



Construction Liaison Group, Meeting #10
Leslie Barns & Leslie Connection Track
June 26, 2014

Facilitated By:

Jim Faught, Lura Consulting

Attended By:

Community Members:

Adriano Costa, Caron Court, Michael Holloway, Vivien Leong, Allegra MacDonald, Janet MacDonald

City of Toronto:

Martin Maguire (Transportation Services)

TTC:

Elizabeth Garkowski, Niki Angelis, Paris Savides, David Nagler, Charles Lee, Kenneth Hui, Les Kelman

Contractor (Pomerleau):

Delphine Beausolei , Marc Blanchet

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 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 and the Queen & Leslie intersection closure. Jim asked the group if there were any outstanding issues from the previous meeting that they would like to discuss. None were voiced. Jim then turned the attention to David Nagler to commence the presentation.



Work To Date

David gave an overview of the work currently taking place in the closure area and other sites on Leslie Street including the progress of streetscaping at Hastings, Curzon and Rushbrooke. It was flagged by a CLG member that during streetscaping, workers blocked the crosswalk button at Curzon and asked that the contractor be mindful of such things in future. TTC staff indicated this would be avoided in future. Further to the overview, David discussed the action items proposed at the previous CLG Meeting.

The 10 Action Items from the *previous* CLG Meeting were discussed:

Action Item No. 1: The TTC will direct the contractor to maintain accurate signage with each phase change or daily work activity.

Response: Every effort is made to communicate any deviations from scheduled work via signage, flag persons – ongoing monitoring and enforcement.

Action Item No. 2: TTC to ensure garbage management is conducted properly by the contractor (complaints received regarding timely pick-up and return of bins).

Response: The contractor has assigned a new dedicated position to manage garbage collection.

Action Item No. 3: A Safety Walk will be planned shortly after the Queen/Leslie Intersection closure

Response: Safety walk held on May 14

- Fill cold patch at the SE corner of Leslie and Queen Completed May 15
- Asphalt the pedestrian ramp to Leslie at Avondale Completed May 15
- Move barrier away from curb at the Curzon limit of construction site to prevent water pooling Completed May 15
- Address ponding at: Memory Lane, Pedestrian detour by Gio Rana's, SW corner of Eastern Avenue Completed May 16
- Push hoarding at Eastern as far south as possible to create more pedestrian space (east-west) – Fencing moved in as much as possible, limited space due to temporary watermain

Action Item No. 4: New signage to be installed for the Lake Shore traffic shift, including signs at Coxwell.

Response: This signage, along with pedestrian/cyclist maps, “narrow path ahead” and directional signage has been added to the crosswalk diversion at Leslie and Lake Shore.

Action Item No. 5: A Safety Walk will be planned for the Leslie/Lake Shore shift as soon as possible

Response: A safety walk was held on Wednesday June 18

- Adjust cones to make a sharper right turn onto eastbound Lake Shore – Completed June 19



- Have a full-time flagperson located at the east side N/S crossing of Leslie and Lake Shore – Contractor directed to have flag person at this crossing 7 days a week. Flag person started June 24.
- Change the colour of the “turning traffic must yield to pedestrians” sign from black on white to black on orange – Contractor to produce and install as soon as possible

Action Item No. 6: The tree protection around several trees on Queen Street to be adjusted as soon as possible.

Response: Tree protection was adjusted on May 2nd, following the CLG Meeting to provide more sidewalk space.

Action Item No. 7: Directional signage/businesses open signage to be installed once Queen/Leslie closure in place.

Response: Businesses open signage was installed by May 12 once the closure put in place.

Community Feedback

Following summarizes complaints, concerns and suggestions from the period of the last CLG to June 25 (May 2 to June 25, 2014).

The complaints documented range from:

- Noise, dust and vibration complaints
- Traffic concerns (speeding, violation of truck/left turn prohibitions (Knox), wrong way traffic on one-way streets (Curzon, Hastings, Rushbrooke), vehicular access
- Pedestrian safety, particularly at Leslie/Eastern and Leslie/Lake Shore intersection
- Garbage Collection
- Transit complaints (related to the Queen/Leslie Intersection closure, service delays and gaps in service)

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 that outlined the current and upcoming/anticipated work including the potential of a Leslie and Eastern intersection closure for storm and sanitary sewer 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: The Eastern and Leslie intersection is an ongoing problem. Work takes place at the intersection that eliminates a safe crossing with ineffectual PDOs/flag persons. There have been times when the PDO or flag person are not there, there is no sidewalk and no protected area.

A1: Charles Lee will take action on the ongoing safety issues flagged at this CLG meeting

Q1: Can someone be appointed to walk the site?

A1: There is a Pomerleau safety officer that walks the site (Commissioners to Queen along Leslie). There is always a possibility of missing something but every effort will be made to reduce the number of incidents that impact pedestrian crossings.

Q2: Is there an overall track record of injuries (to the public) on the site?

A2: There have been no incidences of injuries caused by construction

C3: Thank you for taking our concerns into consideration at the Leslie and Lake Shore intersection and appointing a flag person at the east side north/south crossing. What are the hours?

A3: The hours are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

C4: General complaints about narrow sidewalks and the impact of cyclists who do not dismount and pedestrians mixing.

It was suggested from the Ward30 Bikes rep, placing signs to indicate the trail at Knox, more dismount and walk signage (**Action Item No. 1**).

C5: During construction the TTC trip advisor does not factor in construction and diversions or advise that your travel times will likely be extended due to construction.

A5: We will get in touch with customer service regarding accuracy of trip planner during construction (**Action Item No. 2**)



C6: There is no mention of the quality of the detours (in the community feedback log). The detours don't make sense and do not take into consideration the resident's point of view. There is also an issue of limited notice.

C6ii: In general, the contractor is very good at reacting to complaints, but are not proactive.

A7: The CLOs can only inform the community of impacts to sidewalks when they are aware of the work. A request was made to the contractor to provide 48 hours notice for sidewalk impacts (**Action Item No. 3**)

C7: The blue mesh was removed from homes on Leslie south of Eastern and only reinstalled after a request from a resident.

A7: Blue mesh to be installed on fencing in front of homes in the work zone as soon as possible (**Action Item No. 4**).

C8: Another generator on Leslie has been operating without a noise barrier despite earlier commitments from the project team/contractor that all generators should have noise barriers

A8: The generator in question and all other generators in use longer than 2 days will have noise barriers installed (**Action Item No. 5**).

C9: During the Eastern and Leslie intersection closure, please present a pedestrian plan to the CLG for review and present to the community in advance of closure

A10: A pedestrian plan will be provided to the group in one week (**Action Item No. 6**).

C10: It would be nice to have greater detail of activities in the phasing slides to better understand what to expect

C10ii: It would also be helpful to have information on vibration, noise and dust impacts in the construction notices.

A10: That is an excellent suggestion. These details will be included in future phasing diagrams and notices (**Action Item No. 7**).

C11: One complaint regarding work vehicles moving into work zone south of Eastern (on Leslie) around 2 a.m. was reported during the Queen and Leslie intersection closure – the permit was only to operate 24/7 at the intersection.

A11: This will be added to the Community Feedback Log

C12: During the Eastern and Leslie intersection closure, what will happen to the bus route?

A12: We will have to follow up with Service Planning regarding this and report back (**Action Item No 8**).

C13: Is it possible to get a summary of the scope of work remaining on Leslie between the Plazas and Eastern Avenue?

A13: Yes (**Action Item No. 9**)



C14: The dust incident at Marigold Gardens listed in the Community Feedback Log downplays the incident and should be better represented in the log (extent of incident has been updated below). I would like the video taken by the resident to be shown to Mr. Byford

A14: The video will be shown and appropriate action will be taken to prevent incident from reoccurring when track work takes place on Leslie Street.

Q15: Do we know when the north east/west crossing of Leslie and Lake Shore be reinstated?

A15: Not at this time, but will confirm when the pedestrian crossing on the south side of the Lake Shore / Leslie intersection will be reinstated (**Action Item No. 10**)

Jim Faught closed the discussion period by thanking those who attended.

Meeting adjourned.

Action Items

1. Place larger dismount and walk signs, add cycling signage to indicate connection to Knox (we will need to look into this, get guidance from the City)
2. Get in touch with customer service regarding accuracy of trip planner during construction.
3. 48 Hours notice for OCS Poles and sidewalk work.
4. Blue Mesh to be added to 30 Leslie fence and Marigold fencing (Queen Side).
5. Noise barriers MUST be installed on all generators (Sound barrier for generator at Mosley installed June 27 2014)
6. Pedestrian plan for Eastern closure presented by July 4 – Add cyclist option.
7. Notice of work/phasing diagrams to include more details on work activities, noise/vibration disruptions.
8. Confirm the bus rerouting for when Eastern is closed.
9. Provide summary of remaining scope of work from Mosley to Eastern Avenue.
10. Confirm when the pedestrian crossing on the south side of the Lake Shore / Leslie intersection will be reinstated.



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
Noise /Dust/Vibration	Late night noise complaints resulting from use of vacuum truck/beeping trucks, during intersection closure of Queen/Leslie.	While permitted to work 24/7 during the Queen/Leslie intersection closure, all efforts were made to limit the use of vacuum truck overnight. Contractor ordered to stop vac trucks by 1130pm. Beeping on certain work vehicles could not be turned off as per Ontario Health and Safety Act. In total, 24 of the 42 days working days included evening work (after 7 p.m.).
	Noise and vibration complaints from removing road surface, breaking up concrete and removal at 7 a.m.	Contractor has been instructed to start road surface removal works to 8 a.m. or after whenever possible.
	Vibration concerns received from homes in the work zone.	Vibration data is monitored by a third party surveyor. Alerts are received if vibration data exceeds MOE limits. Reports showed there were instances of “perceptible” levels of vibration but no overages. Data from most recent complaint (June 25) not yet received from surveyor.
	Dust mitigation mesh removed prematurely on June 21 before the Queen/Leslie intersection fully re-opened. Large amounts of dust blown by contractor to clear tracks - fencing was down with no advance communication to TTC, residents or businesses. Completely unacceptable dust created by contractor.	Meeting held with Toronto Public Health and MOE to ensure this does not occur again. To reduce dust, vacuum trucks to be used in future to clear debris in advance of blowers. If blowers are absolutely necessary to clear final debris before applying sealant to tracks, contractor to supply advance notice before clearing track allowance and ensure mesh is in place.
	Dust mitigation mesh absent from fencing on Leslie south of Eastern	Mesh was removed due to mesh creating a “sail effect” but not reinstalled. Mesh was re-installed on June 3 rd .



	Dust mitigation mesh removed prematurely on June 21 before the Queen/Leslie intersection fully open on June 22	Mesh was removed prior to all activities in the work zone being completed (a blower was used to remove debris before using a sealant which is placed in the track bed)
	Loose material was left exposed in closure zone over a weekend and not tarped as per the communicated Contractor Dust Mitigation Plan	Contractor ordered to tarp materials. It took the contractor 3 days to apply tarping.
Traffic Management/ Access	Reports of speeding vehicles down a number of local side streets (Leslie, Alton, Hastings, Curzon, Berkshire, Rushbrooke).	Traffic management measures installed: local traffic only signs added, speed trailers on Alton, Berkshire and Larchmount (Berkshire and Larchmount shared a trailer), 30 km/hr limit signage, PDOs
	Vehicles going wrong way on one-way streets	PDO positioned at these streets and additional “no entry” signs installed
	Complaint regarding PDO/flag persons not allowing local traffic onto Leslie (between Eastern & Queen)	PDOs and flag persons are given instructions at start of each shift of duties. Pomerleau will reiterate directions throughout the day as required.



	Knox Avenue has experienced higher than normal traffic volumes, including large trucks despite truck prohibition and left turn prohibitions in rush hours	Contractor instructed to use major routes and “local traffic only” signs applied as per the City. Police enforcement on Knox turning and vehicle restrictions.
	Traffic lights have not been adjusted back at Leslie and Dundas now that the Queen/Leslie intersection has been reopened.	City Transportation to re-adjust
	Access to Leslie from Eastern reduced to a single northbound lane only without notice.	Contractor changed road configuration without notice. A noncompliance report was issued by the TTC to the contractor
Safety – Pedestrian/ Cyclist Crossings	The left turn from NB Leslie onto EB Lake Shore is a hazard to pedestrians and cyclists. Turning vehicles are not stopping properly at crosswalk.	A flag person has been assigned to the crossing to act as a crossing guard, 7 days a week
	Complaints regarding the safety of pedestrian crosswalks at Eastern and Leslie.	Contractor ordered to address safety concerns and take appropriate action (e.g. barrels installed on evening of June 24). Ongoing enforcement.
	Instances of work vehicles parked in pedestrian crossings.	The contractor ordered to ensure vehicles do not block crosswalks. Ongoing enforcement.
	Pedestrians diverted through Memory Lane to reach Queen sidewalk during a sanitary connection work by Lee’s Foods during Queen/Leslie closure	Due to sidewalk obstruction on the east side of Leslie, pedestrians given option to divert through laneway off of Memory Lane OR to take west sidewalk diversion
	Unexpected closure of sidewalk adjacent to the Duke prompted a pedestrian diversion without adequate notice.	Watermain connection began earlier than expected. Signage was installed and a flag person present to help direct pedestrian/cyclist traffic. Short term alternative path through Duke made available.
Garbage Collection	Numerous complaints regarding garbage collection.	There is now a dedicated person to manage garbage collection for those in impacted zone.
Other	Construction workers using inappropriate language	Contractor instructed sub-contractors to be mindful of behaviour in public.



	Pre-Condition Survey Report for the Marigold Gardens Condo complex not received in a timely manner	Despite numerous requests to the third party surveyor, reports were not issued within the 2 week period contractor had indicated to TTC. Report provided subsequently
	Overnight water shut off – water was not reinstated at specified time of 6 a.m., went until after 7am.	Valves and watermain in area are extremely old and work took longer to complete than anticipated. More time was allotted for subsequent overnight watermain work and as a result this problem was not encountered again.
	Sub-contractor accessed Marigold Property to change battery in vibration monitoring machine and took photos without permission and without prior notice to Condominium Property Manager.	All sub-contractors must provide notice via the Community Office of any visit to private property. Whenever possible, these contractors will be accompanied by a CLO or TTC inspector.
	501 Replacement bus service extremely slow, poor signage, bus drivers not stopping at all stops	Feedback sent to Service Planning who eventually altered route – buses were getting stuck in traffic in the downtown core and therefore the route was altered to terminate at Church and subsequently was extended to Victoria after that intersection was opened.
	During the Queen and Leslie intersection closure, work vehicles were moved into the closure zone between Eastern and the Plaza at 2 a.m.	The contractor moved vehicles into the closure zone during the initial staging of the closure despite the fact that the 24/7 work permit was for the intersection work only.