



Construction Liaison Group, Meeting #3
Leslie Barns & Leslie Connection Track
September 30th, 2013

Facilitated By:

Jim Faught, Lura Consulting

Attended By:

Community Members:

Gabriela Byron, Caron Court, Mike Jones, Sandra Knapp, Arnold Knapp, Vivien Leong, Allen Malloy, Janet MacDonald, Gillian Medeiros, Jo Oppenheimer, Ken Press

City of Toronto:

Martin Maguire, Rebecca Condon

City Councillors:

Councillor Fletcher, Edward Birnbaum (EA Councillor McMahan), Susan Serran (EA Councillor Fletcher)

TTC:

David Nagler, Elizabeth Garkowski, Niki Angelis, Paris Savides, Charles Lee

Contractor:

Melissa Montgomery, 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 the date, the follow up to action items from the previous CLG meeting and an overview of construction related works. Mr. Faught asked the group if they had any feedback from the previous meeting's minutes and if any comments needed to be added. None were reported. David Nagler then began the presentation.



Work To Date

David Nagler gave an overview of the work completed to date related to Leslie Barns facility itself, utility work, median removal on Lake Shore Blvd to maintain two lanes eastbound and two lanes westbound, and the completion of the temporary accesses. The closure of Leslie Street from the north side of Lake Shore Blvd to the middle of the Plaza entrances began on September 19th, 2013 and with that closure a protected diversion of the Martin Goodman Trail was constructed around the construction zone. Additional signage was developed with feedback from local residents and businesses to enhance the safety of pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists when crossing the temporary accesses that cross the north side bike trail. The signs were placed on site in advance of the temporary plaza entrances being opened to vehicular traffic.

Action Items from CLG #2

An overview of the “Action Items” from the previous CLG meeting was presented by David Nagler. The following 7 action items from the previous CLG meeting were addressed.

Action Item No. 1: *Request made to have more permanent signage indicating the temporarily re-located bus stops.*

Response: With 4 weeks notice, Service Planning will install long term temporary stops as required.

Action Item No. 2: *Signage should be placed at the south east entrance of the Martin Goodman Trail at Leslie and Lake Shore to clearly identify that the path is open and accessible.*

Response: Two signs have been installed at the entrance to the trail leading towards the Leslie Spit.

Action Item No. 3: *Will provide businesses and residents with as much notice as possible when the phased closure on Leslie Street is to begin.*

Response: This is an ongoing commitment. The Community Liaisons distributed notices for the September 19th closure as soon as it was confirmed. We will continue outreach throughout the project.

Action Item No. 4: *Identify the re-located streetcar stop in front of the Duke during communication chamber work.*

Response: Service planning will select the safest and most convenient location for customers and will be finalized once the notice for chamber work is received from the contractor.

Action Item No.5: *Request for confirmed dates that streetscaping will be taking place at the corners of Curzon, Hastings and Rushbrooke.*

Response: The streetscaping on Hastings Ave and Rushbrooke Ave are set to begin in early October*. Curzon Street has a tentative start for November 1st, 2013. Leslie & Queen streetscaping will take place in 2014 in conjunction with intersection works.

**Streetscaping is scheduled to begin as early as October 15th on Hastings Avenue and Rushbrooke Avenue.*



Action Item No. 6: *Confirm the type of paint used for the zebra crossing at Leslie Street and Eastern Avenue.*

Response: The zebra crossing will be made using a special treatment paint that allows for a longer* life-span (*standard life-span is 1-2 years before fading is noticeable). The paint being used is projected to last much longer.

Action Item No.7: *Provide response to request for discounted metro passes for directly adjacent Leslie Street residents only, during Queen/Leslie intersection closure in 2014*

Response: Request has been submitted to TTC and project team is awaiting a response from division who oversees Metro Passes. .

Signage & Safety

The first phase of the Leslie Street closure prompted the design and installation of new signage to inform the community about changes to the Leslie/Lake Shore area. Maintaining safety for all local travelers and access to the Lake Shore plazas was imperative. A number of directional and “open for business” signs have been placed at various locations along the Leslie/Lake Shore corridor. The north side of the bike trail has been diverted around the construction zone and signage has been added to warn motorists, cyclists and pedestrians of these changes and to proceed with caution**

***since the CLG meeting on September 30th, 2013 larger stop signs and speed humps have been installed at the plaza exits to slow vehicles and allow safe passage for cyclists and pedestrians crossing the temporary accesses. These items were installed with support from CLG members, plaza representatives and local residents and cyclists.*

Project Overview Presentation

An overview of construction phasing was presented by David Nagler that outlined the current and anticipated road closures and lane reductions that the contractor is implementing.

The following is a summary of the questions, answers, and comments that arose during the meeting. 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. Questions that require follow up will be added to action items.

Q1: Plating over excavated areas has been very noisy before it was adjusted previously. Can future plating be installed to limit noise or not allow cars to drive over the plating?

A1: The contractor will ensure plating is properly installed and noise limited as much as possible (Action Item 1).



- Q2: Cyclists are not slowing down or dismounting when using the diverted Martin Goodman Trail (MGT) and perceived as dangerous for pedestrians. Are there any solutions to this problem?
- A2: Police monitored the situation while they were on site. Pylons may be placed in strategic locations with easy visibility to slow cyclists at the temporary shared path across the intersection. Additional signage will be looked at.
****On Oct 10, confirmation was received from the contractor that the temp shared trail would be closed for heavy construction as early as Oct 15th*
- Q3: Cars are making U-turns just north of the plaza entrances because some do not realise the road is closed/ignore signage. Would you consider closing Leslie at Mosley so people do not travel unnecessarily past Mosley Street?
- A3: The plazas are located south of Mosley and access must be maintained to them from Leslie Street for as long as possible as business is already down since the closure (Response from CLG member)
People already seem to be adapting to closure and making fewer U-turns (Response from CLG member)
- C4: There is no safe way for pedestrians to cross at the Plaza intersection (from one plaza to the next).
- A4: Stop signs have been installed and they are much better than the flashing red lights. There is also an existing crosswalk there that allows for safe crossing (Response from a CLG member).
- C5: Sign at Leslie and Eastern that reads “road closed at Lake Shore” is misleading. Maybe make a sign that is more specific about what is open.
- A5: In addition to the businesses open signs currently posted, additional signage is being developed to let drivers know that businesses are open and that there is local access from Leslie Street southbound. This will be in addition to the temporary accesses from westbound Lake Shore and the accesses from Mosley and Eastern Avenue. (Action Item #2)
- C6: Sometimes the construction gates are left open on the south side of Lake Shore and there is no flag person present to prevent a car or person from entering
- A6: Flag persons must be present whenever a construction site gate is left open. Construction gates must not be left open when this is not required for access to the compound. The contractor will ensure this practice is abided by all personnel (Action Item #3)
- C7: The audible pedestrian signals go off even during an advanced green.
- A7: The audible pedestrian signals are triggered by the push-button. Since the closure these have been disabled and the audible signal turns on automatically. That being said, the audible signal will be checked immediately by the City to ensure they are timed accurately and adjusted as needed. (Action Item #4)



Q8: When will the Port Lands get notice of the work on Commissioners?

A8: There will be a minimum of one week's notice. Currently the permit has not been issued for the work. (Action Item #5)

Q9: When will the Cherry Street Bridge Open?

A9: The Toronto Port Authority announced that the Ship Channel Bridge is now open to single lane vehicular traffic in one direction at a time. It remains accessible for pedestrians and cyclists

Traffic Management Update

Martin Maguire of City Transportation presented an update on the traffic management plan for the Leslie Barns and Connection Track related to signal timing changes, parking regulations and monitoring. The following is a summary.

Commitments to signal timing changes include a northbound left green turn signal at Carlaw Ave. The left turn green arrow has been installed but is not yet activated. In order to maintain traffic moving in the east-west direction there is now an increased amount of green time. At Leslie and Lake Shore, green time was taken from the north/south timing due to the shorter pedestrian crossings during the current closure, and this time was added to east-west.

A report has been submitted by Transportation Services to Community Council to prohibit parking on Carlaw Avenue during evening rush hour to keep traffic flowing. The report also requests to allow limited right hand turns on red lights at Carlaw and Lake Shore. The only right-turn movement allowed on reds would be during the signal phase when cyclists on the trail have a red light (during the northbound left turn phase for Lake Shore traffic turning north onto Carlaw). These suggestions will be reviewed at Toronto & East York Community Council on October 17th, 2013. Community Council must approve in order to proceed.

Monitoring cameras and equipment have been installed at key intersections on Leslie Street (Queen, Eastern and Commissioners). Hydro must still connect power to these cameras. Once operational, the monitors will be set up in the Community Office to contact City Transportation Services whenever issues arise.

Discussion/Question & Answer

Q10: Carlaw and Lake Shore is already a very dangerous intersection. It is not a good idea to remove the "no right turn" prohibition.



A10: The turn would be a targeted right turn (signalized) – to clarify, the “no right on red” will remain during other signal phases.

Q11: Do we know where is the traffic going now that the closure is in place?

A11: A baseline was done in the spring (on arterial roads and side streets). A new count will be done to see how traffic is shifting. The streets marked for new counts include Knox, Larchmount, Woodfield, Logan, Morse, Carlaw and Eastern. The data from the new counts was requested for the next CLG Meeting (Action Item #6)

Q12: Has there been any feedback from the Port Lands Businesses?

A12: Rebecca Condon indicated nothing has been reported. TTC advised that they have been in touch with Port Lands businesses to advise of all work on Commissioners which is their main concern.

C13: Bell work on Carlaw was causing added traffic congestion. Councillor Fletcher has requested that there be no City work on Carlaw (unless emergency work) during the Leslie construction is complete.

Q14: What do you do with the traffic monitoring information? Can you react immediately?

A14: City Transportation indicated that while signal time changes take a bit of time, the monitors can give us an idea of what is going on and how to improve things with evidence tracked over a long period. Follow-up counts are part of the monitoring as well.

Q15: One evening a few weeks ago sheet piling work went on until 11pm. A notice was left at my door but no email was received. I did not expect the work because I usually receive an email notification. The contact I spoke to onsite indicated that they can work to 11pm. Why were you allowed to work until 11pm?

A15: For municipal projects, work hours are allowed to be extended in cases of emergency. The sheet piling work was critical and needed to be completed before the forecasted weather conditions could sideline it. Follow-up was made as soon as we received your e-mail message and TTC inspectors visited your property and arranged to end work the next evening much earlier. Notices were hand delivered door-to-door as not every impacted resident has provided their email addresses. In future, we will also provide a cell phone number for an on-site engineer and/or inspector during any irregular work that may occur late. (Action Item #7)

Q16: There were commitments made in earlier meetings regarding dust and noise mitigation measures and we have not heard about them since.

A16: The dust mitigation measures taken by the contractor were presented at the previous CLG. There is a window washing program currently in draft and the contractor is monitoring noise and dust as per Ministry of Environment Commitments. A more in depth look at noise and dust mitigation will be presented at the next CLG meeting (Action Item #8)

Q17: In a recent newspaper article there was mention that there is methane on the Leslie Barns site. Was this present in the Environmental Assessment Report?

A17: Yes. Methane is not an unusual occurrence in this area and generally fill has some amount of



organics that produce methane. This was addressed in the EA report and a membrane has been installed to prevent methane from entering the facility.

Jim Faught closed the discussion period by thanking those who attended. A date for the next CLG Meeting was proposed for late October.

***Prior to the commencement of the meeting, a discussion occurred between two members of the project team regarding speed bump installation process. Although this took place outside of the meeting room, it was audible to some members of the CLG and the discussion was quite loud. A member of the CLG who witnessed this understandably requested an apology. The Project Team member apologized to the room and to the other member of the project team for his actions.*

Meeting adjourned.

Action Items

- 1) The contractor will ensure plating is properly installed and noise limited as much as possible
- 2) Signage is being developed to let drivers know that businesses are open. A sign reading "Local Access Only" has been installed since the CLG Meeting.
- 3) The contractor will ensure flag persons are always present when gates to construction zone are open
- 4) The audible pedestrian signals at the Leslie/Lake Shore intersection will be checked by the City immediately to ensure they are timed accurately.
- 5) Ensure that Port Lands businesses (and greater community) are given one week advanced notice of the closure of Commissioners and Leslie.
- 6) Traffic counts made prior to construction will be available at the next CLG Meeting and data from new traffic counts will be presented at the next CLG if data is available.
- 7) In the event of late night or unexpected emergency work, the name and cell phone number for the on-site engineer and/or inspector will be provided.
- 8) Provide further detail on mitigation measures for noise and dust to be taken by contractor during construction.
- 9) City to provide an update on traffic signal changes at Leslie/Lake Shore intersection