

Mike Sullivan

From: Gary McNeil [GaryM@gotransit.com]
Sent: May 26, 2005 09:28
To: 'msullivan@cep.ca'
Subject: RE: Creation of Terms of Reference
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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GO Transit will be undertaking an Individual Environmental Assessment for improvements for commuter train service to the communities along the Georgetown Rail Corridor. Included in this EA will be improvements for transportation services between the Pearson Airport and downtown Toronto. GO will be undertaking this study under the requirements of the Federal and Provincial Environmental Assessment Acts. This will include an assessment of alternative routes (not just Georgetown Corridor) and technology options.

As part of the process to undertake an Individual Environmental Assessment, it is necessary for the proponent to complete a Terms of Reference document, which is submitted to the Ministry of Environment for Stakeholder and Public Review. This will likely not occur until the Fall. GO Transit will be hiring a consultant with experience in Individual EAs to prepare the ToR document. The Terms of Reference basically describes how the Individual Environmental Assessment study will be undertaken.

At this time, it is premature to make any commitments pertaining to an EA Liaison Committee for the Environmental Assessment study. However, we can state at this time that GO will not provide "participant funding to conduct independent peer reviews of key documentation".

Gary McNeil
Managing Director & CEO
GO Transit

-----Original Message-----

From: Mike Sullivan [mailto:msullivan@cep.ca]
Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 05 04:18 PM
To: garyM@gotransit.com
Cc: 'Greg Ashbee'
Subject: Creation of Terms of Reference

Go Transit has scanned this message, no viruses were detected.

Gary McNeil
Managing Director
GO Transit

Dear Mr. McNeil.

Thank you from the entire Weston Community Coalition for your decision to conduct a full Environmental Assessment of the planned expansion of the Georgetown Corridor and Air-Rail Link (ARL). We look forward to working with you on this assessment over the coming months.

To that end, we understand that the next step is the development of the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assessment. We obviously want to participate in as full a capacity as is possible in the development of the TOR. But we understand and recognize that it is not just Weston which is ultimately a stakeholder in this project, but many other communities and of course SNC Lavalin, CN, and CP. We would therefore propose that a multi-stakeholder EA Liaison Committee be established to provide a more formal public forum for providing input to the TOR and the planning stage of the EA. A subset of key individuals from the Weston Community Coalition, plus participants from other communities along the route, railroads, SNC and GO Transit would form this committee. This Liaison Committee may require participant funding to conduct independent peer reviews of key documentation, but that committee itself needs to determine that.

It has become clear from the process to date that a full and complete assessment of alternatives to, and alternative methods of the ARL undertaking needs to happen. The IBI study, undertaken in 1999, which 'concluded' that the Georgetown Corridor was the only possible ARL route, needs a thorough public review. Other, subsequent studies have alleged that the IBI study was flawed. The federal department of Transport has publicly stated that the Environmental Assessment process is the place for the public review of the ARL. Therefore we specifically request that pursuant to section 6(2)(a) of the EA Act, GO commit in the TOR to prepare a full EA that meets all requirements of section 6.1(2) of the EA Act.

Thank you again for your consideration of the needs of the communities along your corridor.

Looking forward to your response,

Yours Truly,

Mike Sullivan,
On behalf of
The Weston Community Coalition.
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