

ATC2 / EG Construction Liaison Committee (CLC) #3
MEETING MINUTES

April 30, 2025
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Community Representatives:

- Dayananda Kanakatte – Resident
- Bohdan Kowalyk – Resident
- Aras Balsys – Resident
- Margaret Quinn – Resident
- Neiland Brissenden – Mount Dennis BIA; Save Eglinton Flats
- Simon Chamberlain – Mount Dennis Community Association
- Tom Kazmierowski – Resident
- Bantyeahun Tezazu – Resident
- David Anderson – Toronto Community Benefits
- Rick Cicarelli – Mount Dennis eco-Neighbourhood Initiative
- Mike Mattos – Mount Dennis Community Association
- Nick Sklar, MPP Surma's Office
- Judith Hayes – Mount Dennis Community Association
- Terry Danylevich – Resident

City of Toronto:

- Kelli Spence

Metrolinx:

- Aman Gill – Community Engagement Manager, ECWE
- Wilfred Adapoe, Senior Community Engagement Advisor, ECWE
- Chelsea Neugebauer – Community Engagement Advisor, ECWE
- Lucas Keys – Community Engagement Advisor, ECWE
- Franca Cosentino – Senior Project Manager Tunnels
- Tharshan Kamaleswaran – Project Manager Tunnels
- Vatsal Patel – Elevated Guideway Project Manager, ECWE

Dillon

- Karla Kolli, Community Engagement Manager, Dillon Consulting
- Lauren Weseluck – Community Engagement Specialist, Dillon Consulting

Aecon

- Varni Tayalan – Communications and Public Engagement Lead
- Yves Philippe – Assistant Superintendent

- Zaheeba Mukhtar – Construction Manager
- Jonathan Sammut – Environmental Manager
- Marcus Smith – Community Relations Coordinator
- Alma Betancourth – Community Relations Coordinator

Strabag

- Pedro Nogaro – Design Build Director
- Ifeoma Okonkwo – Senior Communication Community Engagement Advisor
- Jenna Floyd – Community Engagement Coordinator

OVERVIEW:

On Wednesday April 30th, **Metrolinx**, in partnership with **Strabag** and **Aecon**, hosted the third Construction Liaison Committee meeting for the Eglinton Crosstown West Extension (ECWE) project between Mount Dennis Station and Scarlett Road. The meeting was held at the project community office and commenced with **Metrolinx** welcoming attendees to the in-person meeting, providing a land acknowledgement and sharing safety tips with the group.

Metrolinx introduced the team and the purpose of the CLC. Following this, **Metrolinx** provided an update on the status of completed action items from the previous CLC meeting.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE – Elevated Guideway:

Aecon began with construction works completed to date including borehole drilling, subsurface utility engineering (SUE), site fencing, tree clearing and grubbing, and erosion and sediment control (ESC) measures all completed in fall 2024 and site grading and prep works, which began in winter 2025.

Aecon provided an update on environmental measures, including:

- Perimeter silt fencing, which are temporary fabric barriers held up by wooden or metal posts to gather sediment filled stormwater preventing harmful sediment release
- Erosion control blankets, which are fabric blankets used for unstable slopes, to prevent surface erosion and accelerate establishment of vegetation
- Mud mats, which is gravel or other rough material added to the ground that causes vehicles to shake, therefore helping to remove mud
- Coir logs, which are bio-degradable fiber bag “logs” used for areas where silt fences may not be feasible

Aecon presented a construction update on current and upcoming works, which include:

- Caisson foundations – involves drilling shafts into the ground to construct concrete foundations that will support the guideway structure
- Pier and pier caps – the piers are the structures that support the bridge, while the pier caps are horizontal structures on top of the piers that distribute the weight of the deck evenly across the piers

- Deck construction – the deck is the main horizontal structure that supports the transit system and which will be constructed by casting concrete slabs over the pier caps
 - The deck system over the river will be built using a special method called the balanced cantilever method to ensure no construction happens within the Humber River
- Secant pile retaining wall (located at Scarlett and Eglinton) – this is a retaining wall system that creates a watertight structural wall, and provides structural support during construction
- Construction impacts and mitigations such as pedestrian detours around construction areas to ensure safety, noise and vibration threshold monitoring, mud tracking and signs, flags and detours to indicate any lane closures.

QUESTIONS:

Q = Question; A = Answer; C = Comment

Q: Can you please confirm where the drilling for the overlapping pile walls will take place?

A: Aecon explained the drilling will be north-east of Scarlett and Eglinton.

Q: With regards to the secant wall, will it be accessed from the tunnel exit coming through Fergy Brown park?

A: Aecon confirmed that no, this will be at Scarlett and Eglinton only.

Q: How will the deck of the guideway be placed on top of the piers? Will it be built elsewhere and brought in or will it be built right there?

A: Aecon noted it will be built on site. The building method they are using is cast-in-place, meaning everything will be done on the construction site.

Q: I have not seen any final design for the catenary, and overhead components of the elevated guideway. From the renderings we have seen it looks very industrial, is this still accurate and are you planning on using high beams?

A: Aecon noted that the wiring, trackwork and catenary is not part of their contract. This is part of the Stations, Rails and Systems (SRS) contract scope of work so Aecon cannot speak to this.

Q: The north east area at Scarlett has been filled in and compacted and I understand it has been made to be stable. With all the work that's gone into this, will this area be reused or repurposed?

A: Aecon confirmed that anything that is part of the direct work zone of the EG contract will be restored, at minimum, back to its original condition. Some lands may be required for the future SRS scope of work.

Q: There will be no impact on the Ukrainian memorial, is this correct?

A: Yes, **Aecon** confirmed this is correct.

C: I would argue that there has already been impact with the multiple trees removed very close to the memorial itself.

Q: I (resident of Mount Dennis area) have been getting reports of night work as recently as 2 nights ago, could you please confirm if night work is happening?

A: Aecon notes that no night work on the elevated guideway has been done to date, and if need be in the future, will take special precautions to notify residents before the work commences. Any complaints should be directed to **Metrolinx** through their standard complaints process.

Q: Can I share the complaints line with residents?

A: Metrolinx: Yes that's alright, the email to submit their complaints is EglintonWest@metrolinx.com

Q: Is Gaurdius still the company Aecon is using for security?

A: Aecon does not have security for the Project right now, as they don't believe it is necessary at this time. All construction sites are locked, and secure as they are.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE - Advanced Tunnel 2:

Strabag updated the group with construction works completed to date on Advanced Tunnel 2 including phase 2 of the cycle track, demolition of houses 11 – 15 on Hollis Street, which was done using an Indigenous subcontractor, and the installation of secant pile walls at Jane.

Strabag presented a construction update on current works happening, which include the installation of extensive monitoring equipment to monitor tunneling activities and tunnel excavation. It was stated that as of April 29, 2025 they were 50 m in, and averaging 1.1 m per day for each tunnel (east and west). Upcoming works include sewer realignment between Fergy Brown access road and Midblock, and piling works at the Mount Dennis station plaza. An update was also provided on **Strabag's** hauling routes for trucks entering and exiting the Project site.

QUESTIONS:

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Q: When it says "piling" are you talking about driving piles?

A: Strabag confirms there will be no pile driving. The piles are for the secant walls and they will be drilled.

Q: On slide 25, is what's shown in the photo sprayed concrete?

A: Strabag states yes, it's shotcrete, which is the initial lining. There are several additional steps, such as waterproofing, before the tunnel lining is finalized.

Q: With regards to excavation at Weston Road and Eglinton, to take equipment out, why wouldn't you be doing this at the Fergy Brown Park side?

A: Strabag notes this was part of Metrolinx's design requirements. This area is needed for the next contract to facilitate their works.

Q: It was my understanding that components of the 11 – 15 Hollis Street homes could be recycled and that Habitat for Humanity would be involved. Were they involved?

A: Strabag states they were not involved. This Strabag representative confirms that there were a lot of substances within the Hollis Street homes that did not make them adequate or safe for upcycling.

Q: Do you have schedule for when the hauling on your designated truck routes takes place? Could it happen during non-rush hour?

A: Strabag: The goal is to dispose of soil in the morning so that all Project trucks on site can leave at the same time. However, deliveries are harder to schedule at the same time. Strabag states they try their best to coordinate as best they can, as it is in their best interest as well to avoid having our trucks sit in traffic.

Q: How do you plan to do engagement for youth trades program?

A: Strabag will introduce jobs in trades at job-fairs, including how to get into this field, they will be starting with a youth centre – New Generation Youth Centre – within the area.

Q: With regards to last meeting's action items, we got a commitment that there could be a meeting specifically for the Terms of Reference (TOR) and for community benefits and this didn't happen. Could you please provide an update on whether we can still have these meetings?

A: Metrolinx notes that the TOR is standardized across their projects. Any discrepancies to be noted should be forwarded to Aman (aman.gill@metrolinx.com). With regards to community benefits, the Metrolinx subject matter expert on this topic is no longer with company. As soon as they have someone on board who can speak specifically to community benefits they will set up a meeting. The timing for this is uncertain.

Q: I remember in one of your restoration related discussions that you had budget for 100% of the trees that needed to be planted but only 40% of available space for that number of trees. Is this still the case? I ask because it relates to discussions about extending the southside greenway on the other side of the Humber River and some of us would like to carry these conversations forward.

A: Metrolinx notes there are no staff members specific to restoration in attendance to answer this, however they will take this back and provide information related to the tree planting question.

Q: Why does your information say it will take 3 years to complete the ATC2 tunnel if the digging takes 1.1 m per day and it is a 500 m tunnel?

A: Strabag notes this timeline takes into account preparatory works until substantial completion, and goes beyond just the “digging.” A two-pass system is being undertaken for the tunnel which means the lining takes more time. Additionally, various tunneling methods were examined and it did not make sense to use a TBM for this short of a distance from an engineering or cost value point of view. Part of **Strabag’s** proposed mitigations to expedite the timeline include working 24/7.

Q: What is your upcoming event listed as “Ice cream in the park?”

A: Metrolinx answers that this is an outdoor information session event, similar to an open house, where Metrolinx partners with a local business.

Q: Can 40 Richview please be added to a location for a pop up?

A: Yes, **Metrolinx** will ensure it gets added for the future.

Q: Where will the Jane’s walk be taking place?

A: Metrolinx states that the City (Margherita Cosentino and Jason Thorne) will be leading this walk. It will start at the north east corner of Jane and Eglinton, and end at Royal York and Eglinton.

Q: Thus far are you on budget and on time for the entire Project?

A: No one from **Metrolinx** here tonight can answer that question, however they will take that back.

**** Edit: Metrolinx** has stated they have recently achieved several major milestones on the Project, including completing the 6.3 km tunnels on the western end of the line and the start of major construction on both the elevated guideway and eastern tunnels. This work is progressing on schedule. Final cost estimates and an updated targeted completion date for the Project will be refined throughout the procurement process, which is still underway.

Q: Is station construction taking place now that the tunnel work has been done?

A: Metrolinx notes that you will see that some trees along the ATC1 area (Kipling, Islington, Royal York) have been removed at station sites. **Metrolinx** hopes that within the next several months the station excavation will be starting.

Q: When will the next meeting be?

A: Metrolinx notes the CLC meetings will continue to occur bi-monthly so the next one will be at the end of June. If you have any questions in the meantime please reach out via email.

C: One member who is a former private sector employee questions whether Metrolinx should have taken on this project due to their poor track record regarding timing and lack of accountability on the Crosstown.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS - AECON & STRABAG

Lastly, an update was provided on **Metrolinx’s** Community Benefits program. Pillar One of the program is focused on employment opportunities. For both the ATC2 and EG contracts,

26% of all hires so far into the project identified as women and 44% of hires identified as black, Indigenous or people of colour (BIPOC).

Aecon noted they have their own specific hiring targets which were presented as a measure against **Metrolinx's** target numbers. **Aecon** noted that thus far into the Project they have exceeded the target for those who identify as BIPOC and Female.

Q: Do you have an ongoing hiring process?

A: Yes, subcontractors who hire on behalf of **Aecon** do, it is in their contract requirements.

Q: Do Aecon's subcontractors hold job fairs and do you as the contractors directly participate in job fairs?

A: **Aecon** states they have not held a job fair yet, as it is not part of their Project Agreement. However, they do partake in other job fairs, work with Access employment, etc. They stated they are doing the maximum they can to hit hiring targets.

Q: At the last Open House, one of the staff members in attendance said you were tracking local hiring statistics. Are these numbers available to share?

A: **Aecon** notes that during the past year they have tracked the hiring, however because not a lot of work had been done on site yet, there were no local hires. In addition, it is hard to accurately track local hires because Aecon cannot ask applicants to share their address with them as this is sensitive information. **Aecon** confirms there have been some local hires this year, and at the next CLC they will have more accurate numbers.

C: **Aecon** adds that they have designated a local area for community benefits. They will also be partnering with the Toronto Community Benefits Network in June for a mentoring and recruitment initiative.

C: **Strabag** confirmed they've been diligently tracking their hiring demographics, specifically BIPOC representation and the postcodes of new hires. Regarding community benefits, they've actively implemented several support initiatives. These include a recently concluded food bank drive and sorting assistance with the Salvation Army, as well as their ongoing community lunch program, which supports local Mount Dennis businesses through their patronage. Strabag has also recorded a spend of over \$69,000 in local spending and business support. Looking ahead, they are also developing a jobs in trades program for youth, starting with the New Generation Youth Centre and in discussion with LEF.

C: I am unsure how only 46% of your hires identify as BIPOC, when the Mount Dennis area is comprised primarily of this demographic. Can you please share the postal codes that are considered local?

A: Yes, **Metrolinx** notes both the contractors can forward this information onto Aman who will distribute this information to CLC members.

Summary of Action Items:

- **Metrolinx** to email the Janes walk poster to all CLC #3 attendees.
- **Metrolinx** to distribute postal codes that are considered “local” for local hiring purposes.
- **Metrolinx** to set up a meeting to discuss community benefits once new team member is brought on board.
- **Metrolinx** to add 40 Richview to list of future pop-up locations.
- **Metrolinx / Dillon** to check in with their restoration experts on available space for tree planting and the feasibility of extending the southside greenway to the other side of the Humber River.

Photo from the event:

