



The Davenport Village Community Association

December 5, 2016

RE: Davenport Diamond

Metrolinx
Chair and CEO
97 Front Street West
Toronto, ON
M5J 1E6

Dear Metrolinx:

I am writing you today as president of The Davenport Village community association in regard to the ongoing Davenport Diamond grade separation project. For nearly two years our group has devoted hundreds of hours to this project both in terms of working with Metrolinx, our elected officials and so many of our other wonderful community groups and organizations that make up our incredible and vibrant community of Davenport.

First, let me express our disappointment with the Metrolinx decision that train service on the Barrie line will be increasing to 36 trains per day as of summer 2016. In conversation with Metrolinx staff as recently as this autumn we were assured that this would not be a reality until the construction phase was complete. Needless to say this project has become contentious within the community and miscommunications such as this with the community are unhelpful on all sides.

In a more optimistic tone, we would like to use this letter to speak to the opportunity that exists for Metrolinx and all of us to work together to create a project that has the potential to provide transformational connectivity not only for Davenport Village or the broader Davenport community but in fact can act as a catalyst to something even bigger and for the benefit of all Torontonians. The lynchpin being the creation of an elevated pedestrian connection to Earls court park.

The Davenport Village Community Association hosted Metrolinx for what was in fact the second public meeting after the initial announcement of this project. At the time, the primary focus of Metrolinx in terms community benefit(s) was connectivity in a rather undefined sense. In late March of 2015 the DVCA executive met to discuss both the overpass in general terms and areas of concern but also if/how and in what potential form connectivity could help build our community. It was at this time creating elevated pedestrian connection to Earls court park, which would also act as a start point to the Greenline, first appears and we first engaged Metrolinx.

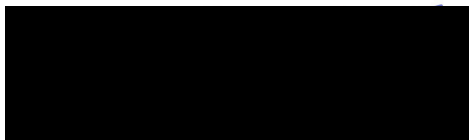
It would appear as one of 89 recommendations made by the 35-member Metrolinx commissioned residents reference panel commissioned last year and as a key component of the DVCA's 'Five Point Diamond Plan' released that same day.

It goes without saying that there are some very real and justifiable concerns with this project as it stands and in demanding the very best we were pleased stand with: BIG, Bloordale BIA, Bloordale CIA, DIGIN, Friends of the West Toronto Railpath, How We Live In Cities, Junction Triangle Rail Committee and Options for Davenport not only in petition form on a single issue but on many more. It is also worth noting that an elevated pedestrian connection to Earls court park is a real and tangible benefit as seen by all of us for various reasons and endorsed by all levels of government and both Davenport city Councilors.

As you are aware on November 9th 2016 Councillor Bailão put forward a motion to City Council seconded by Mayor John Tory Endorsing Community Issues Related to Metrolinx's Davenport Diamond Grade Separation Project. Having spoken to both I am confident the city is willing to engage if Metrolinx is willing to come to the table to help make true connectivity a reality. On November 20th 2017 insidetoronto.com published an article (link below) titled: Davenport group seeks "pedestrian overpass" into Earls court Park and since then 4 more community groups have lent their support and added to the ever increasing momentum for something positive with the feeling that If you're going to give us a bridge for trains, we want a bridge for people. In doing so, True Connectivity, Supporting business, Greater access to Green Space, Community safety and A positive legacy for Metrolinx and the community along as acting as a catalyst to moving the green line forward can all be achieved.

We believe we have a collective opportunity and an amenity that can be enjoyed by all of us. We encourage you to listen, engage on all sides and for us to collectively create something special. Also, we should also thank you. It was after all the Metrolinx idea of connectivity through this project, stated nearly two years ago, that led directly to the idea of an elevated pedestrian connection to Earls court park in the first place. Let's work to make it a reality!

Sincerely:



Matt Park
The Davenport Village Community Association

Davenport group seeks "pedestrian overpass" into Earls court Park :
<http://www.insidetoronto.com/news-story/6995165-davenport-group-seeks-pedestrian-overpass-into-earls-court-park/?platform=hootsuite>