

Mike Sullivan

From: Brendan Agnew-Iler [biler@toronto.ca]
Sent: September 13, 2006 1:02 PM
To: Mike Sullivan
Subject: Response to your letter

Dear Mr. Sullivan:

Thank you for your letter concerning the proposed rail link to the airport. The mayor appreciates the time you have taken to express your concerns. I have studied the available material and discussed the project at length within this office. It is difficult to give a detailed answer to many of your questions because they are based on information that has been superceded. Now that the EA has been bumped up there are many proposals and assumptions draw from the Class EA process that are no longer relevant.

As you know, the mayor supports a rail link to the airport in principle, but is very concerned about the impact on neighbourhoods along the route and would like to see community concerns addressed. He has been very clear that a stop should be added at Weston and even seconded a Council resolution that no streets be cut to accommodate the increased rail capacity.

The Mayor is very supportive of public transit service to the airport. Right now there is excellent service to the airport in the form of express bus service to the airport from Kipling Station. Ridership on the Airport Rocket bus route has been steadily rising for several years. The TTC has also identified Eglinton West from the subway to the airport as a corridor requiring higher order transit. In fact, this is included in the Official Plan, the Ridership Growth Strategy and the Building a Transit City service planning report which, together, inform all of the City's and TTC's decisions about transit and transportation.

There are no plans to invest City money in the project. There was an evolving plan at the time that GO Transit was conducting a Class EA study for the initiative, which included a plan to dig a trench for three of the five sets of railway tracks in Weston. These would have been used by GO, VIA, CN and Blue-22. That study was subsequently canceled, and GO has now initiated an individual EA study for expansion of GO service and an airport transportation link. The corridor is not owned or controlled by the City.

As I have done in the past, I would be more than happy to work with City staff to ensure you receive answers to technical questions.

Thank you for writing and sharing your concerns. Should you require further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact this office again.

Yours truly,
Brendan Agnew-Iler
Policy Advisor
Office of Mayor David Miller
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto ON M5H 2N2
p: (416) 338-7113
c: (416) 527-3486