

Mike Sullivan

From: Weston Community Coalition [info@westoncommunitycoalition.ca]
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To: msullivan@cep.ca
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As you may have seen in the Guardian, the first meeting of the 'public liaison' committee formed by GO Transit to discuss the Air-Rail Link proposals will be May 2 at 6:30 pm at the Holiday Inn at 600 Dixon Road. The undersigned will be attending on behalf of the Weston Community Coalition. At that meeting we hope to give preliminary input into the shape of a Terms of Reference document for studying this matter. GO has indicated they intend to widen the scope of the study enormously, and study every possible form of rapid transit to the airport, including a route along the 407! As a result, they have widened the scope of their 'public liaison' to include Business Improvement Associations and Ratepayer Groups from all over the western half of the city. They are also inviting the Toronto Tourist Authority, the Convention Authority, the Board of Trade, the Hotel Association, etc. They have told our councillors they could not be part of the public liaison committee. GO hopes to limit it to 20 people.

Meanwhile we have unearthed more documents via our request for information under the Federal Access to Information process. These documents show the actual terms of the stakeholder agreements between various authorities and agencies and SNC Lavalin. For example GO Transit commits to building all the infrastructure for the Air Rail Link including a station at Woodbine Racetrack. The City of Mississauga refused to disclose its terms. The Toronto and Area Conservation Authority discloses its terms for building a railroad on its land around Mimico Creek. The Airport Authority stipulates that the deal with SNC Lavalin will last until 2056, and will prohibit other rail rapid transit to the airport which might compete with SNC Lavalin. The Airport Authority will also collect \$1.20 per passenger using the Air Rail Link, and have already collected \$25 Million from Transport Canada, transferred from the Toronto Waterfront Development Fund for unspecified matters related to the Air Rail Link. Another document was revealed to us from Provincial Access to Information, showing the actual amounts budgeted for various portions of the GO and Air-Rail Link Infrastructure. It would appear from these documents that the city of Toronto is on the hook for approximately \$90 Million of the cost of infrastructure on the Georgetown and Air-Rail Link Lines.

We have asked GO Transit to include representatives of the Weston Historical Society and the Weston Heritage Conservation Group. So far neither group has been contacted by GO. In addition Go Transit must involve a myriad of Provincial and Federal ministries and agencies, as well as local school boards, the TTC, etc.

The Weston Heritage group has scheduled a local public meeting for May 6 to discuss with the community the declaration of Weston as a heritage conservation district. Since this declaration could have an effect on the Air-Rail Link, you are all urged to attend this meeting. Watch for the notice in this week's Guardian.

We will continue to represent the interests of the Weston Community at these upcoming GO meetings. However, due to the widened scope of the invited participants, Weston will be but one voice among many. However we have been in regular contact with other like-minded groups along the line, whom

we hope will attend.

Mike Sullivan
Chair,
Weston Community Coalition