# Construction Liaison Group, Meeting #7

## Leslie Barns & Leslie Connection Track

March 6, 2014

**Facilitated By:**
Liz Nield, Lura Consulting

**Attended By:**

***Community Members:***
Caron Court, Michael Holloway, Vivien Leong, Jo Oppenheimer, Chris Sidlar

***City Councillors***
Councillor Mary-Margaret McMahon (Ward 32),

***City of Toronto:*** Martin Maguire (Transportation Services)

***TTC Project Team:***

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

***Contractor (Pomerleau):***
Melissa Montgomery , Clifford Mitchell

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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

Liz Nield 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, signage and safety and an overview of construction phasing. Liz asked the group if there were any outstanding issues from the previous meeting that they would like to discuss. None were voiced. Liz then turned the attention to David Nagler to commence the presentation.

## Work To Date

David gave an overview of the work completed to date, work in progress and the next steps. David briefly outlined additional signage and safety issues in the area before addressing the 23 Action Items from CLG Meeting #6.

**Action Item No. 1**: Contractor is to pay extra attention to sidewalks located in the active construction zone (particularly Leslie/Lake Shore intersection and the Mosley diversion) and ensure clear of snow, ice and mud.

**Response**: Additional heavy snowfalls occurred since CLG #6. The Mosley sidewalk diversion and streetcar/bus stops have been monitored and maintained. A complaint was received to clear snow from the west curb lane on Queen (area closed off by pylons), it was cleared the same day.

**Action Item No. 2:** Ramps to be extended with cold patch at Mosley diversion as soon as weather is warm enough to do so.

**Response**: The cold patch ramp at Mosley was poured on February 28 2014.

**Action Item No. 3:** Ensure construction site is safe and secure – all gates must be closed at all times when no work is taking place in the area.

**Response**:

- A foreman for each *subcontractor* (under contract to Pomerleau) has been reminded and ordered to close the gates of their respective work zones at the end of each working shift.
- A Pomerleau foreman and/or superintendent verifies all gates are secured after subcontractors have left at the end of each day (at approximately 7:00 p.m.).
- As an added measure, the site security guard on duty is to check that all access points are locked (and document this verification) after hours (from approximately 8:00 p.m.).
- To Pomerleau/TTC's inspector's knowledge, there has been no reoccurrence since the incident documented at the last CLG.

**Action Item No. 4**: Add summary of complaints/responses issued in between meetings to the CLG presentation.

**Response:** The complaints and concerns received since the previous CLG meeting are as follows:

| Topic | Concern | Action |
|---|---|---|
| **Communications** | Construction notices must provide more info for cyclists. | Coordinating with City cycling, Ward 30 Bikes, to include safe cyclist diversion in future notices where applicable. |
| **Pedestrian Crossing – Queen and Leslie** | Complaint received about north side closure of pedestrian crossing of Leslie street at Queen. | Location of Bell Chamber is in middle of crosswalk (4m deep hole) which unfortunately means it cannot be plated. For safety reasons, not possible to provide crossing until chamber work completed. Police on site during rush hours. |
| **Safety** | Lane Markings on Lake Shore causing confusion for drivers. | Lane markings were re-painted on WB Lake Shore. Lines on EB Lake Shore need to be removed – require dryer conditions. ***Lines on EB Lake Shore (west of Leslie) were removed*** |
| | North-south crossing of Lake Shore on east side of Leslie is problematic– signage required for right turning drivers. | New sign was added on the north hoarding (Completed). Cross-walk to be repainted when weather permits (outstanding issue). |
| | Complaints received about the confusing signage at the pedestrian crossing. | Safety walk was held subsequently on ***March 5.***<br><br>Action Items:<br>▪ Transit signage for streetcar stop on the SW corner of Queen needs to be made more visible ***(completed)***<br>▪ Request for the wording "pedestrian detour" to be added under existing orange pedestrian signs ***(completed)***<br>▪ Request for pedestrian 'map' be created and posted on each corner of the intersection ***(completed)***<br>▪ Look into possibility of having a crossing guard present at the intersection ***(requires follow up)***<br>▪ Move the orange pedestrian sign located at the northwest corner of Queen closer to the Gio Rana's restauarant. ***(completed)***<br>▪ Place "pedestrian please wait for crossing signal" sign at the edge of the hording on the south crossing ***(completed)*** |
| **Snow Removal** | Southbound curb lane of Leslie Street not ploughed. | Contractor cleared area ***(completed)***. |
| | Sidewalk on west side of Leslie from Lake Shore to Mosley. | Contacted City to send sidewalk plough and salter. ***(completed)*** |
| | The temporary relocated streetcar stop at Leslie and Queen was snow covered and not properly accessible. | Pomerleau cleared snow on same day. TTC Operations Manager confirmed all stops in future to be monitored by his team |

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|---|---|---|
| **Traffic Flow** | Work at Queen/Leslie intersection causing traffic at morning rush-hour. Request left turn restriction, new advanced left turn light during rush hour or any measures to move traffic through. | City Transportation concerned any left turn restriction would drive traffic to side streets. Police deployed daily with instructions to move the left turns through, thereby helping prevent one left turning vehicle from blocking heavy volume of through traffic on Queen Street. |
| | Concern from several businesses on Queen Street regarding upcoming Leslie Queen closure and impact on traffic flow in the area. Business owner request for City to investigate allowing temporary two-way traffic on one-way streets. Also a request to temporarily lift the turning restrictions on Knox during the intersection closure of Queen and Leslie. | Business owner request will be sent to City Transportation for review. |

**Action Item No. 5:** Investigate additional mitigation for the pump noise, especially as the weather improves and windows will start to open.

**Response**: Under review.

**Action Item No. 6:** To enhance safety, i) Commitment to have a random ticketing blitz 4 days out of each month at the temporary plaza exits off Lake Shore. ii) A 5-day ticketing blitz will take place before the next CLG Meeting.

**Response**: Dates for ticketing blitz/tickets issued:

Thursday, Feb 20 from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. / 6 tickets issued.
Monday, Feb 24from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. / no data from Police.
Tuesday, Mar 4 from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. / 4 tickets issued.
Friday, Mar 7 from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. / to be recorded.

**Action Item No. 7:** Request for *ongoing* streetcar testing for noise and vibration after the tracks are built on a regular schedule (e.g. every few years), to ensure M.O.E. limits are met.

**Response**: Under review by TTC operations management. Commitment to maintain tracks in state of good repair to limit noise and vibration.

**Action Item No. 8:** TTC to confirm post-construction streetcar noise and vibration testing on Leslie Street to include measurements of turning streetcars at Queen Street.

**Response**: Confirmed, testing will include turning streetcars at Queen and Leslie.

**Action Item No. 9:** TTC to advise on past data from the environmental study and mitigation measures if there is light nuisance "light pollution" overnight from the new streetcars.

**Response**: Light from new streetcars at night concern under review by TTC operations management.

**Action Item No. 10:** Request to TTC (Service Planning) to confirm that old streetcars (CLRVs) will not travel on Leslie street to or from the Leslie Barns.

**Response**: Leslie Barns is specifically built for the new streetcar fleet and does not have equipment to repair old streetcars. However, Operations could not promise CLRVs (old streetcar) would *never* travel on Leslie, such as in the case of an emergency or accident on Queen Street, but there is no plan to do so. TTC will therefore review testing of old streetcars on Leslie and report back to CLG.

**Action Item No.11:** Follow up with Action Item 8 (CLG #5 Request for response from local Councillors and Canada Post for heavy truck prohibition on Leslie Street after construction) for next CLG meeting.

**Response**: Councillor McMahon's office indicated she would not be supportive of a permanent truck ban. Canada Post expressed opposition to truck restrictions on Leslie St due to operational impacts. Loblaws representative not in favour of truck ban on Leslie.

**Action Item No.12:** City Transportation to provide list of planned traffic count locations.

**Response**: The next round of counts is designed to capture the primary changes in traffic patterns as we move from Phase A (closure Lake Shore to the Plazas) to the next Phase (closure from the Plazas intersection to just south of Eastern Avenue).

City/TTC will schedule additional counts accordingly at CLG & community request.

Next Phase of Construction (north side of Plaza driveways to south side of Eastern Avenue) should be in effect 10-14 days to allow the patterns to stabilize before counts.

| | **Road** | **Between** | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **1.** | Carlaw Avenue | Eastern Avenue | Lake Shore Boulevard |
| **2.** | Carlaw Avenue | Queen Street | Eastern Avenue |
| **3.** | Queen Street | Bertmount Avenue | Larchmount Avenue |
| **4.** | Eastern Avenue | Caroline Avenue | Larchmount Avenue |
| **5.** | Lake Shore Boulevard | Leslie Street | Carlaw Avenue |
| **6.** | Commissioners Street | Leslie Street | Carlaw Avenue |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **7.** | Queen Street | Greenwood Avenue | Woodfield Road |
| **8.** | Eastern Avenue | Knox Avenue | Woodfield Road |
| **9.** | Lake Shore Boulevard | Leslie Street | Coxwell Avenue |
| **10.** | Coxwell Avenue | Eastern Avenue | Lake Shore Boulevard |

**Action Item No.13**: For upcoming watermain connections at homes on Leslie Street, Pomerleau to confirm if they can start work at or after 9 a.m.

**Response**: Standard contract working hours are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Restricting hours would delay schedule but is under review for specific circumstances.

**Action Item No.14**: For upcoming watermain connections (Mosley to Eastern), Pomerleau to provide continuous pedestrian access and present access plan for closure at next CLG.

**Response**: There are 4 service connections to be performed (30, 32, 34, 36 Leslie St.). Pomerleau will aim to execute 1-2 per day (one at a time).

During working hours – 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. – a portion of the sidewalk directly in front of the property (approx. 5 metres wide) will be occupied. The excavation requirements are difficult to confirm as underground conditions (location of the service) may differ from what is represented in the drawings.

If for any reason, work is not completed, Pomerleau will cover the sidewalk overnight (use of plywood and/or steel plates.

During the daytime, the west sidewalk will be available for local access only. A flag person will be on hand during working hours to help residents safely access their homes (i.e. guide them through gravel sidewalk or through grassed area to nearest available portion of the sidewalk).

**Action Item No.15:** In the next CLG, present slides that show all work to be completed (utilities, tracks and streetscaping, etc.) to get a better sense of complete construction on Leslie Street and Queen Street for entire project.

**Response**: Specifics are under review. Updated phasing including for major closures is presented after the Action Items.

**Action Item No.16**: During watermain work (**Eastern to Queen**), ensure work zone is as minimal as possible to maintain on-street parking and provide detailed communication as to how the work will be carried out.

**Response**: Watermain work is planned as follows:

1) Eastern to Sears; 2) Sears to 15 metres south of Queen.

The crew will begin at Eastern and will require an approximately 30 metre work zone, occupying the Leslie northbound lanes and in most cases, the Leslie east sidewalk.

At this time, there will be no parking directly adjacent to the work zone (30 metre impact).

Parking is planned to be available as follows*:

- Eastern & Sears: approximately 60 metres is available for parking on each side of Leslie between Sears & Memory Lane.
- Sears & Memory Lane: approximately 45 metres is available for parking on each side of Leslie between Eastern & Sears.

**Due to the work zone requirements of the watermain work on the east side of Leslie Street, parking spaces were regrettably not maintained as planned by the contractor on the west side of Leslie. In order to maintain one lane of traffic in each direction on Leslie Street, the two southbound lanes (west side of Leslie) were utilized.*

**Action Item No.17**: Contact Police parking services regarding construction in the area to provide some leniency in issuing tickets.

**Response**: City Transportation has made request to Parking enforcement.

**Action Item No.18:** TTC to speak to local businesses again (The Duke, Loblaws, FreshCo) about providing/renting parking spaces when public parking is taken up by construction.

**Response**: Based on demand of lot and logistical issues, parking in private lots will not be feasible.

**Action Item No.19:** Future construction communications to include information on alternative parking spaces (if parking spaces are displaced due to work).

**Response**: Future notices can include alternative parking locations where applicable.

**Action Item No.20:** A full staging plan for access during the May 11 to June 21 intersection closure to be reviewed.

**Response**: Plan is still under review for confirmation by late March. More information will be presented as soon as finalized, before or at the April CLG Meeting.

**Action Item No.21:** Pomerleau to provide pedestrian and vehicle access plans for all works on Leslie Street.

**Response**: During the upcoming phase closure, the west sidewalk will be open for pedestrian use. It is likely that occupation of the west sidewalk will be required during the following activities:

- Watermain Service Connections to homes
- Bell/Rogers utilities ductbank construction
- Demolition and construction of sidewalks
- Pole installations

A flag person will be on hand during working hours guide pedestrians around construction areas to nearest available portion of the sidewalk).

**Action Item No.22:** Follow up again with TTC service planning as to the possibility of Eastern Avenue being a bus replacement route during the Leslie/Queen Intersection closure.

**Response**: Service Planning advised that they prefer to use Queen Street instead of Eastern Avenue as it is more familiar to customers. For the detour between Greenwood and Jones, they prefer Dundas to Eastern.

**Action Item No.23:** During Leslie/Queen Intersection closure, request to TTC Service Planning (again) for a Beach Express Bus stop on Leslie Street.

**Response**: Service Planning has confirmed that there will be a stop at Eastern Avenue and Leslie Street in both directions from May 11 to at least August 2.

## Project Overview - Update Presentation

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

David outlined the work currently taking place in the area, the next 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.

C1: With respect to Action Item 1, please be sure to include mud be cleared from pedestrian/cyclist path in the construction zone as well as snow and ice and have it be an ongoing action item

A1: Action Item #1 is considered an ongoing action by the TTC/contractor, ensuring that snow, mud and ice are cleared from pedestrian/cyclist paths in the work zone

C2: There is a pit in the crosswalk at the southwest corners of Leslie and Eastern the watermain work in the area that is a safety hazard. It makes it difficult for anyone in a wheelchair to cross it. Is it possible to have that area paved over?
A2: The depression in the crosswalk on the southwest corner of the Leslie and Eastern will be filled (**Action Item 1)**

C3: Water appears to pool at the sewers at Mosley and Leslie, not sufficient drainage.
A3: The contractor will monitor sewers and clear path for water to drain **(Action Item 2)**

C4: The Mosley diversion feels unsafe at night due to insufficient lighting
A4: Will investigate if the City can improve street lighting on Mosley (**Action Item 3)**

C5: The crosswalk on the southeast corner of Leslie and Lake Shore is unsafe – poor sightlines of pedestrians due to construction hoarding and sheet piles that stabilize soil. Is there a way to improve sight lines? Or add advance crossing for pedestrians?
A5: The crosswalk will be painted once conditions improve (temperature needs to be above 5C for three days) (**Action Item 4**). City Transportation will review an advanced pedestrian signal at the north/south crossing of Lake Shore and Contractor will review moving hoarding where safely possible to improve sight lines (**Action Item 5**).

C6: At the recent Leslie & Queen Safety Walk, a crossing guard at this intersection was requested
A6: Traffic Services has been contacted, will follow up with more information as it becomes available (**Action Item 6)**

Q7: As a follow up to Action Item 7 (re: ongoing streetcar testing) is it possible to determine the speed streetcars will be travelling?
C7: Will clarify the rate of speed of the streetcars travelling on Leslie Street (**Action Item 7**)

C8: With respect to Action Item 9 (light pollution), please provide an update when the information becomes available
A8: Information on light pollution is under review. Information will be presented as soon as it is available

C9: I would like to see a commitment from the TTC regarding Action Item 10 (old streetcars on Leslie) to present information on what constitutes an emergency situation for streetcars to travel on Leslie Street.
C9: We can make that request to Operations (**Action Item 8**)

Q10: With respect to the action item regarding truck prohibitions on Leslie Street, is there a reason why Councillor McMahon's office and City Transportation would not consider prohibition?
A10: Leslie Street is an arterial road and a main route for trucks in the area and therefore the City could not support a ban on heavy trucks.
C10.1: As a business in the area, Loblaws would not be supportive of a truck ban because we need to receive deliveries on a regular basis.

*It was suggested by a CLG member that it would be both beneficial to TTC and Canada Post to work out a scheduling plan to stagger truck deliveries/streetcars on Leslie Street*

Q11: Have the dates for the watermain connections been set?
A11: Watermain connections are planned for roughly three weeks into the Leslie closure from Mosley to Eastern. Advance notice will be provided by the contractor to the CLOs

C12: It looks like there will be another closure of Leslie from the Lake Shore to the plaza entrances. Please send communication out to plaza businesses in advance of all work that impacts driveway access/
A12: Plaza businesses (and residents) will be given advance notice of any impacts to the driveway access (**Action Item 9**)

Liz Nield closed the discussion period by thanking those who attended. A date for the Cyclist & Pedestrian Safety walk was planned for Wednesday March 12 2014 to go over signage and safety of the work zone.

Meeting adjourned.

## Action Items

1) Even out the backfilled area on Leslie at Eastern from the December Watermain work – currently difficult to cross if you are in a wheelchair
2) Improve drainage - Water pools at Mosley and Eastern
3) Mosley diversion seems unsafe at night. Look into adding light or contacting City to add streetlight
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
5) City to review potential of advance pedestrian crossing signal at Leslie & Lake Shore
6) Follow up on crossing guard at Leslie and Queen
7) Clarify the rate of speed of the streetcars travelling on Leslie Street Update on Action Item #9 forthcoming
8) Request clarification of what constitutes an emergency situation for streetcars travelling on Leslie Street
9) Commitment to provide Plaza businesses advance notice of any impacts to the driveway access