, the process for handling graffiti now, when construction is ongoing, as opposed to when it is complete, is different.

- **DCC:** We are putting an anti-graffiti coating on the retaining walls. We also plan to deal with anti-graffiti measures for the duration of our stay in the area until the end of our contract.
- **MX:** Additionally, anti-graffiti coating will be completed between Eastern Avenue and Dundas Street by November.
- **LSE CAC Item number 8:** Many residents complain about work starting before 7 a.m. I issued a noise complaint yesterday about noise starting before 7 a.m., and MX responded to my complaint, stating that the issue would be resolved. However, last night, I was awoken by the sound of dump truck at 6:50 a.m. Therefore, in my opinion, if workers are on-site and prepping before 7 a.m., then MX should communicate with the residents an earlier start time.
  - Corresponding action: Metrolinx will inform the community when start times are shifted and the contractor needs to shift to an earlier morning start time for safety purposes.
  - **MX:** The item will be moved to pending, and MX will update the wording in notices moving forward.
- **LSE CAC Item number 15:** The CAC asked a MX representative from the East Harbour Project to attend the CLC to speak about traffic issues for residents on McGee and Lewis due to the lack of signage.
  - Corresponding action: Metrolinx will communicate with East Harbour to gain more information regarding timing and interest in CLC participation and will update the group.
  - **MX:** The MX East Harbour project representative has offered to meet with the LSE CAC directly in one of its regular meetings Requests for agenda items and guest speakers should be sent to the Ontario Line community engagement team to broker with Metrolinx colleagues.

## 2. Review of Completed Action Items from July CLC

- **LSE CAC Item number 2:** Metrolinx coordinating with IO to determine their presence at future meetings should be a pending item.
  - Corresponding action: Metrolinx to coordinate with IO to determine presence at future meetings.
  - **MX:** Will move it to pending.
- **LSE CAC Item number 1:** There are concerns about the arborist report. Is there a map indicating the location and type of trees being threatened?
  - Corresponding action: Metrolinx will discuss the Arborist Report with the City and, if given, provide an update to the CLC members before the next CLC.
  - **MX:** There is an update on tree removals later in this presentation about the summary of the arborist report. The report has not yet been finalized and comments are still ongoing between MX and the City.

### 3. Review of Pending August CLC Action Items

- **LSE CAC Item number 11:** Where is the temporary Dog Off-Leash Area (DOLA) going to be relocated?
  - Corresponding action: Metrolinx will provide more information regarding the timelines associated with the temporary Dog Off-Leash Area (DOLA) at the next CLC meeting and where it is being relocated.
  - **MX:** The plan is currently with the City of Toronto and Councillor. The timeline is not yet confirmed, but the City will bring forth the location/size and features of the DOLA.
- **LSE CAC Item number 4:** I would like to schedule a meeting sometime soon with DCC to identify the trees being removed at the First Avenue condo development area.
  - Corresponding action: Metrolinx will organize a walk with T.W. and the project team to identify the trees being removed at the First Avenue condo development area, after the City comments on the arborist report are reviewed.
  - **MX:** This is in the list of pending action items and will be scheduled soon.
- **LSE CAC Item number 14:** Is DCC working on the workdays between the December and January statutory holidays?
  - Corresponding action: Metrolinx to ensure that no work will occur during the December and January statutory holidays.
  - **DCC:** DCC has no plan to work between Christmas and New Year. However, work might be required regarding ongoing monitoring that cannot be left unattended. This work is minor and non-intrusive.

### 4. Review of Pending July-May CLC Action Items

- **LSE CAC Item number 8:** This item is categorized as pending, but it is complete. MX decided that they are replacing the signals in October.
  - Corresponding action: Metrolinx will inform the community when start times are shifted and the contractor needs to shift to an earlier morning start time for safety purposes.
  - **MX:** Will mark this action item as complete.

### 5. Complaints and Issues Tracker

- **LSE CAC:** There are urgent calls from residents about disruptions felt from vibrations, especially from those working from home. When DCC reports that no vibration exceedances were detected, what does that mean exactly? Are limits based on legal thresholds or engineering assessments?
  - **MX:** Limits are based on [City of Toronto bylaws](#) to prevent structural damage. There are times when vibrations may still be perceptible by residents. Therefore, in saying that no exceedances were detected, it is not

- discounting the fact that vibrations may be felt; rather, Metrolinx is noting that they will not cause damage to homes.
- **MX Environmental Team (ET):** MX adheres to several different standards and guidelines including Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks guidance (e.g., Noise Pollution Control standards), City bylaw (for vibration), and the US Federal Transit Administration's manual (widely used for transit projects across North America).
  - **LSE CAC:** Is MX going into houses to check for cracking?
    - **MX:** MX has offered pre-construction condition surveys to every property in the zone of vibration influence. Some property owners agreed to allow MX to enter and conduct surveys if the resident reports cracking. Those examinations are then cross-referenced to the surveys conducted before the project started. If a resident has not had a survey but would like one, they should contact MX for more information.
  - **LSE CAC:** Is MX finding any damage to properties even if the vibration monitors do not detect any exceedances?
    - **MX:** MX has not observed damage to homes caused by the project. However, MX will validate this and return to a future CLC with information.
  - **LSE CAC:** There are many concerns about discrepancies between resident complaints and the sensor data regarding noise and vibrations.
    - **MX:** The monitors are installed by experts and are calibrated accurately. MX understands that residents are feeling the vibration regardless of detected exceedances, especially in older houses, which may sway. MX matches up each resident complaint to the nearest monitor to find out if any exceedances were detected. Even if no exceedances are detected, MX continues working on mitigation strategies with DCC.
  - **LSE CAC:** I am not happy with the responses that MX provides to vibration complaints. This is especially relevant when the shift to the west side happens, considering they are closer to the bridge and have heritage structures.
    - **MX-ET:** We do have more sensitive vibration limits for heritage structures, which are noted in zones of influence mapped up near the corridor when surveying was done before the project began. This is adhered to. We can provide more information to the CLC about vibration limits for heritage homes.
  - **LSE CAC:** The resident lives on Booth and did not participate in the pre-construction condition survey because they questioned the credentials of the surveyors. They had picture frames fall off of their walls, and do not feel that the vibration monitors are placed correctly.
    - **MX:** Noise and vibration monitors are being installed near Booth and Paisley to determine where the source of disruption is coming from, in order to help mitigate resident concerns. MX has a standing offer to the resident to pay for the damage to picture frames once the resident provides receipts for repairs.

## 6. Tree Removals and Permitting Update - August 2024

- **MX provided an update on the tree removal and injury permits.**
  - **LSE CAC:** How many trees will remain after the 489 are removed?
  - **MX:** This will be identified in the report once it is finalized.  
Furthermore, landscape designers are working with the restoration team to establish a plan for regrowth. If the community is interested, MX can coordinate a restoration and regrowth presentation or event in the neighborhood.
  - **LSE CAC:** When and how will MX roll this information out to the further community?
    - **MX-ET:** MX will deliver a visual map to communicate this with the community as soon as possible.
  - **LSE CAC:** Which trees are native versus which are considered invasive? This is important because losing a Norway Maple differs greatly from losing an Oak Tree or Black Walnut Tree.
    - **MX:** Metrolinx will have to review the arborist report to confirm. An answer will be provided with all the other tree removal questions prior to next CLC.
  - **LSE CAC:** What is the time frame for tree restoration? Will it have to wait until after construction is complete, or could you do some early restoration?
    - **MX:** Metrolinx will review with project team to confirm time frame on tree restoration. An answer will be provided with all the other tree removal questions prior to next CLC.
  - **LSE CAC:** Why is the tree removal timeline so rushed if the track removal is not scheduled till far later?
    - **DCC:** Tree removals were scheduled at the beginning of September 2024, but this has now been pushed back to the end of January 2025. The track flip is scheduled for mid-March 2025. Tree removals are scheduled before the track flip because to create access roads on that side. The January date is tentative to account for the flip in March - if the construction schedule is changed, the trees will not be removed earlier than needed.
    - **MX:** Given bird nesting season requirements, trees cannot be removed after April.
  - **LSE CAC:** What equipment will be used during the track shift? Also, why are trees being removed if this work takes place in-corridor?
    - **DCC:** Access on the other side is needed as part of the track flip and the immediate work following that. The equipment will include an excavator with specialized attachments and removal equipment like a woodchipper.

**ACTION ITEMS**

1. **Metrolinx** will change the status of Items #1 and #8 from the August CLC Action Items from 'Complete' to 'Pending', and for #8 will update the wording in notices regarding start times moving forward.
2. **Metrolinx** will determine how to inform residents how to report graffiti issues in the community. MX will discuss bridge responsibility regarding graffiti control and maintenance for the duration of construction.
3. **Metrolinx** will change the status of Item #2 from the July CLC Action Items from 'Complete' to 'Pending'.
4. **Metrolinx** will clean up repeat action items in the August CLC Pending Action Items list and July-May CLC Pending Action Items list.
5. **Metrolinx** will change the status of Item #8 from the July-May CLC Action Items from "Pending" to "Complete".
6. **Metrolinx** will follow up with LSE CAC about if damage was discovered to any properties even if vibration monitors did not detect any exceedances.
7. **Metrolinx** will provide more information to the CLC about specific vibration limits for heritage homes.
8. **Metrolinx** will include Kit Chapman in the list of CLC Community Members' names on slide #55.
9. **Metrolinx** will include parking complaints made on September 3rd and 10th in the complaint tracker for the October CLC meeting deck.
10. **Metrolinx** will include a diagram of how the tracks are going to move during the track flip.
11. **Metrolinx** to provide answers to tree removal questions before next CLC meeting.
12. **Metrolinx** to provide an update on Queen and Gerrard stations.