



**Construction Liaison Group, Meeting #8**  
**Leslie Barns & Leslie Connection Track**  
April 3, 2014

**Facilitated By:**

Jim Faught, Lura Consulting

**Attended By:**

***Community Members:***

Vivien Leong, Allegra MacDonald, Janet MacDonald, Jo Oppenheimer, Ken Press

***City of Toronto:***

Martin Maguire (Transportation Services)

***TTC Project Team:***

Elizabeth Garkowski, Niki Angelis, Paris Savides, David Nagler, Charles Lee, Kenneth Hui, Les Kelman, Justin Chin (Aecom)

***Contractor (Pomerleau):***

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**

Jim Faught outlined the agenda for the meeting that included an update on work completed, work days and scheduling, the safety walk overview, the follow up to action items from the previous CLG meeting, signage and safety and an overview of construction phasing. 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. David then highlighted with the group that due to the unforeseen winter with vast amounts of snow and much colder than normal weather, the construction team has just advised they will need to work more frequently on weekends, including on Sundays to recover time lost during the winter and get heavy construction done on Leslie St as fast as possible. Weekend work commences at 9 a.m.

A discussion took place between some members of the CLG and TTC staff regarding the change in work schedule.

Questions were raised about what has changed to suggest 7 days a week construction, as during public meetings in March and May 2013 the community was advised that work would occur during the week and on Saturdays. When TTC asked the contractor to advise on time savings, they projected some savings by working until 11pm, but TTC did not recommend it, nor did TTC they suggest they would work on Sundays. When asked to provide worst case scenarios and time savings, working 7 days a week was not recommended. This will be a significant impact during warmer weather and should have been projected last year as a worst case scenario during the public meetings.

**Charles Lee** explained that it was never TTC's intention to work Sundays, but it is now necessary to catch up on the lost days due to the exceptionally harsh and unexpected winter. The target is to be out of the area by the end of December 2014, and the construction team does not want to extend the amount of time construction is in the area and the duration of work in the community.

It was also noted that since the last CLG, notification with info from the contractor indicated some on-street parking would remain on Leslie during watermain work, but Pomerleau did not provide any. This can't happen again. There needs to be someone accountable at all times to ensure what the contractor states takes place. A request was made that a schedule of weekend work to be reported back to the CLG and will forecast the worst case scenario (**Action Item No.1**)

The discussion moved onto the overview of the safety walk that was conducted on March 19, 2014. The 9 action items were as follows:

1. Add signage at either side of watermain work on Leslie (between Eastern and Queen) indicating for accessible sidewalk to use west side of Leslie
2. Remove merge sign for vehicular traffic just north of Eastern on the west side of Leslie – **Completed March 21**
3. Put down cold patch to the uneven ground at the south west corner of Eastern and Leslie and clear ice from south west corner of Eastern and Leslie – **Completed March 21**



4. Break up ice on north side of Mosley along the construction hording to help water flow to sewer – **Some removed, Ongoing**
5. Litter collection and disposal – focus on Mosley pedestrian detour and Leslie (west side) between Mosley and the plaza intersection – **Some litter removed, Ongoing**
6. Add pedestrian crossing signage to hording at FreshCo / Loblaws pedestrian crossing – **Completed March 21**
7. Add “pedestrian detour” signage to existing orange pedestrian signs at FreshCo / Loblaws crossing – **Completed March 21**
8. Spray paint (florescent) cut out in the sidewalk on west side of Leslie near Tim Horton’s – **Completed March 25**
9. Add white stop bar for vehicles travelling north on Leslie at Lake Shore – **Completed April 9th**

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

**Action Item No. 1:** Even out the backfilled area on Leslie at Eastern from the December watermain work –difficult to cross if you are in a wheelchair

**Response:** The area was back-filled on March 21 2014

**Action Item No. 2:** Improve drainage - Water pools at Mosley and Eastern

**Response:** The contractor will make every effort to maintain a path for drainage. In some areas sidewalks are not level. The grade of these sidewalks will be corrected with streetscaping work.

**Action Item No. 3:** Mosley diversion seems unsafe at night. Look into adding light or contacting City to add streetlight

**Response:** There are currently two streetlights located at the limit of the work zone on Mosley Street.

Will investigate adding light to the work zone that will not cause light infiltration into homes on Mosley.

Contacted Toronto Hydro who has not reported a streetlight outage on Mosley but ask residents to report an outage by calling 416.542.3195.

**Action Item No. 4:** Paint crosswalk lines at Leslie & Lake Shore once weather warms up – look into using a different colour to make them stand out to motorists

**Response:** Crosswalks plans to re-paint crosswalks by April 9 **(Completed)**

**Action Item No. 5:** City to review potential of advance pedestrian crossing signal at Leslie & Lake Shore

**Response:** Proposal to add advance light for pedestrian crossing, particularly if sheet piles cannot be cut to improve sight lines. Under review by City Transportation. (City to provide update)



**Action Item No. 6:** Further to Queen/Leslie Safety Walk, report on request for crossing guard

**Response:** The intersection will be assessed by Police Traffic Services on Tuesday April 8<sup>th</sup>. Follow up actions will be reported to the CLOs from the Police. This intersection has been flagged as a priority for a crossing guard by construction liaison officers to the Police.

**Action Item No. 7:** Clarify the rate of speed of the streetcars travelling on Leslie Street Update on Action Item #9 forthcoming

**Response:** Streetcars must abide by the marked speed limit on Leslie Street.

**Action Item No. 8:** Request clarification of what constitutes an emergency situation for streetcars travelling on Leslie Street

**Response:** In general terms, any incident, either on the network or in one of the other facilities that does not allow the existing streetcars to be taken to Russell or Roncesvalles may require some of the older streetcars travelling down Leslie.

**Action Item No. 9:** Commitment to provide Plaza businesses advance notice of any impacts to the driveway access

**Response:** CLOs to provide as much advance notice to plaza businesses as possible regarding any impacts to the driveway access

## Construction Phasing Update

An overview of construction phasing was presented that outlined the current and anticipated road closures and lane reductions that the contractor has planned.

David outlined the work currently taking place in the area, the next major phased closure that occupies Leslie Street from the north plaza entrance to Eastern Avenue, and the planned closure of the Queen and Leslie intersection starting in May 2014.

## 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.

Q1: The SE corner of Leslie Lake Shore intersection is still a safety concern. The City has not yet approved an advanced green but the corner is dangerous and the sight lines are bad for oncoming vehicles, what can be done?



A1: City: Programming changes will need to be approved by the District, even if they are approved in the coming weeks, the change takes time.

Q2: In that case, can the sheet piles be lowered to improve sight lines right away , as this would resolve the problem?

A2: The sheet piles are that high for safety reasons, however Pomerleau will investigate the possibility of lowering the piles on the SE corner ASAP (**Action Item 2**) and the CLGs will send an update on painting lines, and sheetpile lowering/cutting to improve sightlines , and signal timing on that corner, particularly if sheet piles cannot be lowered(**Action Item 3**).

C3: In addition to the crossing guard, please inquire with local schools about summer programs to determine the need for a continued presence of a crossing guard (**Action Item No. 4**).

C4: In the event the Marigold Gardens Condominium driveway is blocked due to construction for whatever reason (emergency etc) we would like to have a contingency parking plan in place. (**Action Item 5**)

C5: Some signage requested at Leslie and Queen was not installed because the configuration of the work zone changed. CLOs will continue to monitor sidewalks and ensure signage is clear at Queen and on Leslie St (**Action Item 6**). In the event of short-term changes, a flag person or PDO will be requested.

C6: Some cars are still not stopping at stop signs at the Plaza accesses.

C6: Charles Lee to order a Police ticketing blitz (**Action Item 7**)

C7: In the overview, David discussed that TTC operations advised that to speed construction, trucks with pre-assembled tracks may be parked in the centre lane of Queen during track work in June for approximately 4-5 days. Materials are currently stored in the Portlands to reduce disruption. Further details to follow once TTC operations confirms.

C8: During the closure of Leslie between Eastern and Queen, is it possible to create a 10 minute pick-up/drop-off parking space for Marigold on Queen or potentially at The Duke. The current pyloned off area on Queen can be confusing for drivers.

A8: The creation of a pick-up/drop-off space on Queen Street would have to be approved by the City as it is in the City right of way . TTC will approach The Duke again about their parking lot (**Action Item 8**).

Q9: Is it possible to have a list of the number of streetcar stops that will be lost on Queen Street when the new streetcars arrive?

A9: As soon as the information is available from the TTC Service Planning Department it will be provided. They have not confirmed any plans to date and indicated they will report to the TTC Board on this (**Action Item 9**)



C10: A request was made to provide the window washing schedule at the next CLG (**Action Item 10**)

Jim Faught closed the discussion period by thanking those who attended. A date for the next CLG was set for Thursday May 1<sup>st</sup>, at the South Riverdale Community Health Centre.

Meeting adjourned.

### Action Items

- 1) A projected schedule of weekend work to be reported back at the next CLG. The schedule is to show a worst case scenario and will indicate how often weekend work could be expected and where.
- 2) Pomerleau to review ASAP lowering sheet piles at the south east corner of Leslie and Lake Shore. This is to improve pedestrian safety by improving visibility.
- 3) Provide update as soon as possible on the crosswalks, sheet piles, advance green for Leslie/Lake Shore Intersection (particularly if Sheet piles are not lowered) and Queen/Leslie crossing guard.
- 4) Follow up with local schools to determine if they have summer programs running. This information is to be provided to the Toronto Police when they are investigating the need for a crossing guard at the Leslie / Queen Intersection.
- 5) Develop a contingency parking plan for Marigold Gardens residents in case blocking their parking garage becomes necessary at any point during the work due to emergency, etc.
- 6) Re-evaluate signage requirements for Leslie / Queen intersection and Leslie Street
- 7) Police blitz to be ordered for the plaza intersection to address people ignoring the stop signs.
- 8) Obtain a pick-up/drop-off space for 10 minutes on Queen Street (with City approval) or at The Duke. TTC will approach The Duke again about their parking lot
- 9) Advise CLG as soon as TTC Service Planning schedules report on streetcar stops (including any removals) for Queen Street
- 10) Provide details on window washing and the schedule (to begin in the spring)

### Community Feedback Log

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

Topic	Concern	Action
Communications	Tree protection was carried out on a weekend without notification	TTC project team and CLOs were not informed of weekend work. Contractor was notified to ensure this does not happen again.



<b>Noise/Vibration Complaints</b>	Truck was in work zone after 7p.m. (beeping, flashing lights)	The truck was dropping off fuel for the generator to keep the pump running and prevent flooding in advance of heavy snow. Pomerleau has been instructed to fuel the pump between 7am-7pm.
	Complaint of noise due to mobile generator at Queen Street.	Some noise was from a mobile generator – contractor was notified to install hoarding around it. A work vehicle (vacuum) causing noise cannot be insulated.
	Watermain work caused vibration at a home.	Contractor requested to review methods to reduce vibration. If vibration values exceed MOE limits, contractor must stop work and investigate alternative methods to meet requirements.

<b>Parking</b>	Lack of parking on Leslie Street due to watermain work. Nowhere to stop for pick-ups/drop-offs	Contractor ordered to maintain a pick-up and drop off spot on Queen near Marigold gate blocked off by pylons. The Duke approached again regarding potential to rent spots.
<b>Safety</b>	Lane Markings on Lake Shore causing confusion for drivers.	Lane markings were re-painted March 18 2014. Additional markings planned next week (April 7-12) at Lake Shore
	North-south crossing of Lake Shore on east side of Leslie is problematic	Cross-walk to be repainted when weather permits (outstanding issue).