

BACKGROUND

Formerly the Greater Toronto Transportation Agency (GTTA) and GO Transit, Metrolinx was established in December 2007 from the merger of the two transportation agencies. Metrolinx has the mandate to develop and implement an integrated regional transportation system for the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area.

In order to meet existing demand and forecast growth for GO services along the Georgetown South rail corridor over the next 15 to 25 years, Metrolinx has proposed to increase rail capacity along the corridor between Bathurst Street and Highway 427, and to establish a new passenger rail link between Union Station and Pearson International Airport. Infrastructure improvements include: laying of new tracks, build new and re-build existing stations and platforms, along with bridges and underpasses.

REASONS FOR CONCERN

The primary reason for concern is that this project will result in an increase in daily train service from approximately 50 trains currently to approximately 460 trains after 25 years. These trains will be *diesel powered, not electric*. Expanded train service is expected to begin in 2015.

School communities along the rail corridor have the potential to be impacted by air quality, noise and vibration from the daily operation of trains. The potential to be impacted will generally be greater the closer the school is situated to the rail corridor. Construction activities related to this project will also result in negative impacts along the corridor.

Further details regarding the project, the types of impacts it will have and the identification of schools with the potential to be impacted are contained in the Board report, '*GO Transit Rail Corridor Service Expansion And Rail Link Between Union Station And L.B. Pearson International Airport (August 26, 2009)*' <http://www.tcdsb.org/trustees/Agendas/Supervision%20Team,%202009-08-26/Supervision%20Team%20Agenda,%202009-08-26,%20addendum.pdf>.

The Toronto Medical Officer of Health, in its review of this project, has concluded that expanded diesel train service is harmful to human health, and does not support the project.

TCDSB OBJECTS TO METROLINX' EXPANDED TRAIN SERVICE

At its meeting of August 26, 2009, the Supervision Team (the Board considered the report, '*GO Transit Rail Corridor Service Expansion And Rail Link Between Union Station And L.B. Pearson International Airport (August 26, 2009)*' and approved in part the following:

The Minister of the Environment be advised that:

- the Board shares the concerns expressed by the Medical Officer of Health;
- the Board concurs with the recommendations of the Toronto Board of Health;
- the Board objects to Metrolinx' proposed service expansion along the Georgetown South rail corridor;
- if the project is approved, as further mitigative measures, St. John Evangelist school building be retrofitted with replacement windows, classroom air conditioners and ventilators for portable classrooms, due to the school's location next to the rail corridor.

TCDSB SCHOOLS POTENTIALLY IMPACTED BY EXPANDED TRAIN SERVICE

Archbishop Romero, Bishop Marrocco/Thomas Merton, Don Bosco, Holy Family, Our Lady of Victory, Pope Paul VI, Santa Maria, Senhor Santo Cristo, St. Helen, St. John the Evangelist, St. Josaphat, St. Luigi, St. Mary, St. Rita, St. Vincent de Paul