



**Construction Liaison Group, Meeting #12**  
**Leslie Barns & Leslie Connection Track**  
October 2, 2014

**Facilitated By:**

Jim Faught, Lura Consulting

**Attended By:**

**Community Members:**

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

**City of Toronto:**

Barbara Lachapelle (Toronto Public Health)

**TTC:**

Elizabeth Garkowski, Niki Angelis, Charles Lee, Paris Savides, David Nagler, Jeffery Park, Claire Oh, Justin Chin (Aecom)

**Contractor (Pomerleau):**

Melissa Montgomery, Dominique Hotte

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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**

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. David Nagler took time to speak to the group and apologize on behalf of the entire team for inappropriate behavior that some members of the CLG and public have experienced from contractors on the construction site. David reiterated a commitment from the TTC (and conveyed a response from Senior Management of Pomerleau) to ensure that contractor behavior is professional.

Jim went over the CLG’s code of conduct and highlighted that as a group we are here to work together and have a productive discussion to help reduce construction impacts. Jim asked the group if there were



any outstanding issues specific to 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 track installation, special form work for vibration mitigation and progress of sanitary sewer work on Leslie. The action items from the previous CLG Meeting were reviewed.

### **The 5 Action Items from the *previous* CLG Meeting were discussed:**

**Action Item No. 1:** Ensure workers abide by work hours.

**Response:** TTC has assigned inspectors to work 30 minutes before scheduled work hours to document and ensure no work is taking place. Email reports are sent to TTC Site Manager and the CLOs.

**Action Item No. 2:** Alternative times can be explored for flag person shifts at Leslie/Lake Shore.

**Response:** The current flag person schedule is tied to the highest user volumes (many morning commuters (pedestrians/cyclists) and to cover evening rush hours times.

**Action Item No. 3:** Toronto Hydro would need to be consulted on possibility of adding more light to the intersection of Leslie and Lake Shore Blvd.

**Response:** TTC consultant is investigating options to present to Toronto Hydro.

**Action Item No. 4:** TTC will request confirmation from the City that sidewalks will not be widened in the short section from Mosley to Eastern.

**Response:** The TTC will build as per the contract (i.e. sidewalk widths to remain the same as existing Mosley-Eastern). Any change to the existing design would come from a direct order from the City.

**Action Item No. 5:** The dates presented at these meetings are accurate at the time. However specific dates change.

**Response:** Every effort is made to add specific information. As changes occur due to site conditions, updates will continue to be provided via email communications from the CLOs and posted to the project website.

## Community Feedback

The following summarizes complaints, concerns and suggestions from the period of the last CLG (period of August 15 to October 2, 2014).

The complaints documented range from:



- Safety and location of relocated transit stops on Queen
- Access concerns for local residents
- Dust and noise complaints
- Traffic complaints

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

## Construction Phasing Update

An overview of construction phasing was presented by David Nagler 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: Follow up required on the potential of providing additional lighting for pedestrians at the Lake Shore and Leslie intersection.

A1: An update will be provided to the CLG as soon as further information is available.

### **(Action Item No. 1)**

C2: A CLG member voiced concerns about the possibility of the City making the decision to widen the sidewalks on the west side of Leslie between Mosley and Eastern. They would like to confirm that this will not be done unless consultation takes place from the City directly with the residents in advance of work beginning.

A2: Paris Savides will speak with the City to make sure they consult residents should the City decide to widen the sidewalks in this area.

### **(Action Item No. 2)**

C3: Request for the next CLG meeting to be held either on October 30 or November 6.

A3: One of these dates will be booked, pending availability of the venue. *(Note: Confirmation that the next CLG meeting will be held on October 30 was sent to the group on Wednesday, October 8)*

### **(Action Item No. 3)**



C4: Due to the high volume of notices coming from TTC as well as other flyers received in the mail, request made to change colour of paper for important and impactful notices. This would help ensure no notices are missed by residents.

A4: For urgent notifications such as utility disruption, impeded access, etc. notices will be done in a way to make them more noticeable (whether by different colour paper or bolder / highlighted headers).

**(Action Item No. 4)**

C5: Concern expressed by CLG members that inappropriate behaviour by contractor employees on site is not being taken seriously. There were issues that were flagged in July that still require follow up and there have been additional incidents which have taken place since then.

A5: Dominique Hotte from Pomerleau spoke to this issue and apologized on behalf of Pomerleau for behaviour of its subcontractor. Dominique indicated that Pomerleau takes these matters very seriously and highlighted some of the disciplinary action that has taken place since the initial incident was reported. The employee in question had been escorted off site that day, put on suspension and asked to take sensitivity training. All employees have been reminded of being courteous when dealing with the public. Dominique indicated the individual was not a direct employee of either Pomerleau or TTC, and disciplinary action taken was complicated by this.

C6: It was noted that a generator placed near the Marigold Condominium was left running overnight without a noise barrier.

C6: Another resident noted that there was also a pile of debris that was left untarped over the weekend.

A6: TTC and Pomerleau inspectors do daily site walks. These issues have been specifically reiterated to their list of issues to check for and ensure are addressed before crews go home at the end of the day.

The day after the complaint was received, a new pile was tarped.

C7: Reports of a strong odour (fumes) in the air was reported to TTC by residents of Marigold Gardens Condominium. Request made to have data from air monitoring devices provided to Toronto Public Health for analysis. Concern was expressed over safety of local residents due to poor air quality. CLG member indicated there are reports of individuals suffering from asthma attacks and said that these attacks are likely a direct result of the fumes.

A7: Barbara Lachapelle was in attendance from Toronto Public Health and confirmed that she received reports from TTC with air quality data and would review them thoroughly as the incident took place the day before the CLG meeting. Barbara indicated that she was not provided the data from October 1<sup>st</sup> (the day the complaint was made) but once she had all the information she would be writing a report which could be shared with the CLG. *(Note: Confirmed that the data for October 1 was sent to Barbara in advance of the meeting)*

**(Action Item No. 5)**

Q7: Can the location of the air quality monitors be optimized to more accurately cover the areas which are heavily populated.



A7: Air monitors have specific requirements for placement (ie. Need to be protected, need to have power, etc.). Their current location can be investigated to see if there are locations which they will be better suited. In addition, hand held monitors will now be carried by the inspectors on their daily walks.

**(Action Item No. 6)**

Q8: Despite measures taken to reduce speed on Woodfield, residents are still experiencing vehicles travelling between Queen and Eastern at very high speeds. Request made to have a speed trailer placed there as a means of deterring drivers from speeding down this road.

A8: The speed trailer currently placed on Rushbrooke will be relocated to Woodfield.

**(Action Item No. 7)**

Q9: When will the section of Leslie between Mosley and Eastern be reopened? Will it be for local traffic only? There is a concern that resources are shifted from working in this section when other work begins.

A9: That section of road is scheduled to reopen at the end of October. It will be available for local traffic only and signs will be posted to indicate this. There were major delays at the Eastern intersection which did impact the section of Leslie. The original schedule was to complete track work for this stretch at the same time as Eastern. However, when the intersection itself encountered problems and delays, the team made the decision to only complete the track within the intersection itself due to time constraints. Local residents will be kept informed of the schedule as we move forward.

**(Action Item No. 8)**

Q10: Is there an update on the lead splicing work that needs to be completed adjacent to the Marigold condominium? At the previous CLG meeting there was concern that this work could delay the overall schedule.

A10: The issue previously discussed was resolved as of September 17. By the end of November there should be a lane available to travel between Lake Shore and Queen. Weather is a big factor in timelines and being able to keep to our schedule. If it gets too cold, asphalt cannot be laid.

Q11: If some sidewalks will not be able to be completed until next spring, will they be left in an excavated state?

A11: If the sidewalk cannot be completed before next spring, it will not begin. There will be no excavation of sidewalks unless they can be redone right away.

Q11: When specifically will the sidewalks on the west side of Leslie adjacent to the Marigold be completed?

A11: On Leslie, between Queen Street and the north Marigold gate is scheduled to be completed this year. The section south of the gate to Eastern will likely take place next spring.

Q12: Why is the TTC doing the sidewalks on Leslie and the City did the sidewalks on Queen?

A12: The City has a contract with TTC to construct mid-block ramps for accessibility. They also had repairs to do on Queen and they decided to wrap all of this work into one contract.

Q13: The City removed the shelter at Queen and Leslie in front of Avondale, will it be returned?



A13: The sidewalk in front of Avondale will be restored this year. The City will be informed and asked to reinstate the shelter.

**(Action Item No. 9)**

Q14: When will the Barns themselves be completed?

A14: The Leslie Barns are currently scheduled to be completed in the second quarter of 2015.

Q15: When will the final monitoring of noise and vibration be done?

A15: These tests will be completed when streetcars are running on Leslie. Likely will occur late 2015 but it does depends on availability of vehicles.

Q16: Is there somewhere to see the final streetscaping design? Would like to see what final sidewalk widths are going to be and where ramps might be located.

A16: A streetscaping plan showing sidewalk widths will be brought to the next CLG meeting for review with the group.

**(Action Item No. 10)**

Q17: Is work planned to take place over Thanksgiving weekend? Advance notice should be sent to local residents so they are able to make holiday plans.

A17: A notice confirming weekend work will be sent to local residents mid-week so they are able to plan their holiday weekend accordingly.

**(Action Item No. 11)**

C18: The Duke held an event which resulted in hundreds of Motorcycles parking along Leslie around the construction zone. Residents at the Marigold felt that their emergency access was restricted due to this and would like the matter escalated. A CLG member would like it to be documented that all 93 units of Marigold Gardens Condominium are impacted by this work.

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

Meeting adjourned.

## Action Items

- 1) Provide an update to CLG members after discussion with Toronto Hydro regarding additional lights for the pedestrian crossing at the Leslie and Lake Shore intersection.
- 2) TTC to follow up with City to ensure that if they decide to make any changes to sidewalk widths, that they must engage with residents before any work can commence under our contract.



- 3) Toronto Hydro to be consulted on possibility of adding more light to the intersection of Leslie and Lake Shore Blvd.
- 4) Request for urgent notifications such as utility disruption, impeded access, etc. to be printed in a way to make them more noticeable (whether by different colour paper or bolder / highlighted headers).
- 5) Send air quality data from monitoring device to Toronto Public Health and to Marigold.
- 6) TTC Inspector along with Health and Safety officer from Pomerleau to walk site with hand held air quality monitors daily.
- 7) Relocate the speed trailer currently on Rushbrooke to Woodfield.
- 8) Provide immediate updates to the residents between Mosley and Eastern regarding the schedule to reopen their section of Leslie, particularly if the current schedule of the end of October will not be met.
- 9) Inform the City when sidewalks in front of Avondale are complete and request transit shelter to be reinstated.
- 10) Provide CLG members with drawing of streetscaping plan showing sidewalk widths for next meeting.
- 11) Provide notice to local residents by mid-week regarding potential of weekend activity over Thanksgiving long weekend.

### 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
Communication	There is a serious communication breakdown that needs to be addressed. Two incidences in one week of short or no notice of work (overnight track work and potential 30 minute disruption to the Marigold garage, Marigold driveway route changed)	CLOs communicate information as soon as it is received. With respect to track work, the TTC track team finished earlier than anticipated on another job and therefore started work at Eastern earlier than anticipated. With respect to the Marigold driveway obstruction, the CLOs reported a worst case scenario in the event access would be blocked for 30 minutes. In the end, there was no obstruction to driveway.



<b>Community</b>	Inappropriate behaviour by contractor workers. One report of “cat-calling” and an incident of workers swearing at a passerby with two small children who had stopped to watch the construction.	Any time an incident is reported, it is reported to the TTC project team and to the attention of Pomerleau for immediate investigation and action. Discipline has included suspension/ removal from the site and sensitivity training.
<b>Streetcar stops</b>	The EB streetcar stop was relocated to the east side of Leslie. There were multiple signs stating the stop is not in use; none of the signs stated where to catch the streetcar	Notified Service planning who improved signage at the relocated stop
	The EB streetcar stop for Leslie Street on Queen is being blocked by work vehicles and private vehicles. Commuters therefore have to walk around parked vehicles to access sidewalk. The visibility of the stop is also poor.	As there was legal street parking beside the temporary streetcar stop, the stop was moved one pole further east (where parking is illegal) to ensure no parked vehicles would block the stop. Workers were reminded not to park private vehicles beside stops and to move work vehicles as fast possible once work is completed.
<b>Access</b>	Path to Marigold driveway seems to be getting narrower. Concern for vehicles’ ability to access driveway	Issue was reported to Charles Lee who ordered the driveway widened as much as possible.
<b>Dust/Noise Complaints</b>	Loose debris piled on Leslie close to the Marigold Gardens was left untarped over a weekend.	The contractor was ordered to tarp the loose debris and was reminded again of the dust mitigation commitment to the community. The following time, another pile was tarped proactively.
	Noise complaint from Marigold Gardens – “squeaky” and loud work vehicle.	The contractor requires a specific excavator with a much larger capacity in order to execute the storm sewer construction. It’s used during daytime only. Per Pomerleau, we expect it to remain in the area for approx. 2.5 more weeks.
	Strong fumes coming from a large vehicle in the work zone adjacent to the Marigold Gardens.	The piece of equipment is the 85 tonne excavator required for the sewer construction. It was checked for maintenance and confirmed to be in good order. Air monitoring results will be provided to Toronto Public Health.



	Work continued past 7 p.m.	On that particular date, concrete trucks arrived to the site late which resulted in delay. Work continued until approximately 9:15 p.m. TTC inspector along with Charles Lee were on site for this work.
	Traffic complaints on Lake Shore Boulevard. Requests for longer east-west green times	Currently, the green times on Lake Shore by Leslie are at the maximum level by City Transp. The current north/south green time is set to allow for safe pedestrian/cyclist crossings