



## Construction Liaison Group, Meeting #11

### Leslie Barns & Leslie Connection Track

August 14, 2014

**Facilitated By:**

David Dilks, Lura Consulting

**Attended By:**

**Community Members:**

Caron Court, Michael Holloway, Vivien Leong, Allegra MacDonald, Jo Oppenheimer

**City of Toronto:**

Martin Maguire (Transportation Services)

**TTC:**

Elizabeth Garkowski, Niki Angelis, Charles Lee, Adrienne Long, Fred Sandoval, Les Kelman, Justin Chin (Aecom)

**Contractor (Pomerleau):**

Delphine Beausoleil , Marc Blanchet

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*These meeting minutes were prepared by TTC community liaison staff. These minutes are not intended to provide verbatim accounts of discussions. Rather, they summarize and document the key points made during the discussions, as well as the outcomes and actions arising from the CLG meetings.*

### Welcome and Agenda Review

Dave Dilks outlined the agenda for the meeting that included an update on work completed, work days and scheduling, the follow up to action items from the previous CLG meeting an overview of upcoming preliminary construction phasing. Dave asked the group if there were any outstanding issues from the previous meeting that they would like to discuss. None were voiced. Dave then turned the attention to Niki Angelis to commence the presentation.



## Work To Date

Niki gave an overview of the work currently taking place in the closure area and other sites on Leslie Street including the progress of utility upgrades such as the new storm sewer. The action items from the August 6 Safety Walk and from the previous CLG Meeting were presented.

### The 9 Safety Walk action items were as follows:

- 1) Add missing pedestrian detour signage on fencing of the sidewalk detour – **completed**
- 2) Investigate widening the pedestrian path to create more space between Marigold driveway access and pedestrian crossing - **wherever possible, the path was widened. Flag person is present from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.**
- 3) Relocate “Danger” and “No Trespassing” signs so they are not on the same fencing as pedestrian signage – **completed**
- 4) Add “slow”, “watch for pedestrians” and “stop” sign to Loblaws – **signage was added as well as speed bumps to slow traffic**
- 5) Cold patch to be applied to cracks on sidewalks around Eastern closure – **completed**
- 6) Follow up required on widening pedestrian walkway between the two plazas off of Leslie Street – **due to space constraints, crosswalk not widened. PDPO and/or flagperson present during rush hours**
- 7) Add “Dismount and Walk”, “Narrow Path Ahead” on the west side fencing from plaza access to Mosley – **completed**
- 8) Rearrange barrels on Eastern at Mosley. The current configuration is forcing vehicles into the bike lane. – **completed, ongoing maintenance required**
- 9) Investigate the possibility of adding reflective tape along the south crossing of the Eastern / Leslie intersection. – **Due to track bed installation, this crossing was removed.**

### The 9 Action Items from the *previous* CLG Meeting were discussed:

**Action Item No. 1:** Place more & larger dismount and walk signs, add cycling signage to indicate connection to Knox.

**Response:** Dismount and walk signs were added around the sidewalk detour around the Leslie and Eastern intersection. This action is being reviewed by the City.

**Action Item No. 2:** Get in touch with customer service regarding accuracy of trip planner during construction.

**Response:** The Head of Customer service will look into including construction data in the current version of Trip Planner. In addition to Trip Planner, the info would be very useful for a number of apps (e.g. TransitApp, Transit Now etc) or Google Maps



**Action Item No. 3:** 48 Hours' notice for OCS Poles and sidewalk work.

**Response:** When sidewalks are impacted by OCS pole work, the contractor will provide advance notice for TTC to communicate.

**Action Item No. 4:** Blue Mesh to be added to 30 Leslie fence and Marigold fencing (Queen Side).

**Response:** Blue mesh was installed to fencing in front of 30 Leslie and Marigold Gardens, as well as to fencing in front of homes on Leslie between Eastern Avenue and Queen Street.

**Action Item No. 5:** Noise barriers must be installed on all generators (Sound barrier for generator at Mosley installed June 27 2014)

**Response:** All generators will have noise barriers installed by contractor if they are expected to be working overnight

**Action Item No. 6:** Pedestrian and cyclist plan for Eastern closure presented by July 4.

**Response:** A pedestrian plan was sent to the CLG members on July 11 to review. "Dismount and Walk" and "Narrow Path Ahead" signs were installed around sidewalk diversion to allow safe passage for all users.

**Action Item No. 7:** Notice of work/phasing diagrams to include more details on work activities, noise/vibration disruptions to residents.

**Response:** A summary of activities for current and upcoming phases will be provided that include activity type, expected noise levels and expected vibration levels.

**Action Item No. 8:** Confirm the bus rerouting for when Eastern is closed.

**Response:** The express routing of 143 Downtown/Beach Express buses is planned to divert in eastbound via Queen Street East, Carlaw Avenue and Eastern Avenue. Westbound buses will divert west on Eastern Avenue, south on Coxwell Avenue, west on Lake Shore Boulevard, north on Carlaw Avenue, west on Eastern Avenue.

**Action Item No. 9:** Confirm when the pedestrian crossing on the north side of the Lake Shore / Leslie intersection will be reinstated.

**Response:** The contractor and TTC construction team investigated the possibility of safely reinstating the crossing, however a number of activities either directly impact the crossing or require access to the open excavation at the crossing. A re-opening date will be provided following the start of the next phase of work (north side of Lake Shore to Mosley).

## Community Feedback

Following summarizes complaints, concerns and suggestions from the period of the last CLG (period of June 26 to Aug 14, 2014).

The complaints documented range from:



- Traffic management related to Leslie and Eastern intersection closure
- Access concerns for local residents
- Dust complaints
- Pedestrian crossings, safety and flag persons/PDPOs

*A full list is available at the end of this document – the points have been updated based on feedback received at the CLG Meeting from its members.*

## Construction Phasing Update

An overview of construction phasing was presented by Liz Garkowski that outlined the current and upcoming/anticipated work.

## CLG Discussion Period

The CLG is a forum for open discussion. As such, questions were posed throughout the presentation. Questions are indicated with a Q, answers with an A, and Comments with a C. Answers were provided by the members from the Leslie Barns project team and City of Toronto Transportation staff. Questions that require follow up will be added to action items.

C1.1: A CLG member elaborated on the complaint about flag person and sub-contractor conduct on site. Verbal abuse and unprofessional personal encounter by a Clearway employee. The incident escalated after the CLG member indicated she was simply taking photos of cracks in a sidewalk and the subcontractor lost his temper. The subcontractor employee approached the CLG member in front of her home and yelled at her. The TTC inspector was present at this time and had the sub-contractor removed from the site. **(note: David Nagler visited the site on the day in question immediately after being notified, spoke to the CLG member and then to the TTC site inspector who contacted Pomerleau site manager and ensured the individual was removed . Pomerleau officials have indicated the Clearway employee was disciplined)**

C1.2: Another CLG member reported an account of snickering and laughing from contractor workers while he took videos of traffic for the purposes of monitoring traffic and cyclist safety.

C1.1: The CLG member requested that this information be placed on the record and to be provided with details of the disciplinary action taken against employee and noted that when complaints are made, follow ups that require disciplinary action should be shared with the complainant.

A1: Charles Lee committed to closing the loop on all serious incidents to address complaints or contractor/subcontractor misconduct. The CLG member will be provided with an explanation of action taken.



C2: PDOs and some flag persons are on the phone or chatting when they should be working/ ensuring the safety of pedestrians. Can anything be done?

C2.2: Another CLG member indicated the Pomerleau flag persons positioned at the Marigold Gardens (north of Leslie and Eastern closure) are doing a good job, people like them.

A2: PDOs report to Pomerleau and receive direct written instructions on what they should be doing at their post. More specific instructions will be written to address the issue for both PDO and flagpersons.

C3: Details of the watermain incident at Marigold Gardens does not include all the details. Please update

A3: The feedback log has since been updated to reflect more detail of the incident.

C4: A CLG member informed the group of unannounced water shut off that left her without water on the day of a job interview. She then thanked the Community Liaison team and particularly David Nagler for their efforts on that morning.

C5: A report of weekend work beginning before 9am was made.

A5: Charles Lee will ensure workers abide by work hours and pre-communication is done for early work  
**(Action Item No. 1)**

C6: A CLG member representing Marigold Gardens reported that the City blocked their entranceway with bricks and pylons. Thanks to the TTC Community Liaisons for helping out even though it was not TTC work.

Q7: When flag person on Leslie at Lake Shore is on break, or done shift, car traffic no longer behaves, and is dangerous for pedestrians. Realizes that they have to have breaks and be able to go to washroom, can anything be done about this?

A7: Alternative times can be explored but it is very difficult to get a 24 hour flag person at this crossing.  
**(Action Item No. 2)**

Q8: Can additional lighting options be considered for this crossing at Lake Shore?

A8: Toronto Hydro would need to be consulted on possibility of adding more light to the intersection  
**(Action Item No.3)**

C9: Rumours have been circulating that sidewalks are being widened beyond what was previously discussed with residents near Mosley Street.

A9 (M. Maguire) There is an issue about OCS pole, and how close they can be to edge to sidewalk.

Q9: Is there a commitment to not widen sidewalk?

A9: TTC will endeavor to get a confirmation from the City who makes the decision regarding the sidewalks width **(Action Item No. 4)**.

C10: A discussion was initiated by a member about the phasing presented and if the dates changed how they would be notified (as this particular member lives on Leslie and was trying to coordinate a move for future tenants). The dates and information are not specific enough.



A10: The dates presented at these meetings are accurate at the time. However specific dates do change. Every effort will be made to add more specific information (**Action Item No. 5**) and provide updates when dates change.

*The conversation escalated to a point where a CLG member used inappropriate language towards the representatives from Pomerleau. The Pomerleau representatives left the meeting. Some CLG members expressed concern on the language used and the impact of future CLG meetings without attendance from the contractor.*

*Note: The CLG member felt the Pomerleau staff had been smirking and not taking the concern seriously. The Pomerleau personnel indicated they did take the concern seriously and were not acting in that manner.*

C11: Charles Lee informed the Marigold Gardens representative that Toronto Hydro “lead splicing” is required that could block their access and warned that advance notice could be limited due to the nature of the work (relying on one individual who is able to complete this work).

Q12: Why are overhead poles taking a long time to complete at the Queen and Leslie Intersection?

A12: The poles are taking longer than anticipated due to site conditions.

Q13: Have bench designs been picked for the streetscaping?

A13: The BIA has recently (August, 2014) selected a bench design. They need to be ordered and manufactured.

Q14: Will the intersection be re-graded?

A14: Yes, we're looking at new design work for re-grading. This work will be part of doing Eastern-Leslie intersection.

Q15: When will Eastern re-open?

A15: Schedule is September 7, 2014. Charles explained some site conditions that delayed work early in the intersection closure. He informed the group that the September 7 date could be honoured but *without* the tracks being installed. Note: *On September 4, a communication went out announcing the intersection would not be opened until September 22 in order to complete all works.*

C16: Ward 30 bikes submitted a suggestion for cyclist detours during the Leslie and Eastern Intersection closure, but these were not done. There is also a concern that all traffic is being routed through parking lots, and is dangerous. Should have blocked Eastern at major streets, like Carlaw, and provided detour signage.

A16: The idea of signed cyclist detours was discussed at the safety walk. The City does not provide detour routes on large capital projects. There is also a need to maintain local access to streets between Carlaw and Leslie, for residents and local businesses. Speed bumps and multiple signs were added to the area and plaza driveways and a PDPO is positioned between the two plaza entrances for safety.



C17: Workers are parking personal, unmarked vehicles on Mosley Street, restricting access to permit parking on that street.

A17: This is an ongoing issue that Pomerleau has been asked to address on a weekly basis.

Q18: When will the next CLG be? Can we have the date set early on and can we ensure they are done monthly. Lately they have been getting pushed to every 6 weeks rather than every 4 weeks.

A18: We will set the date as soon as possible and every effort will be made for it to be within 4 weeks. As you know there are a number of factors, particularly the availability of the venue that impact the date. *The next CLG was set for October 2, 2014 due to the conflicts of CLG member availability, the venue and the next available date falling on a religious holiday (Sept 25).*

C19: There should also be another safety walk.

A19: The next safety walk will be scheduled after the opening of the Leslie and Eastern intersection. *Shortly after the Eastern Intersection opening, another closure is anticipated. Therefore the safety walk will be held after the next phased closure.*

Q20: Will there be a stop for streetcars on Leslie?

A20: There will be curb cuts on sidewalks to accommodate streetcar usage, even though no streetcar service planned.

Dave Dilks closed the discussion period by thanking those who attended.

Meeting adjourned.

## Action Items

- 1) Charles Lee will ensure workers abide by work hours and provide advanced notice should early work be required.
- 2) Alternative times can be explored but it is very difficult to get a 24 hour flag person at the crossing.
- 3) Toronto Hydro to be consulted on possibility of adding more light to the intersection of Leslie and Lake Shore Blvd.
- 4) TTC will request confirmation from the City regarding sidewalk width between Mosley and Eastern.
- 5) The dates presented at these meetings are accurate at the time. However specific dates do change. Every effort will be made to add more specific information and provide updates when dates change.



### Community Feedback Log

A CLG member requested a summary of construction feedback and complaints between CLG meetings to be presented. The following log shows the concerns raised by the community in the last month:

Topic	Concern	Action
<b>Traffic Management/ Access</b>	A concern regarding the potential of traffic infiltration as a result of the Leslie and Eastern intersection	A signage plan was drafted in advance of the closure that included electronic (6) and static (26) advisory signage. 4 Additional signs have been requested.
	Traffic infiltration on Rushbrooke	The following traffic management measures have been applied to Rushbrooke: speed trailer, “local traffic only” signs at foot of road, a PDPO is located at Rushbrooke and Eastern and pylons installed
	Traffic infiltration concerns on Larchmount	A speed trailer and traffic control pylons have been requested for this street.
	Traffic going down Marigold Avenue despite being a dead end street. Signage blocked by tree growth	A call was put into 311 Toronto to have trees trimmed and the contractor installed a large “no exit sign” at Eastern and Marigold Avenue
<b>Safety – Pedestrian/ Cyclist Crossings</b>	Flag person on duty not paying attention to pedestrians or the crossing. Reports of flag persons/PPDOs chatting on the job	This issue was flagged with the contractor for immediate response. The contractors’ instructions to both the PDPO and flag persons are clear. The TTC and Pomerleau will continue to monitor the effectiveness of the PDPOs and flag persons





Topic	Concern	Action
<b>Noise /Dust/Vibration</b>	Dust was reported in the driveway accesses of the two plazas (off of Leslie)	The issue was flagged with the contractor and a watering truck was sent to the area.
	A noise and vibration complaint was received with the start of the Leslie and Eastern Intersection work.	This complaint coincided with the breaking of concrete (road). Vibration monitoring data was requested and did not exceed MOE limits
<b>Other</b>	Watermain incident at Marigold Condo that impacted the pedestrian gate access south of the driveway. The old watermain leaked onto the property, was fixed by the subcontractor and not reported to TTC. The Marigold Gardens site superintendent brought it to the attention of the CLOs.	Pedestrian access was repaired once the issue was communicated to the CLOs. An investigation of potential damage was carried out by the Contractor
	A water service interruption was scheduled for July 2. The impacted area was larger than anticipated, leaving some residents and businesses without water for the day	Water was delivered to those affected throughout the day. The contractor worked to restore water as quickly as possible.
	Weekend work started before 9am on a Saturday.	The project team has committed to have weekend work commence at 9 a.m. The issue was flagged with Charles Lee who reprimanded the contractor for the violation.
	The express bus keeps getting caught in traffic on Queen, extending the travel time significantly	The concern was forwarded to Service Planning who altered the route to divert along Lake Shore rather than Queen.