



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

ALAN TONKS, M.P. / DÉPUTÉ
YORK SOUTH-WESTON

Ottawa, March 10, 2005

The Honourable Jean Lapierre, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Transport
Place de Ville
330 Sparks St, 29th Floor, Tower C
Ottawa, ON K1A 0N5

Dear Minister:

Re: High speed rail link between Lester B. Pearson International Airport (LBPIA) and Union Station

I am writing with regards to the proposed high speed rail link between LBPIA and Union Station. As you may be aware this rail link will be running through my riding along existing track in the Weston community.

You will find attached a copy of a letter from the former Minister of Transport, the Honourable David Collette, P.C. In this letter, the Minister states that a portion of the \$385 million committed to GO Transit would be used for grade separation and overpasses along the Canadian National Railway Weston subdivision, the route to be taken by the proposed air-rail link. You will also find attached a Notice of Commencement from GO Transit for your information.

In recent weeks, a great deal of conflicting information has begun to circulate in the community in response to GO Transit's Environmental Assessment of the project. There have been suggestions that property will be expropriated and that rather than building grade separations the project will simply block access down certain streets thereby effectively cutting the community in half. While I certainly recognize the benefits of this project to the GTA in terms of relieving traffic congestion and enhancing Toronto's inter-modal transportation integration, you should note that there is a history of opposition to such projects when Government's at all levels are not proactive in dealing with the concerns of communities, such as Weston.

I would therefore request a response at your earliest convenience reaffirming your Department's commitment that should the project proceed it will be in a manner that will not negatively affect the Weston community. As well, I would like assurances that there will be grade separations in the community, as indicated in the attached letter, that the community will not be out in half as some have suggested, and that the expropriation of homes in Weston will not occur. In addition, it is absolutely critical that the results of the feasibility study and public input through the environmental assessment will be given careful consideration.

I would like to take this opportunity to request a briefing from the Department of Transport regarding this project as soon as possible. Thank-you for reviewing this letter and I look forward to speaking with you in the near future.

Sincerely,

Alan Tonks, M.P.
York South-Weston

Encl. 10 page

Copy. The Honourable Stéphane Dion, P.C., M.P.

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