

**ATC2 / EG Community Liaison Committee (CLC)
MEETING MINUTES**

Nov 4th, 2024
6:00 PM-8:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Community Representatives

- Bohdan Kowalyk
- David Anderson
- Gary Littler
- Janice Durocher
- John Clarke
- Judith Hayes
- Margaret Quinn
- Mike Mattos
- Neiland Brissenden
- Peter Lansitie
- John Clarke
- Rick Ciccarelli
- Tom Kazmierowski

Elected Officials

- Brian Klochko, MPP Ford's office

Metrolinx

- Aman Gill, Community Engagement Manager, ECWE
- Chelsea Neugebauer, Community Engagement Advisor, ECWE
- Lucas Keys, Community Engagement Advisor, ECWE
- Wilfred Adapoe, Senior Community Engagement Advisor, ECWE
- Franca Costantino Senior Project Manager, Tunnels, ECWE
- Sarah Rafols, Observer (Community Engagement Tour- MX)

Dillon

- Miriam Bart, Stakeholder and Public Engagement, Technical Advisory Team
- Daniel Hoang, Community Engagement Specialist, Dillon Consulting

Comtech

- Paulette den Elzen, Senior Manager, Stakeholder Engagement and Communications

Strabag

- Noelle Ebraemi, Community Engagement Lead
- Pedro Nogaro, Design Build Director

- Jenna Floyd, Community Engagement Coordinator

Aecon

- Varni Tayalan, Communications and Public Engagement Lead
- Yves Philippe, Assistant Superintendent
- Jonathan Sammut, Environmental Manager
- Marcus Smith, Community Relations Coordinator

OVERVIEW:

On Monday, November 4, **Metrolinx**, in partnership with **Strabag** and **Aecon**, hosted the second Community Liaison Committee meeting for the Eglinton Crosstown West Extension (ECWE) project area 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 acknowledgment, and sharing safety tips with the group. **Metrolinx** introduced the team and the purpose of the CLC. All those in the room introduced themselves.

Metrolinx provided an update on the status and completed action items from the previous CLC meeting. Going forward this group will meet bi-monthly, subject to availability and construction progress.

Metrolinx will continue to invite elected officials, TRCA, and the City of Toronto to encourage their attendance at future CLC meetings.

A walk-through of the site with CLC members was suggested.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE:

Strabag provided a construction update, covering the completed, ongoing, and upcoming construction activities since the last CLC meeting. A video was shown of the shoring and excavation details indicating the locations of the headwall and tunnel. Some of the key notes from the update included:

- Piling works at the Jane Portal site for the east tunnel is complete.
- Excavation of the east tunnel is expected to begin in late 2024 and is anticipated to be complete late 2026.
- Strabag confirmed that it is not a tunnel boring machine (TBM) being used, but rather Sequential Excavation Method (SEM), an approach that is , working east towards Mount Dennis.

Excavation will be 24/7 - for safety reasons the machine cannot be left unattended.

Aecon provided a construction update, including upcoming pedestrian and public transit impacts, and a look-ahead at upcoming construction. Some of the key notes from the update included:

- Subsurface Utility Engineering (SUE) work is almost completed.
- Borehole drilling is underway.

- Site fencing on the south side of the elevated guideway is complete along the north side of Eglinton from Scarlett Road to Fergy Brown Park
- Fencing on the south side is currently in progress.
- Tree removal is ongoing.

QUESTIONS:

Q = Question; A = Answer; C = Comment

Q: Could you report back on the process for any disagreement resolution? We've had a disagreement with Metrolinx, can we get a resolution process?

- A: **Metrolinx** explained that the CLC is a place for explaining construction processes, understanding community characteristics, and striving to reduce impacts.

Q: Could we commit to expanding notices to 2km? 500 m is not notifying a lot of people.

- A: **Metrolinx** cannot commit to that, but will look into it.
 - **Update provided through these minutes:** Metrolinx sets the distribution radius through its project agreements with contractors, which stipulate 500 metres. It supplements in-person, hard copy notice delivery with updates in its e-newsletter. This is a consistent approach across the subway projects. In situations where CLC members are concerned the impact will affect a broader area, Metrolinx welcomes the advice and will determine whether a broader radius is needed.

Q: Could you commit to try reaching out and notifying Turtle Island Carers of Fire (TICOF), as they do not always have phones or internet. We can provide you with Jamie's contact info.

- A: **Metrolinx:** Thank you for providing **TICOF** contact information.

Q: At the Crosstown focus group, we are hearing the Mount Dennis station will come to this CLC. Can you clarify?

- A: **Metrolinx** explained that this is incorrect and the Mount Dennis Station information will be divided between Eglinton Crosstown West Extension and the Eglinton Crosstown LRT CLCs.

Q: Will Strabag's construction affect the entrance to Fergy Brown Park?

- A: **Strabag** explained that it will remain open and accessible and showed a timeline of the works scheduled for 2024, and for piling, which will start next year.

Q: Are you considering any of the apprenticeship opportunities through community benefits?

- A: **Strabag** has the Local 183 apprenticeship program. Most apprentices come from the union. The company is also working on different programs for community members to better understand employment opportunities. Next year, **Strabag** will also be holding a job fair. This project has very few requirements for workers on site, so the company is trying to find ways to bring this to the community in meaningful ways. **Strabag** committed to share its employee portal with the CLC.
- C: The Ontario Line did a great Job Fair and there were thousands of people in attendance. You do not need university degrees to work in the trades, we need to find ways to connect the opportunities with the people. The Community Benefits Network is very happy to work with you to support this.

Q: During Strabag's dewatering systems required, were there any rocks?

- A: **Strabag:** No.

Q: Will Strabag have the same monitoring on the west side?

- A: **Strabag:** Yes

Q: What does “Mount Dennis station plaza” mean? How much of that space are you referring to?

- A: **Strabag:** The fence that is there now is the workspace and will not be taking up more space than that. The cycle track will be closed eventually for the shaft.

Q: What are your standard hours of work right now? Can you commit to the community work schedule?

- A: **Strabag:** 7am to 5pm. The company usually issues a notice if there is work outside of those regular hours and canvases the area to notify residents of any additional disturbances.

Q: When did you go door-to-door? What businesses?

- A: **Strabag:** Has canvassed as recently as 1.5 months ago, and spoken with several businesses including Supercoffee, and the many Caribbean restaurants. It might not be all in one canvas, but it will be regular check-ins with businesses in the community.

Q: Did you include the community housing in your Canvassing?

- A: **Strabag:** Yes, the streets that went behind the plaza, both sides of the street and all the businesses. Strabag is starting to engage the daycare.

Q: Have the boreholes near the Humber River been done? How deep did it go?

- A: **Aecon:** Yes, on the east side. It was 15-20 metres deep and then reached bedrock.

Q: On the west side of the river, how far will you be drilling?

- A: **Aecon:** 15-20m.

Q: What non-Metrolinx owned lands are you removing trees from?

- A: **Aecon:** There are TRCA lands moving into easement lands that extend across the job.

Q: You were 60% done with the design of the elevated guideway, is this still the case?

- A: **Aecon:** The 60% design has been submitted, and Aecon has received feedback on the submission.

Q: When can you present the design to the community?

- A: **Aecon:** There is not a date yet; Aecon committed to return with more information

Q: Will you need more boreholes?

- A: **Aecon:** Yes.

Q: Did your relationship with Six Nations result in them doing any of the work?

- A: **Aecon:** Yes, Six Nations did all the tree removal work. Any trees that were cut down were done by them.

Q: What did you do with the trees?

- A: **Aecon:** High value trees were cut into logs. Ash trees were chipped. Some trees were turned into mulch. The logs were given to TICOF and are currently being stored by the bridge. Aecon described erosion and sediment control measures, site grading and the Spring 2025 construction planning schedule.

Q: When do you anticipate hiring and how can community members get connected?

- A: **Aecon:** March - April 2025. For this project or others, job seekers should use the Employee Portal. Aecon has completed 14 community outreach events, and has a community benefits program. It is trying to notify people of forthcoming jobs, doing the early work to let them know jobs are coming and what they can do.

Q: At the next presentation can you notify us of upcoming events so we can disseminate that information? Include the events as part of the schedules/upcoming works calendars.

- A: **Aecon** can prepare a slide on ways to get employed/opportunities for hiring. E.g. job fair, upcoming events.

Q: There were different stories in the media about cracking in the foundation of bridge work. What have you done to mitigate that?

- A: **Aecon** is following Metrolinx standards including bridge codes, track codes, and construction codes. Its subcontractor will follow all the protocols to meet the requirements.
- **Update provided through these minutes:** The [stories](#) this question was based on refer to another transit line in a different city.

Q: Who is designing the sediment control? Have you learned anything from the mistakes of the flooding issues in 2013?

- A: **Aecon** has gone through a significant amount of due diligence to make sure erosion and sediment control will be effective. In the high-risk areas, it is using high-grade materials and metal T-bars instead of wooden sticks. Aecon does flood modeling and is meeting or exceeding regulatory requirements. This work is monitored by the City of Toronto, Metrolinx, and TRCA to ensure accountability.

Q: Are you measuring silt in the river? Can you share that with the public?

- A: **Aecon** will ask Metrolinx to check if it is possible

Q: Do you do increased monitoring during the spawning times?

- A: **Aecon:** No, but there is continuous inspection and monitoring at all times.
C: One of the issues we have always had is with transparency. We are told that there are these extra levels in place, but when we ask for transparency and this information, we are denied. We are told to just trust the system.

Q: There are wetlands outside of the fenced areas - what happens if there are spills?

- A: **Aecon** stated that there is a wetland at Fergy Brown Park and a watercourse that runs south of Eglinton Plaza. It installs material to prevent and mitigate spills. All crews in the field have been briefed about the correct procedure should a spill occur, and the park is far from the slope in the event of a spill.

Q: Could you please explain the metal backing that is being used?

- A: **Aecon** explained that textile is used to slow water down. Typically, it is held down with wooden poles. However, the project uses metal T-bars to provide greater support.
C: We heard the soil quality around the elevated guideway is 'awful.' As part of elevated guideway work, we heard the soil would be replaced.
- A: **Aecon:** Yes, it will be replaced with better-quality soil.

Q: Where will the soil you remove go?

- A: **Aecon:** It is reused as much as possible.
Aecon shared upcoming lane closures and confirmed the bus path at Emmitt will remain open as well as Jane to Fergy Brown Park will remain open so people can access the path. Scarlett to Fergy Brown Park will also remain open. Aecon provides an update on bus stop changes/impacts.

Q: The City of Toronto is proposing dedicated bus lanes on Jane to 401 - do you know anything about that? They're doing a consultation on that right now.

- A: **Aecon** is not aware of this.

VIRTUAL WALKING TOUR

One of the requests from CLC Meeting #1 was to have a walking tour to provide context about the project, help visualize the design, and provide opportunities for members to ask questions at specific points along the line.

Dillon developed a virtual walking tour video taken on October 29, 2024, which was shown to the CLC. The following are the questions/comments from the CLC during the video.

Stop #1: Mount Dennis

Q: Any update on when Mount Dennis station will be opening?

- o **A: Update provided through these minutes:** Metrolinx has committed to announce the opening of the Eglinton Crosstown three months before opening day.

Stop #2: Pearen Park

Q: We have heard from cyclists at the Mount Dennis intersection is very dangerous and it's a bottleneck for cars. Could you please consider extra signage?

A: **Metrolinx** explained the community should reach out to the Traffic Systems Operations or Transportation Team at City of Toronto for signage requests.

- o **Update provided through these minutes:** Metrolinx will also share this request and concern with the City of Toronto.

Q: The renderings show summer deciduous trees. What will it look like in the winter?

A: **Dillon** will inquire with ARUP who created the renderings to see if there are any from the winter, Dillon will work on sharing them with you.

Q: Do you have renderings of the elevated guideway that are 3 or 4-tracks wide?

A: **Dillon** will inquire and share.

Q: Arup developed these renderings despite the elevated guideway design only be at 60%?

A: **Dillon:** The shape and alignment will not change. That is why Arup can show the renderings like this. The guideway has been moved as close to the road as possible to mitigate the impact to existing trees.

Q: Can you reconfirm the heights of the guideway? Can you give us the range?

A: **Dillon:** Yes.

Aecon: It will be tallest and widest at elevated guideway. The measurements will be shared with members.

Q: Why is the track sometimes 1, 2 or 3 lines wide?

A: **Aecon:** At stations, they are wider, so there are two lines on each side.

Stop #3: Eglinton Flats

Q: The restoration plan was supposed to be finalized in October, is there an update on this?

A: **Dillon:** there will be an open house and working group meeting at the end of November. The Restoration Plan is available at 90% complete now. If you would like to view the document, you can do so by request.

- o **Update provided through these minutes:** The restoration Open house has been moved to Tuesday, December 3rd from 6 to 8 PM at Bala Avenue Community School (6 Bala Ave, York ON M6M 2E1)

Q: What year will the stations start to be built? Will they be done simultaneously?

A: **Dillon** is currently in procurement for the SRS contract to find the builder. **Dillon** will know more about the timing when a builder has been confirmed.

Q: Is the bike lane going to stay on Eglinton Avenue? Have you heard from the Minister of Transportation? We do not want to remove them.

A: **Aecon** has not heard anything from the Minister. As far as we know, the Multi-Use Path will stay where it is.

C: If there are ever any closures to that path, please notify the community. It is important.

Stop #4 Humber River

No Questions.

Stop #5: Scarlett Road

Q: Will the Ukrainian Canadian Memorial Park stay?

A: **Metrolinx**: has been working with the Ukrainian Canadian Congress and is trying to figure out what will happen with the park. For now, the park will stay, and the monument will remain open.

ACTION ITEMS:

- **Metrolinx** to look into expanding notice area from 500 metres to 2 km.
- **Metrolinx** to continue to notify Turtle Island Carers of Fire (TICOF) of relevant work.
- **AECON / Metrolinx** to provide a date when the elevated guideway design can be presented to the community.
- **AECON / Metrolinx** to inquire if silt is being measured in the river and share this information with the community.
- **Metrolinx** to share employment opportunities with CLC members and include them as part of the schedule at the next presentation.
- **Dillon** to share renderings of elevated guideway in winter, if available. **Dillon** is working on gathering this information and it will be sent out to the CLC members in a separate email.
- **Dillon** to share renderings of tracks 2 and 3, if available, and heights of the elevated guideway. **Dillon** is working on gathering this information and it will be sent out to the CLC members in a separate email.
- **Metrolinx** to consider the use of microphones at the next CLC meeting.