



Laura Albanese, M.P.P.

York South - Weston

Colleen Bell
General Manager, Community Relations and Initiatives
Metrolinx
20 Bay Street, Suite 901
Toronto, Ontario M5J 2N8

March 13, 2009

Dear Ms. Bell,

Following the announcement in January 2009 of the Metrolinx proposal for the air-rail link between Union Station and Pearson Airport, two Open House information sessions were held in the Mt. Dennis and Weston neighbourhoods in the community of York South-Weston, which I represent.

The open houses were the first step in the on-going community consultation and engagement process which will continue for the following months, and as the project proceeds through different phases in the coming years.

The engagement of local community members throughout the project is of great importance so that the Weston transit hub can become the key component in the economic revitalization of the Weston and York South-Weston community.

On March 2, 2009 I asked the Minister of Transportation a question in the Ontario Legislature about the open house consultation process. I also brought to his attention some concerns regarding the future of the newly proposed full GO station in Weston. In particular, local concerns that this station would be removed once the Eglinton Light Rapid Transit connection is built.

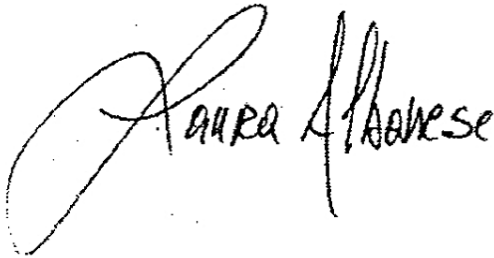
In his response the Minister stated that "there will be a stop in Weston and that this stop will stay open even if an Eglinton rail station is created. Anything heard otherwise is simply a scurrilous rumour."

On March 4, Mr. Mike Sullivan, chair of a group of local residents known as the Weston Community Coalition, wrote to me to inform me that he believes the misunderstanding arose from an answer received from a consultant or Metrolinx representative at the Open House in Weston. Mr. Sullivan states:

“Greg Ashbee, at the Open House in Weston, advised myself and Mary Louise Ashbourne, that the GO station in Weston would ‘likely close’ if GO was required to open a station at Eglinton, because GO won’t operate stations so close together, and because Weston GO has so few riders. He told us that we should have remembered that that possibility was ‘always in the cards’.”

I am writing today to understand better the Metrolinx position on the proposed full GO station in Weston. Such a response would be greatly appreciated by the residents of York South-Weston as the Weston transit hub continues to take shape.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura Albanese". The signature is stylized with a large, looping initial "L" and a cursive script for the rest of the name.

Laura Albanese

MPP York South-Weston

Cc: MP Alan Tonks, York South-Weston

Councillor Frances Nunziata, City of Toronto, Ward 11

Mike Sullivan, Chair, Weston Community Coalition