



Meeting Minutes

Queens Quay Construction Liaison Committee

Meeting #5 Summary

Thursday, May 31, 2012

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Waterfront Toronto – 20 Bay Street

Attendance:

Kelly Gorman (260 Queens Quay West)
Vicki Baron (Waterfront Regeneration Trust)
Kevin Currie (Waterfront BIA)
Gerry Hawkshaw (Brookfield Properties)
Greg Gibb (Waterclub Condos)
Chris Hodgson (Harbourfront Centre)
Clay McFayden (Toronto Cyclist Union)
Kevin Keirstead (Westin Harbour Castle)
Dion Difebo (Oxford Properties)
Braz Menezes (York Quay Neighbourhood Association)
Pam Mazza (Toronto Island Community Association)
Jennifer Chan (Councillor Vaughan's Office)
Carol Jolly (Waterfront BIA)
Cindi Vanden Heuvel (Toronto Passenger Vessel Association)
Vesna Saltagic (228/230 Queens Quay West)
Pamela Laite (Toronto Tourism)
James Russell (33, 55, 65, 77/99 Harbour Square)
Blair Ketch (Paws Way)
Dermot McKeown (Radisson Hotel)
Carol Forsyth (Aqua on Queens Quay)
Ken Owen (QCYC)
Lene Andersen (Accessibility)
Daisy Chan (TTC)
Diego Slnagoga (TTC)

Luigi Cifa (Eastern Construction)
Robert Pasut (Eastern Construction)
Dave Madeira (Waterfront Toronto)
Michelle Noble (Waterfront Toronto)
Chris Glaisek (Waterfront Toronto)
Samantha Gileno (Waterfront Toronto)
Pina Mallozzi (Waterfront Toronto)
JD Reeves (Waterfront Toronto)
Jelle Therry (West 8)
Joe Lobko (DTAH)
Alun Llyod (BA Group)

Opening Remarks & Welcome – Chris Glaisek

The team has been working hard to develop and modify the construction /staging plan as result of new developments over the past month.

Agenda for today's CLC:

1. Queens Quay East Interim Improvements –Joe Lobko, DTAH

Waterfront Toronto will be creating a new pedestrian and cyclist connection to East Bayfront as part of the Queens Quay construction project. In addition to creating connectivity from the Central Waterfront to East Bayfront, this project will also address some of the safety issues in that area, particularly in front of Redpath where there is currently no sidewalk only gravel.

2. Update regarding the construction/staging plan – Luigi Cifa, Eastern Construction
 - a. TTC construction routing information – Diego Sinagoga TTC Community Relations Officer and Daisy Chan, TTC Transit Planner
 - b. Traffic Management - Alun Lloyd, BA Group

Luigi will present the highlights of the eleventh version of the construction staging plan. Eastern has been working with stakeholders to avoid the waterfront's high season. As a result, the installation of the new sanitary sewer in the central area of Waterfront, between York and Simcoe Streets will be deferred until later this September.

Coordination continues with Toronto Hydro who is expected to start work in July. The TTC requires their own power/electrical ducts, which resulted in some adjustments to the underground works. A new piece of sanitary work has been added in front of the Shoppers Drug Mart, as well as a new water main in front of Harbour Square. Finally, other coordination items include work with the Telco companies who are now building their own ducts above the Toronto Hydro services. The Telco's will come to a future CLC meeting to present their plans. We believe this level of coordination prior to construction will streamline the project when shovels are in the ground.

3. Communications Update – Samantha Gileno, Waterfront Toronto

We have several upcoming public outreach efforts which Sam will describe including the launch of regular construction notices and the Constructing Queens Quay webpage.

Queens Quay Interim Improvements – Joe Lobko.

This new piece of work has been added to the Queens Quay Revitalization project which runs to about the Bay/Yonge area.

- The current conditions are inhospitable and potentially unsafe.
- Waterfront Toronto has secured funds to improve the current conditions (e.g., there is gravel in the "sidewalk" area in front of Redpath.)
- The goal of the project is to develop and continue the streetscape from Yonge Street through to Jarvis as an interim condition for pedestrians and cyclists until the full vision for Queens Quay can be built out.
- The intent is to create an "interim" Martin Goodman Trail and sidewalk which will run along the south side of Queens Quay.
- The current roadway is 19 metres wide which provides ample room to realign the current traffic lanes and allows us to create a new combination of sidewalk and bike path on the south-side curb lane. Dimensions allocated for the MGT and sidewalk are 3.0 metres and 2.8 metres respectively.
- There will be a stripped buffer zone area between traffic and the path which will be 2 to 3 metres in width.

- The MGT and sidewalk areas will be constructed using different materials and colours. There will be a slight elevation change.
- We are working with the City of Toronto who is supportive of this project.
- The project also includes infrastructure work required at the Jarvis slip. We will reinforce the existing dock wall and remove tie-backs to prepare for required utility infrastructure, silva cells and tree plantings.
- The MGT/pedestrian connection and dockwall work will begin this September and will be completed by March 2013, when the Federal funds allocated to this project must be spent.
- The budget for this work is \$5.2 million.

Question: While we are happy to hear this news, we do have concerns regarding the south side of QQ east of the Westin. Will there be a two lane drop off for the Westin?

Answer: The new interim project is east of the Westin. Waterfront Toronto has a design for the area in front of the Westin that has been shared with the hotel as part of the larger Queens Quay revitalization project. There will continue to be drop-off and pick-up lanes in front of the Westin.

Question: Could the buffer zone area be used for parking and bikes?

Answer: It may be possible however work is still in progress on the use of this zone. Once decided, signals and signage will be developed. The long term plan further east from here still needs to be developed and therefore we cannot make that determination at this time.

Construction/Staging Plan – Luigi Cifa

This is our eleventh version of the construction plan – and therefore we will review only the significant changes since our last CLC meeting.

- **Sequence # 1B**

We are postponing the new sanitary work between York & Simcoe Street, as well as ensuring that there are loading areas available for the retail frontages along Queens Quay (e.g., Water Club residences)

All QQ driveways and building/store access will be maintained during all construction sequences.

We are considering accelerating the construction of the sidewalk areas in front of the Westin from Bay Street and heading east along QQ. This is still being discussed and we are attempting to schedule.

Question: Will two-way traffic be maintained during this sequence?

Answer: Traffic will move one-way westbound when the sanitary work begins (expected September). During Sequence 1A (Bell and initial Hydro work), two-way traffic will continue. Streetcar service will be replaced by buses effective July 29. Buses will also travel one-way westbound when the sanitary work begins.

Samantha Gileno and Pina Mallozzi offered that there are several traffic management maps which will be available for review at the Public Meeting and Open House scheduled next week – first week of June 2012. These will also be on Waterfront Toronto's website.

Question: Where will coaches unload passengers?

As TTC streetcars will not be operating, coaches will be able to use the right-of-way between York and Simcoe for drop off and pick-up during this stage. Passengers will be able to walk safely to a signalized intersection for crossing (in the same way that TTC streetcar patrons would do).

Sequence #1C

- The Bay Street re-striping has been moved to the Spring of 2013.
- The access to Shoppers Drug Mart will be maintained from the westbound lanes of traffic and will be local-traffic only from Spadina.

Sequence # 1D

No changes or comments regarding this sequence of work.

Sequence # 2A

- No changes are scheduled for this sequence of construction. There was a request to allow a second access to the Rees Street parking lot during this stage of construction. This request is being discussed with City Transportation.
- There is some Toronto Hydro and surface works planned in the Westin area for the Summer of 2013, but this schedule is still being reviewed.

Sequence # 2B

- Access for 460/470/480 Queens Quay will be maintained via one westbound lane of traffic.

Sequence # 3A, B, and C

- No changes are scheduled for these three construction sequences.

Question: Will traffic signals be adjusted when TTC is out of service?

Answer: When the TTC Streetcars will stop running on QQ as of July 29, 2012, their associated signals will be initially bagged, and then removed and the traffic lights & timing revised to compensate.

Other updates/issues:

- 33 Harbour will have south side street lane available for moving trucks and loading purposes. There are no changes to the current location, but trucks may have to be “flagged” by Eastern staff as they back into this construction area and loading zone.
- Ferry boat access will always be maintained.
- Dewatering activities throughout the construction sequences must be within the Toronto City Bylaws.

Question: Can you please clarify what noise levels are expected when Toronto Hydro is removing or working on their chambers?

Answer: Eastern has not yet determined what kind of dewatering system will be required for this project. Once more specific information is known, we will share it with the group.

Traffic and TTC Traffic Plan- Stage 1

BA Group – Alun Lloyd and TTC – Daisy Chan/Diego Sinagoga

Traffic during Stage 1 will move one-way westbound between Bay St. and Spadina Avenue. The streetcar will be replaced with bus service beginning on July 29. Signage will be developed for both east and westbound traffic along Queens Quay to help vehicles navigate during the construction phases.

Question: I believe that there will be significant bus congestion during rush hour traffic. It is not so bad during the winter months, but suggest that during summer months, more work and further review is necessary.

Answer: Diego Sinagoga and Daisy Chen describe the planned changes to the TTC routes during this phase.

- #6 Bay – Service will be increased on the route to accommodate the increased ridership with the opening of the George Brown College campus on Queens Quay East.
- #510 Spadina – At present, streetcars are being short-turned at Queens Quay and Spadina Loop. Service between Spadina and Union Station is being provided on the 509 Harbourfront streetcar route.
- #510 Spadina – Effective June 17, streetcars will be replaced with buses, as a result of TTC projects to replace tracks and rebuild passenger platforms. Service will still be running between Spadina Station and Queens Quay and Spadina Loop.
- #509 Harbourfront – At present, streetcars are scheduled to operate between Exhibition and Union Station, with a short-turn branch between Union Station and Queens Quay and Spadina Loop, replacing the service on the 510 Spadina streetcar route on Queens Quay West.
- 509 Harbourfront – Effective July 29, streetcars will be replaced with buses, operating between Exhibition and Union Station in one branch, and will operate on a diversion necessitated by the Waterfront Toronto work: utilities relocation and track reconstruction. Operating eastbound from Exhibition Loop, buses will operate via Manitoba Drive, Fleet Street, Fort York Boulevard, Lake Shore Boulevard, Bathurst Street, Queens Quay West, Spadina Avenue, Lake Shore Boulevard, Harbour Street, York Street, Front Street and Yonge Street to Queens Quay West. In the westbound direction, buses will operate via Queens Quay West, through the Right-of-way between York Street and Rees Street, Bathurst Street, Fleet Street, Manitoba Drive to Exhibition Loop.

Question: Will TTC bus and streetcar drivers announce stops and transfers to riders?

Answer: We plan to advise and communicate to TTC staff & drivers of this concern, and definitely agree that it is beneficial for drivers to communicate this information to all riders.

Question: There is a rumor that buses will permanently run east on Queens Quay?

Answer: In the short term, buses will run east along Queens Quay, but the long-term plan (and approved EA) is for streetcar transit in its own right-of-way .

Question: Will the noise of the streetcars running along Queens Quay be lessened?

Answer: Yes, the noise levels will be reduced. This will happen in part as new track bed and rails will be installed, but the new rails also are equipped with noise baffling “boots” which will muffle the noise .

NOTE: During construction, Diego pointed out that the TTC does operate on three shifts, noise is to be expected when they are working and they are exempt from the Toronto noise bylaws.

Question: There seems to be a concentration of Porter buses running along Queens Quay. Will this continue?

Answer: At Bathurst Street there is a left turning lane which is used by both traffic and Porter buses. The Toronto Port Authority will need to be consulted in order to avoid congestion and alleviate safety concerns. People can call their city councillors to voice their concerns.

Question: We have concerns regarding the TTC buses running under the Gardiner and running eastbound on Lakeshore.

Answer: We expect that temporary lighting and concrete pads for bus shelters and stops will be placed on Lakeshore Blvd for the safety of TTC riders and residents.

Question: Will TTC be communicating all route changes soon?

Answer: Diego is responsible for developing a plan and communicating this to all riders in time for the transition.

Question: Buses are idling for lengthy periods of time at the Spadina loop. We have (environmental) concerns and want to know how this will be addressed?

Answer: The TTC drivers are expected to follow the City Idling by-laws . Bus drivers are expected to follow this protocol. The reasons they may not shut down are due to the following: 1) Failure to re-start the bus, or 2) To keep the buses running in order to maintain heat or cool air depending on weather conditions. Should anyone have concerns, they can call the TTC complaints department at (416) 393-3030.

Traffic and TTC Traffic Plan- Stage 2

- Cars running eastbound along the south side of Queens Quay during this construction phase while crews are building the new roadway on the north side
- Eastbound traffic along the southbound curb lane makes sense (especially for buses and people getting off as doors are located on the right hand side of the bus)
- Multiple lay-bys will have been constructed during stage 1 to help with bus drop-off/pick-up

Question: What can cyclists expect when travelling along Queens Quay?

Answer: One of the important features of this plan is to provide safe cycling lanes along Queens Quay where today there are none. That being said, as there are currently no bike lanes on Queens Quay, cyclists who choose to travel on Queens Quay during construction will have to move with traffic using caution. Signage will be installed to warn cyclists about the conditions.

Traffic and TTC Traffic Plan- Stage 3

- This will be the final stage of construction for the Queens Quay Revitalization project.
- Work will move to the southside and the north side traffic lanes will be in their final configuration (east and westbound traffic).

Question: What can cyclists expect?

Answer: Until the Martin Goodman Trail is complete on the south side, cyclists using the road must adhere to the posted signs and traffic patterns.

Communications Update: Samantha Gileno

- A presentation was made to the BIA last night and was well received by attendees.
- There will be two public meetings, June 6th and June 9th. Postcards and mailing were sent to inform local residents about these sessions.
- We will be starting weekly construction notices for this project and are building a database of subscribers.
- The Construction Liaison Committee will continue to meet on a monthly basis. The intent is to provide continuous dialogue with the community.
- The installation of webcams will happen in August and will be on our website.
- You can email questions regarding the QQR project to: Info@waterfrontoronto.ca. We will endeavor to provide 24 hour turnaround to your questions.
- There will also be a QQ hotline which will be staffed and answering calls Monday through Friday from 9am to 5pm.
- Any urgent construction issues can be emailed to Eastern's community liaison officer Robert Pasut -- rpasut@easternconstruction.com. Robert works closely with WT and will log and address issues accordingly.
- We are asking permission to post the names/emails of CLC members on our website. Please let me know if you do not want your email address listed.

- Chris Glaisek thanks everyone for their participation in the work completed to date and reminds everyone to attend the public meeting and open house. This is an exciting time for the Queens Quay community.