

**Corktown /Don Yard CLC - Meeting #14  
MINUTES**

September 26, 2024

6:00 pm to 7:30 pm (Teams Meeting)

**Attendees:**

BIAs/Community Groups/Non-Profit

Organizations/Residents

- Neil Betteridge (GWNA)
- Cory Lemos (CRBA)
- Ole Calderone (CRBA)
- Scott McLaren
- Candace McCool
- David Balcon
- MH Tenants
- Kathy
- Bowen
- Marcel Gagnon
- Mohamed Auf
- Franca Leeson

City of Toronto

- Julia Murnaghan
- Mohamed Ibrahim
- Nancy Aranha

Elected Officials

- Eddie LaRusic (Councillor Moise's Office)
- Tom Davidson (Councillor Malik's Office)
- Nancy Trendoff (MPP Glover's Office)

Metrolinx

- Daniel Cicero
- Kristen Jenkins
- Sarah Conway
- Amanda Kusick
- Zahrah Munas
- Katiana Moussa
- Jodi Parps
- Jason Hall
- Matt Simon
- Alexandra Grgas-Sorge

OTG

- David Ou
- Daphrane Ligan
- Allison Dewhirst
- Bella Santos

KO Constructors / LURA

- Scott Brazeau
- Jeff Harbach
- Hasnaa Maher

## OVERVIEW:

On Thursday, September 26th, 2024, **Metrolinx**, in partnership with **Ontario Transit Group (OTG)** and **KO Constructors**, hosted a Corktown & Don Yard CLC meeting. **Metrolinx** then provided updates on the completed and pending actions from July and August.

**KO Constructors** presented a construction update for Don Yard and the discussion focused on complete, ongoing, and upcoming work, as well as construction mitigation efforts related to noise, air quality, and dust.

**OTG** reported progress on both sites: pile drilling at the south site is nearly complete, and capping beam installation at the north site is wrapping up, leading into the excavation phase. The community can expect reduced noise during excavation as work shifts to digging the station shaft, with no impacts on local roads, sidewalks, or public transit services

## QUESTIONS:

### 1. Action Items from Previous CLC

- Councillor Asuma Malik - Action Item #1: Please ensure that political representatives are included in complaints so that we can be updated on concerns in the Don Yard in regard to noise and dust.
  - MX: We will make sure to include Elected Officials in responses to complaints that they are copied on.
- GWNA - Action Item #5: When can MX provide the Corktown community with the noise exceedances report?
  - MX: Metrolinx is working on the noise and vibration report and plan to share it with the membership in late Fall, before the November CLC meeting.

### 2. Construction Update

- GWNA: What is jet grouting, and what noise does the activity emit?
  - KO: Jet grouting is used to improve soil conditions. The operation consists of inserting a nozzle eight (8) inches into the ground. It does not require any drilling or removal of spoils. Instead, when the nozzle is at depth, it injects cement slurry mixtures into the ground, displacing the soil and replacing it with concrete columns. After creating this column, the machine retracts from the ground (without dirt). After two-to-three (2-3) days, it is safe to inject another column next to it. The goal is to have interconnected columns that displace material underground to create an overall structure. Jet grouting will take place further East from the Maple House Condos. It will start at the dog park on the East end and go 80 meters West. It will be right in the middle of the site compound. In terms of noise, jet grouting requires high-pressure compressors. It's a stationary plant and can be wrapped up with acoustic blankets. The noise is nothing like the secant pile drilling or auger banging.
- Resident: On September the 23, there was a tenant meeting with MPP Chris Glover. It was a long meeting with up to 60 residents in attendance. Many issues were brought up regarding the construction. One of them being that residents with

physical disabilities living in the south-facing units require special accommodations. Additionally, noise suppressors are ineffective in mitigating noise for those living above ground. Also, auger shaking is still happening after 10 p.m., and dust issues are ongoing. Lastly, one of the noise mitigation measures states that quieter work will be scheduled overnight and on the weekends—what does "quiet work" entail?

- KO: Pouring concrete into a hole is quieter than retracting casing. The casing is quieter than auger drilling. Auger drilling is quieter than removing spoil from the auger drill. Secant piling activity requires work to take place at a specific time. Therefore, once a hole is dug, the concrete must be poured shortly after to ensure the safety of the workers.
- MX: Additionally, KO has made Saturday's maintenance days. Therefore, quiet activities are scheduled on the weekends. Sometimes, "louder" work takes place at night, however, only when necessary. Wherever possible, we will move quieter work to the weekends and nights if the schedule and safety of workers allow for it.
- KO: Regarding dust, there have been no exceedances this week. We have added water as a mitigation effort; however, the safety of workers is prioritized. Therefore, a balance between watering the site and ensuring the protection of our staff is required. Additionally, our four (4) inch water line crosses the entire site, reaching every drill rig. Additional measures include a full-time crew watering the road. We are doing everything we can, and the result of no exceedances this week shows that our efforts yield results.
- MX: Regarding the physically disabled residents at the Maple House Condos, we can meet with them to better understand their concerns and work on tailored mitigations to their impacts.
- Resident: In my opinion, the noise control methods have not made a difference. When the auger is shaking, it is lifted above the barriers themselves, making no difference to the residents living above. Are there any other plans in place to reduce noise? Also, what criteria is used when defining "quiet work"? Is there any work that is not allowed to take place overnight?
  - KO: KO has done everything they can feasibly do to mitigate sound. The drilling is taking place on an elevated rail platform. Therefore, the ground level noise is improved; however, I agree that for residents living above, sound blankets would not help their reception of noise. Therefore, we've turned to other mitigation methods, such as applying a polymer solution to the auger flights to support the soil sliding off the auger. However, this is not a fail-safe solution. The banging heard is not the auger itself but rather the vertical bar which is higher up on the machine. We are working to switch to a high-torque-low-gear function of the auger to reduce this noise. To answer your question regarding defining quiet work, the work site is an active rail area and some activities would not be safe to work on in the vicinity during the day and, in turn, can only happen during the nighttime. However, wherever possible, we want to schedule work in the daytime.
  - Resident: Is the noise measured by decibels?

- MX: There are noise limits that we need to maintain, we can present these details at the next CLC. We are continuously monitoring noise to ensure that these limits are not exceeded. We are committed to answering all questions and we can schedule resident meeting for the Maple House Condo residents to talk further about noise and dust mitigations.
- Resident: MX said the noise report would be finalized and sent to the group by the end of November. However, it was also said that MX continues to look at noise monitors weekly. Therefore, why can't this information be given to the community now, rather than us waiting several months for an overall report?
  - MX: The noise monitor data checked frequently is all technical. Therefore, we want to ensure that the information we provide to the community is useful. Based on our experience on other Ontario Line projects, we have found this to be the most beneficial way to communicate technical language to the community.
  - Resident: Can you then also provide an executive summary, including a paragraph or graph that simply shows the days of the week that the monitor detects exceedances?
    - MX: Yes, we can take this back as an action item.
- Resident: How does MX monitor the commitment of KO? I received a letter from the Ontario Line that says the auger is moving in one direction, but I am observing that it is shaking. Additionally, when I email the Ontario Line, it takes about 2-3 weeks to receive a response.
  - MX: We are still exploring mitigation measures with the contractor. The progress of this project does not come before the health and well-being of the community. We will also look into our call records and emails to ensure you receive a response promptly from us.
- **GWNA**: Asked when the membership can expect the Noise and Vibration Exceedances report.
  - **Metrolinx**: We are currently working on the report and can commit to providing the report by the November CLC.
- **GWNA**: Asked for clarification on the completion of the excavation phase for Corktown.
  - **OTG**: Completion of the excavation phase is expected by the end 2025.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- Metrolinx will provide the Noise and Vibration Exceedances report by the November 28th CLC and present more details regarding the mandated noise limits the project must maintain at the next CLC.
- Additionally, Metrolinx will provide a simplified executive summary of noise data showcasing monitor exceedances.