



Construction Liaison Group, Meeting #17
Leslie Barns & Leslie Connection Track
June 18, 2015

Facilitated By:

Jim Faught, Lura Consulting

Attended By:

Community Members:

Caron Court, Vivien, Leong, Allegra MacDonald, Janet MacDonald, Jo Oppenheimer

TTC:

Niki Angelis, Elizabeth Garkowski, David Nagler Paris Savides

Contractor (Pomerleau):

Marc Blanchet, Melissa Montgomery

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

Jim Faught welcomed the group to CLG #17 and outlined the agenda that included an update on work completed, the May 11th safety walk, the follow up to action items from the previous CLG meeting, the community feedback and an overview of upcoming preliminary construction phasing.

Before turning the attention to David Nagler to commence the presentation, Jim went over the CLG code of conduct.

Safety Walk/Action Items/Work to Date

David gave an overview of the works to date including track installation along Leslie Street south of Queen Street, sidewalk construction on Leslie Street and repainted lane markings at the temporary plaza entrances on the north side of Lake Shore Blvd.



On May 11, 2015 a safety walk was held by the TTC to identify any safety concerns for pedestrians and cyclists given the new lane configuration. The follow items were identified that day and addressed by May 15, 2015.

- 1) Remove 'PEDESTRIAN/CYCLIST DETOUR' sign at Queen/Leslie, SW corner; replace with laminated sign indicating pedestrian detour only
- 2) Remove 'PEDESTRIAN/CYCLIST DETOUR' sign on grey box at Eastern/Leslie, NE corner; replace with laminated sign 'NORTH CROSSING CLOSED – PLEASE CROSS ON THE SOUTH SIDE'.
- 3) Add laminated 'DISMOUNT & WALK' signs:
 - On Memory Lane and Sears at Leslie (facing east for WB cyclists approaching the sidewalk)
 - For the Leslie east side sidewalk, just north of Eastern (facing south for NB cyclists) wherever space permits, affix to sign at 29 Leslie
 - For the Leslie E sidewalk, at Queen (facing north for southbound cyclists)
- 4) Add laminated signs: "Emergency Access Route – do not block" on Marigold Garden's gates opposite 65 Leslie and 47 Leslie (x2)
- 5) Continue to monitor barrel configuration at Eastern/Leslie, SE corner (to delineate pedestrian standpoint and crosswalk from traffic) **ongoing**
- 6) Look into the possibility of expanding clearance for the Leslie West sidewalk (adjacent to 20 Leslie). ***Pedestrian access is de-linedated with barrels in the curb lane in this area for upcoming sidewalk work***
- 7) Remove signs at the NW and NE corners of Leslie/Lake Shore 'SOUTH CROSSING CLOSED'. Replace with laminated signs: 'SOUTH CROSSING CLOSED – PLEASE CROSS ON THE NORTH SIDE' (x2)
- 8) Add laminated sign to the guard house door at Leslie/Lake Shore, southeast corner 'TRAIL TO LESLIE SPIT OPEN '
- 9) Remove sign affixed to fast fence on the south side of Lake Shore 'NARROW PATH AHEAD...'

The 2 Action Items from the *previous* CLG Meeting were discussed:

Action Item No. 1: The contractor is to advise flag persons to be more communicative with drivers entering and exiting parking garage.

Response: This directive is given daily to the flag persons on duty at the Marigold driveway access. Flag persons have directive to report to Police during washroom breaks, for Police to control traffic entering and exiting.



Action Item No. 2: Request for the contractor to be vigilant in the final months of construction – to not let issues of dust and pedestrian safety be ignored or compromised in order to complete the project.

Response: Ongoing monitoring of pedestrian/cyclist/driver safety is priority, including all flagpersons and paid duty police who receive regular instructions.

All concerns identified by staff and received by public are sent immediately to TTC inspectors and Pomerleau safety officer for action.

Community Feedback

The following summarizes complaints, concerns and suggestions from the period of the last CLG (period of April 24 to June 18, 2015).

The concerns/complaints documented range from:

- Sidewalk/Pedestrian Safety
- Traffic/Road Safety
- Dust/Noise/Vibration
- Other

A full list is available at the end of this document.

Construction Phasing Update

An overview of construction phasing was presented by David Nagler

David outlined the remaining phases of work until landscaping completion projected for late 2015. David also provided an update on the elevated track tubs north of Eastern Avenue.

- Crews have begun saw cutting to address the 60m of elevated track tubs located just north of Eastern
- The contractor will install new rebar and concrete to rebuild the tubs to the specified height
- It is expected that the repair work will take approximately 7 weeks
- Once rebuilt, the track tubs will be the height and strength that is required as per the design



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. Questions that require follow up will be added to action items.

Safety Walk Discussion

C: Regarding the emergency access/fire routes for the Marigold Gardens, these should be checked daily as part of the site safety walk. The materials that have been stored in front of doors include concrete, rebar and other debris – in an emergency this would be difficult to get around. Frustration was expressed by the CLG member for having to flag the same safety concern.

A: Melissa from Pomerleau acknowledges the CLG member's frustration and confirmed that this item is added to the daily site walk checklist. This is also to be flagged with the sub-contractors to ensure that they are mindful of their surroundings and where they store material.

C: Another safety concern was brought to the group's attentions during sidewalk excavations and the positioning/presence of flag persons. Vehicles would park in the curb line, leading to pedestrians walking into traffic lanes without adequate flag-person/Police coverage always present.

C: The Pomerleau flag persons, when present, are excellent. Our ongoing concern is with paid duty police officers.

C: There was an incident in the morning of June 17th where flag person coverage near Queen and Leslie was inadequate and a student trying to get to the streetcar stop in front of The Duke walked into a traffic lane. The construction personnel on site did not direct him in any way. David went to the site and a flagperson was then directing pedestrians safely through the crosswalk. His efforts were appreciated.

Action Items Overview Discussion

The first action item regarding communication of flag persons with drivers prompted a discussion about a recent incident with a flag person at the Marigold underground garage. The flag person positioned at the single lane access to the Marigold underground garage went to the washroom leaving the PDPO in charge. It was raining that day and the PDPO stayed in his vehicle. As such, a vehicle exiting the Marigold garage met a vehicle coming into the garage (using the same single-lane access). The entering vehicle had to reverse into traffic to allow the other vehicle to exit. The flag person on duty was spoken to after the incident was reported, and re-instructed to ensure the PDPO is positioned properly when covering breaks. The flagperson had reported to the officer before leaving for the washroom.



Community Feedback Log

C: During sidewalk work, a temporary plywood path was not installed prior to work commencing between Mosley and Eastern Avenue, resulting in a resident not being able to safely leave her home for a few minutes until the workers could create a path for her to exit. In future, a plywood path must be installed before work begins and should be installed in 24-48 hours in advance (**Action Item**).

C: When there is pole work at an intersection that may temporarily block pedestrian access, can maps be added to detour signage to help direct pedestrians around the disruption (**Action Item**).

C: A good way to bring more awareness to “dismount and walk” on sidewalks would be to post fines incurred by not doing so. (**Action Item**)

C: One CLG member commented that she witnessed one of the sub-contractors helped a driver with a flat tire at the Lake Shore and wanted to share that with the Contractor present at the meeting. She also wanted to say that the safety measures for pedestrians on this project are better than for the work on Eastern Avenue.

TTC staff: While not our project, if you have any specific concerns about Eastern Avenue, please let us know and we can forward them to the City’s project manager for action.

C: The signage at Leslie and Lake Shore may be confusing drivers. Signage on hoarding just says businesses open. It is not entirely clear which lane is northbound and which is south.

TTC staff: The signage here will be reviewed and adjusted as necessary (**Action Item**)

C: There was a basement flooding reported recently in a home on Mosley that is adjacent to the work zone and it is not included in the feedback log.

TTC Staff: There was a basement flooding reported in a home adjacent to the work zone. Pomerleau and TTC staff inspected the basement. The homeowner is to follow up with an official claim and supporting documentation to the contractor. *This was added to the feedback log.*

Track Tub Discussion

Corrective work on the track tubs commenced in the week leading up to the CLG. The method selected was that of fixing the track tubs, installing new rebar and pouring concrete to the specified height.

C: It would be nice if there was an apology from the TTC senior management regarding the delay in construction.

Contractor: Sorry is not enough after the length of time on Leslie, but we are. We have developed a solution to the matter that is far less disruptive than complete demolition - one that protects the integrity of the track bed while minimizing noise, dust and vibration in the process. We are moving forward promptly.



TTC: All of us regret the long duration of construction and are sorry for the effects it has on our neighbours.

Q: In a meeting with a project engineer, he said that by taking the track tub adjustment option, there is a chance that the tubs would not be as effective at mitigating vibration. Why was this method chosen and did a third party engineer approve it?

TTC staff: Yes. It was determined by the design engineers that this method would not compromise the effectiveness of the vibration mitigation design.

Q: Is this solution safe? Will it be subject to more repairs?

Contractor: Yes. The track itself is not affected. The track tub has rebar and vibration mitigation materials. The original design had the track tub poured in two segments (with a joint) but it can effectively be poured all at once. The approved vibration mitigation is provided.

Q: Initially there was a conversation where the project engineer indicated there would be an impact to the private property side of the Marigold Gardens that was a surprise to him. How can that be?

TTC Staff: To clarify, to complete the track tub correction, private property access is not required. The contractor will have to carry out work on the Marigold Gardens driveway during sidewalk formwork. The driveway will not be accessible during that sidewalk work for a limited time.

Construction Phasing Discussion

Q: Why was the sidewalk excavation work on the west side of Leslie between Lake Shore and Eastern not executed 2 weeks ago when the first notice was provided?

A: The original plan was to remove sidewalk on the west sidewalk in this area and pour new sidewalks moving southbound from Eastern Avenue to Lake Shore. There were a number of issues that stopped this (Mosley streetscaping, fire hydrant connection that required a water shutoff, and availability of work crews). The plan was altered to reduce the amount of time the sidewalk would be left excavated in this stretch in order to reduce inconvenience. Once the updated schedule for the sidewalks is confirmed, residents will be notified (**Action Item**).

Q: What is the schedule for the sidewalks to be completed north of Eastern?

TTC: The schedule for the sidewalk work north of Eastern will be confirmed after the track tub correction is completed, followed by road repaving. When traffic lanes re-open on Leslie between Queen and Eastern, sidewalk upgrades in this section will commence.

C: It is very concerning that a 90 day look ahead is not yet confirmed for this work.

A: An updated scheduled will be provided.



Meeting adjourned.

Action Items

1. Resident on Leslie Street between Mosley and Eastern request that a plywood path to their homes be constructed a minimum of a day in advance of any work beginning in front of their homes which has the potential to block regular access.
2. Have a pedestrian detour map in place when the temporary pole on the southeast corner of the Queen and Leslie intersection is being removed to advise pedestrians how to get around the work zone.
3. Review signage at the Lake Shore and Leslie intersection for southbound vehicles. Current signage does not make it clear if it is possible to travel southbound on Leslie from Lake Shore.
4. Review signage at the south Canadian Tire exit. Vehicles are currently getting confused and using the southbound lane to travel northbound.
5. Provide notification to residents once an updated timeline for sidewalk removal on the west side of Leslie, between Eastern and Mosley has been finalized.

Community Feedback Log

The following log shows concerns raised by the community between April 24 and June 18:

Topic	Concern	Action
Sidewalk/Pedestrian Safety	During utility duct work between Eastern and Mosley, the sidewalk was closed off heading south and a path was not clearly delineated.	CLOs immediately investigated the pedestrian access. There were work vehicles that were partially blocking the pedestrian path. A flag person was stationed in the area until the vehicles could be relocated.
	Pedestrian signal at Leslie and Eastern is partially obstructed by a temporary pole.	Contractor directed to move signals to the new poles to be more visible. This will be done as soon as new poles are electrified.
	Multiple reports of paid duty officers stationed at the Leslie and Eastern intersection not performing their job effectively.	The contractor spoke to each paid duty officer to reiterate their duties. Written instructions continue to be provided to officers upon arrival on the site.



	A parked work vehicle on Queen Street was partially obstructing the east-west crossing at the south side of the Queen and Leslie intersection.	The matter was flagged with the contractor who instructed their subcontractor to immediately relocate the vehicle.
	The paint markings delineating the bike trail at the temporary plaza entrances has faded	Contractor repainted the hatched crossing at the temporary entrances.
	Plywood cover on sidewalk at Queen and Leslie has become soggy with rain and is no longer sturdy enough. Request made for a replacement.	The old cover was replaced with fresh plywood the following day.
	Complaints received regarding need for secure pedestrian access to residences on Leslie Street.	In preparation for sidewalk work, fencing was put up prior to plywood pedestrian detour being in place. Work in the area was stopped and the fencing was removed. Flag person stationed adjacent to work.
	During a temporary pole removal at Queen and Leslie, pedestrian access on south side was diverted and flagperson did not instruct pedestrian properly, leading to a student crossing in traffic when diverted crosswalk access was available.	A flag person was spoken to and repositioned to have a better sightline and told to be more proactive with approaching pedestrians, particularly children. An additional sign was positioned at the northwest corner asking southbound pedestrians to cross on the other side of the street.
	Cyclists are using the temporary sidewalk on the east side of Leslie between Eastern and Queen	Dismount and walk signage was repositioned to be more visible for cyclists approaching this section of sidewalk. Monitoring of the area is ongoing.
	A complaint was received that there was no clear pedestrian path between Mosley and the plazas during the sidewalk excavation.	A flag person was positioned in this section until heavy machinery could be relocated to allow for a pedestrian path. A path delineated by pylons/barrels was installed
	Reports received of construction vehicles or material obstructing emergency access (beside backyard fences) for Marigold Gardens residents.	Signage indicating “emergency access route” posted along the Marigold gate. Contractor instructed to remove material causing blockage and ordered to keep exit access clear at all times.



Traffic/Road Safety	Multiple reports: Flag person stationed at the Marigold shared lane driveway access absent from post.	Contractor protocol with Police such that during washroom breaks, flagperson reports to Police and Police then assume flagging duty for Marigold Gardens driveway.
	Contractor vehicle reported driving unsafely through the plaza intersection.	An investigation was conducted but a specific individual was not able to be definitively identified. As a result, the matter was addressed directly with both Pomerleau and their subcontractors.
	Traffic on Lake Shore is congested during peak hours.	The City made several adjustments to the signal timing at the Leslie/Lake Shore intersection. East-West green time has been extended as much as possible while still allowing for safe north-south movements
	Access to the Duke temporarily routed through Memory Lane which led to some confusion with driving patrons trying to access the parking lot	Directional signage was placed on Queen, Knox and Eastern Avenue to help direct traffic to the Duke parking lot. Flyers were also printed including a map on how to access the parking lot. These flyers were provided to the Duke to hand out to their customers in advance of the rerouting going into place.
	Complaint received today (June 1 at 4:00p.m. regarding access to Marigold parking garage being blocked. Eastern Avenue entrance appeared closed due to machinery and Sears access was not open.	CLO on site at approximately 4:05p.m. and at that time the access was clear. Paid Duty officer onsite indicated that there was a brief blockage of the driveway (approximately 1 minute) in which a bobcat drove up the path to collect debris and transport it further north.
Dust/Noise/Vibration	A metal plate used to cover an excavated portion of Leslie Street was flagged as causing excessive noise when vehicles drove over it	Extra asphalt was placed around the steel plate to secure it in place and minimize noise until the excavated area could be backfilled
	Dust accumulation on Leslie Street was reducing visibility of lane markings.	A street sweeper was sent to clean up Leslie Street and improve visibility of the lane markings. Pomerleau was directed to have the streets swept on a more regular basis.
	Strong odours were detected in the vicinity of Queen and Leslie	It was determined that a nearby hydrovac truck was excavating old soil around the existing sewer system which was the likely cause of a sewage smell



		reported. No other method to remove soil without damaging utility - smell subsided when work completed.
Other	Construction crew reported working overnight without proper notice being provided.	It was determined that a crew was working to remove tracks just north of Eastern and had not provided advanced notice - they indicated they were not using powered machinery. All crews re-ordered to provide advance notification of any type of late activity in advance, regardless of the type of work, as presence of any workers causes noise.
	Complaints to express concern regarding the error of elevated track tubs just north of Eastern which was reported in the media.	Reports in media occurred about elevated track tubs before a solution had been finalized. Confirmation from TTC that tubs were poured higher than specified in the contract and require rebuild.
	Complaint that a portable toilet was close to their yard causing unpleasant smells to waft into her home.	A request was made for contractor to have the portable toilet relocated. It was subsequently moved to a location that was not in close proximity to any residences.
	Complaint made about the speed trailer on Heward Avenue. Resident felt that it should be removed as it is taking up a valuable street parking space.	A notice was provided to residents on Heward requesting feedback on the speed trailer. Majority of responses received by the Community Office were in favour of retaining the speed trailer, it was decided that it would remain in place until Leslie reopens to vehicular traffic between Eastern and Leslie.
	An incident of a basement flooding occurred in a home on Mosley Street.	Once reported, TTC and Pomerleau inspectors visited the home to inspect the area of the flood. The next step is for the resident to provide supporting documentation to TTC/Pomerleau.