

Nov 9, 2006

GO Transit has now forwarded its planned 'Terms of Reference' (ToR) document to the Minister of the Environment for her approval. The public has until Nov 27, 2006 to contact the minister with any comments or complaints about that document. Essentially the ToR is a blueprint for what will be studied and how it will be studied in the upcoming environmental assessment for the GO service expansion and the Air-Rail Link (Blue 22). Many thanks to those of you who came out to the public meetings at the Faith Sanctuary and raised concerns and issues with GO.

The Weston Community Coalition will be formulating a response to this ToR in the coming weeks, but each citizen is encouraged to also reply. Our principal concerns are that the ToR is heavily biased by its purpose statement towards the Blue 22 option, that the first phase of eliminating most optional routes will not be based on any environmental concerns, but rather on financial ones, and that the decision making value systems are unknown and unspecified. We also have some concerns that the socio-economic environment, which needs to be studied, is being given short shrift by GO. The 'expert' they have hired in this area is a noise and vibration consultant.

Should any of you wish to add your voice to the chorus, you can write or phone:

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Ministry of the Environment  
Environmental Assessment &  
Approvals Branch  
2 St. Clair Avenue West, Floor 12A  
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A copy of the ToR, and a comparison of the draft and final ToR, are on our website ([www.westoncommunitycoalition.ca](http://www.westoncommunitycoalition.ca)). The public consultation record (who was consulted and what they said) is on the GO website (<http://www.georgetownpearsonstudy.ca/rptPub.asp>).

The Coalition also held a successful all-candidate's debate for the key mayoral candidates. In keeping with the Coalition's policy of remaining politically neutral, the coalition has neither endorsed nor opposed any candidate for any office. However, election material from one of the candidates contained an apparent endorsement by the undersigned as chair of the Coalition. Neither I nor the Coalition were asked permission. That action has prompted the following letter to the editor of the Guardian.

"Dear Editor,

"The Weston Community Coalition was formed in the winter of 2005 to fight back, on behalf of the residents of Weston, the plans for the Blue 22 Air-Rail Link from various levels of government. We are a coalition of various community groups and associations. It has been the clear wish of the Coalition throughout the past two years that we do not support or oppose any candidate for election, but rather encourage all of them to work for the betterment of Weston. However, campaign literature circulating throughout the community appears to contain an endorsement of one of the candidates by the Coalition. We did not authorize that apparent endorsement, and wish to continue to remain non-partisan in this and other local elections. We as a Coalition look forward to working with whomever is successful in this and any other election in the community, and to continuing to keep the issue of the Air-Rail Link and the well-being of Weston uppermost in their minds."

Mike Sullivan  
Chair  
Weston Community Coalition