

Minister of the Environment



Ministre de l'Environnement

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H3

SEP 01 2006

Mr. Mike Sullivan
Chair, Weston Community Coalition
72 Church Street
Weston ON M9N 1N3

Dear Mr. Sullivan:

Thank you for your letter of May 26, regarding GO Transit's proposed Georgetown South/Express Transportation Link (GS/ETL) project. I understand from your letter that you are concerned about funding that may have been provided by Transport Canada to the Greater Toronto Airport Authority (GTAA) to construct a facility related to the above-named project. I also understand that you would like the environmental assessment (EA) for GO Transit's project to be referred to a review panel in order to make participant funding available.

You may be aware that the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (the Act) applies to federal authorities when they contemplate some action in relation to a project that would enable the project to proceed in whole or in part. A federal EA may be required when a federal authority:

- a) is the proponent of a project;
- b) provides financial assistance to the proponent;
- c) makes federal lands available for the project; or
- d) issues certain permits or licences, or other approvals.

With respect to GO Transit's GS/ETL project, Transport Canada (TC) and the Canadian Transportation Agency have been identified as responsible authorities (RAs), and are therefore responsible for ensuring that an EA is completed. These agencies have initiated a screening under the Act as a result of their respective funding and regulatory triggers.



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At the conclusion of this EA, the RAs may decide that the project is not likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects, in which case they will be in a position to consider providing the financial support and regulatory approval that would allow the project to proceed. However, they would recommend that I refer the project to a review panel if they conclude that:

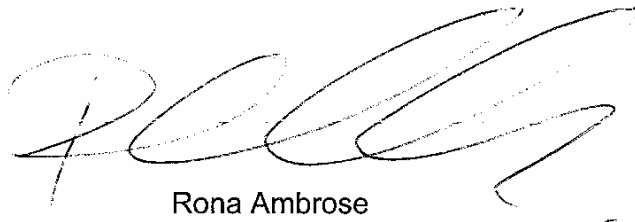
- a) there is uncertainty about the likelihood of significant adverse effects;
- b) the project is likely to cause significant adverse effects that may be justified; or,
- c) public concerns are such that referral to a review panel is warranted.

Under the circumstances, I will await the RAs' EA decisions or recommendations with respect to whether the project should be referred to a review panel. Should the project be referred to a review panel, participant funding would be provided at that time.

Regarding your comments about the possible funding provided by TC to the GTAA for the facility related to GO Transit's GS/ETL project, I have taken the liberty of providing a copy of our correspondence to the Minister of Transport, the Honourable Lawrence Cannon, so that he is aware of your concerns.

I appreciate you bringing your concerns to my attention and I trust my comments are helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rona Ambrose', written in a cursive style.

Rona Ambrose

c.c.: The Honourable Lawrence Cannon, P.C., M.P.