

WCC Update – April 21, 2007

Murray McLeod

PRESS CONFERENCE IN WESTON VILLAGE – ALL ARE INVITED!

Dear concerned citizen,

It's been a couple of months since you last heard from us. The Air-Rail Link (Blue 22) issue has not gone away, though it may have faded from some memories. The Coalition will be handing out leaflets to GO patrons, on the platform of the Weston GO station on Tuesday April 24, starting at 7:30 am, to draw attention to the fact that Blue 22 has effectively delayed much needed GO improvements. This will be followed by a press conference on the Platform at 9:15. Most of the patrons who get on in Weston have to stand all the way to Union, as there aren't enough GO railcars to accommodate everyone. Were it not for the Blue 22, construction would already be started on improving GO service. We will be asking GO patrons to add their voices to ours calling on the McGuinty and Harper governments to stop the flawed ARL project.

All of you are invited to come join us on the GO platform Tuesday morning, if only for a few minutes.

The provincial government has still not decided on the Terms of Reference. However our newly elected MPP, Paul Ferreira has asked a couple of questions in the Legislature of Laurel Broten (Minister of the Environment) and Donna Cansfield (Minister of Transportation). The responses were less than heartwarming, and can be found on our website at www.westoncommunitycoalition.ca. The delay is quite possibly an indication of the political pressure the local residents have put on the government, which lost its 'safe' seat here in a by-election. With an election coming October 10, the government will not want this issue to be front and centre again.

We have also discovered a treasure trove of information (letters, e-mails, documents, minutes of meetings) in the file on the Environmental Assessment at the Ministry of Environment (MOE) offices at 2 St. Clair West. All of these very interesting new documents are available on the Coalition website. Some show internal MOE concerns about the Terms of Reference which mirror our own concerns. Some show the lack of transparency of the process in the early going. Some show the Federal government's pushing of the project, through their reluctance to allow the study terminology to use words other than 'Air-Rail Link'. Still others show that our request for mediation was responded to by GO, though we never were shown the response. And GO has responded to our and your individual letters of concern about the Terms of Reference. GO refused to send us a copy, so we got a copy from the file.

We have still never had a response to our request of Donna Cansfield for participant funding so we can effectively defend your interests against the power of the Ontario Government.

We will continue to keep you posted as events unfold.

Mike Sullivan
Chair
Weston Community Coalition

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