

WCC Update – June 25, 2007

REMINDER - RESPECT Campaign Public Forum – The Kodak Lands - Monday June 25, 7 pm, York Civic Centre – 2700 Eglinton W. – All are invited!

Blue 22 – To Be or not to Be?

The map forming part of the 'Move Ontario' plan announced by the McGuinty Liberal government Thursday June 14, clearly shows the Pearson Air-Rail link as being along the rail corridor through Weston. The project is listed on the list of projects under 'Other Rapid Transit'.

In addition, although not in any of the printed documentation, the government has apparently put a 6 month limit on Environmental Assessments.

A press release from the defeated Liberal candidate in the provincial by-election was handed out on Friday June 15 at the Weston GO station claiming that the Air-Rail Link was dead, and that GO Transit was going to build its own air-rail link with a stop 'in the riding' (GO-Blue 22?).

According to Donna Cansfield, this is not the case. She tells us that the Greater Toronto Transportation Authority (GTTA) has been given a list of 52 projects, including 'an' air-rail link, and have been told to report back to the government in 6 months or so on implementation. She tells us that they are to look at feasibility and take 'community concerns' into account. She does not have any word on the current GO Transit EA which is stalled in the Minister of the Environment's office. However, she says that is a separate process, as it is a GO process. The air-rail Link in the government's plans is not a GO project. I reminded Ms. Cansfield that although GO transit is leading the EA, the Blue 22 option is not a GO project either. She claims that the GTTA will have the autonomy to recommend a different project than the one on the government's map, though she doesn't know how that would be implemented.

There are plenty of unanswered questions. Does the publication of the map indicate that the government has decided the route of the ARL, despite Minister Cansfield's assurances that all possible options would be studied? She claims that the options will be studied by the GTTA. They are also being studied by the EA. I'm not sure which has priority. Does the government's new 6 month limit on Environmental Assessment mean they have cancelled this EA and will start another without time to properly study anything? Does the announcement that the Lakeshore GO will be electrified mean the Georgetown line and the Air Rail Link will NOT be electric, before the EA has decided? Will we ever get an answer to our request for Mediation in the current EA? Will we ever get an answer from Minister Cansfield to our request for participant funding in the current EA? Will GO Transit ever be asked to account for their less than open and transparent actions in the current EA?

Anyone besides me confused?

Meanwhile, we have a meeting set up with the chair of the new Greater Toronto Transportation Authority, who the government says will be deciding on the timing of the implementation of the Move Ontario plan. Perhaps they will be able to give us some answers. The Move Ontario plan, along with our letters to the Minister, are on the website (www.westoncommunitycoalition.ca)

Mike Sullivan
Chair
Weston Community Coalition