

Mike Sullivan

From: Mike Sullivan [msullivan@cep.ca]
Sent: June 2, 2005 12:59
To: 'Jean Norman'
Subject: Another Visit to see The Board
Attachments: Creation of Terms of Reference; RE: Creation of Terms of Reference

Dear Ms. Norman,

It would appear that I need to make another deputation to the Board of Directors. I was really hoping not to have to. Could you please distribute this e-mail to the chair and members of the board, and schedule a deputation for next Friday's meeting?

Shortly after the decision to move the Environmental Assessment to a full EA, I wrote to Gary McNeil (attached) asking that the Weston Community Coalition be permitted to be part of the process of developing the formal Terms of Reference for the Environmental Assessment, and that we receive participant funding for the ongoing process.

As you can see by the response (attached) Mr. McNeil said no to those parts of our request. In addition we asked that, "GO commit in the TOR to prepare a full EA that meets all requirements of section 6.1(2) of the EA Act." Mr McNeil was silent on this request.

It is not our intent to make this process last any longer than absolutely necessary, nor to impose unreasonable burdens on GO Transit. All of these requests are, in my view, reasonable, and may, in fact, speed up the process substantially. If GO Transit unilaterally develops the Terms of Reference and then puts them out for public comment and review, it will add a period of months to the process while we in the public study and react to the proposed Terms of Reference. If, on the other hand, members of the public are permitted to be part of a process to develop those terms of reference, it is more likely that the outcome will not require a significant amount of time for public review and comment, as we will have had a chance to have concerns addressed early on. If GO Transit is not prepared to commit in the TOR to meeting all the requirements of section 6.1(2) of the act, what exactly are you doing?

With regard to participant funding, I suspect that nothing will be necessary during this phase, and with luck nothing will ultimately be necessary as all of the reports and studies and consultants hired by GO will be so unassailable that no other experts would be necessary. That said, however, it is our belief that ordinary community members will not have the resources to properly challenge or review any material produced in the course of this assessment. Given the extremely vocal reaction by more than a few residents, I believe that such funding will need to be available, from the proponents (GO Transit and SNC Lavalin) in order to ensure that the process is as fair, impartial, and transparent as possible.

I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have, either by return e-mail or in the course of the Board Meeting next week.

Sincerely,

Mike Sullivan
On behalf of
The Weston Community Coalition
416-240-7836