

ENV1283MC-2007-1848

May 9, 2007

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

Dear Mr. Sullivan:

Thank you for your April 24, 2007 email to the Minister of the Environment about GO Transit's Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Georgetown South Rail Corridor Improvements and Airport Transportation Link. I am pleased to reply on behalf of the Minister.

In May 2005, GO Transit volunteered to prepare an individual environmental assessment (EA) to obtain approval for the proposed infrastructure improvements along the Georgetown south rail corridor, required, in part, to accommodate the proposed airport-rail link. The first step in the EA process is the preparation of the ToR. The ToR establishes the work plan for the EA.

As the EA process is proponent-driven, the proponent is responsible for preparing the ToR. In doing so, the *Environmental Assessment Act* (EAA) requires that proponents consult with such persons as may be interested in the ToR and the undertaking. Proponents are responsible for determining consultation methods as the EAA does not specify how this consultation should be carried out. It is common practice for proponents to initially circulate a draft ToR to this ministry before broadly circulating it to government agencies and the public for review and comment. In early 2006, GO Transit prepared a draft ToR. Prior to submitting the formal ToR to the ministry, GO Transit did provide a draft ToR to government agencies and the public.

The ministry is currently reviewing the ToR. All comments received during the comment period for the ToR will be considered by the Minister before a decision is made about the ToR. The ministry will also review GO Transit's record of consultation submitted with the ToR to ensure that public consultation has been conducted and that the results of the consultation are clearly documented. The intent is to provide the Minister with information about the public's concerns and how GO Transit proposes to address these concerns. This will assist the Minister in deciding whether an EA prepared in accordance with the ToR will be consistent with the purpose of the EAA and the public's interest.

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Should you have further questions please contact Hayley Berlin, Acting Issues Manager of the Environmental Assessment and Approvals Branch, at 416-314-1386.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James O'Mara', written over a large, faint circular stamp or watermark.

James O'Mara

Director

Environmental Assessment and Approvals Branch