

OBJECTION to Bill 171 and Ontario Line Subway in Riverdale and Leslieville

I am speaking out at this meeting today to raise grievous concerns and objections to Bill 171 and to the building of the Ontario line in Leslieville and South Riverdale.

1.Firstly, this Bill 171 is Draconian in its intention and draft as it denies the rights of we the citizens and property owners .

How is it possible in our Canadian Ontario legislative system that such a bill is allowed to be drawn up when it actually conflicts with our Canadian Charter of Human Rights and denies the right of the citizen to object. No such power should be given to any company or government .

2.In my opinion this whole Ontario line project has been bulldozed by Premier Doug Ford with no consideration or understanding of our Leslieville and Riverdale neighborhoods in Toronto and their actual needs and the environmental consequences of this project . Despite Councilor Paula Fletcher and MPP Peter Tabuns objections no one has listened to our concerns about these projects which will destroy our neighborhoods. Where are our rights ???

3.Riverdale and Leslie Ville are unique in Toronto with their historic old houses, large trees and green parks and interesting European and multi cultural style small business shopping.

South Riverdale House owners like myself have lived a long time in South Riverdale and have invested their life savings in their house. We are a multi cultural neighborhood and have renovated and invested in our houses so it is now a beautiful family quiet neighborhood -an oasis from noisy downtown Toronto.

My house is 103 years old and I wish to preserve the heritage of this community and my house and not have it destroyed by a subway project. .

Leslieville has become a rejuvenated community with the influx of young families buying houses and renovating and has a growing

shopping area. New houses have also been built around Gerrard Ave and Dundas Ave and Logan Ave in the style of the old houses. This Ontario Line subway project will decimate Leslieville and South Riverdale neighborhood destroying homes and green areas and the original beauty and historical essence of these neighborhoods.

The plans show that they are not building this subway on a major street like Eglinton or Yonge Street but are plowing through a quiet residential area and destroying parks and green areas in their wake.

4. Noise Pollution is also a major factor !!

Beside the decimation of these historic neighborhoods and the loss of the green areas the Noise pollution from this overhead subway as well as construction would be unbearable. As I live at 226 Victor Ave which is 2 streets north of Carlaw and Gerrard Ave. I know that this loud subway noise would be intolerable and would be also detrimental to my emotional and physical health as well as many other residents in this area.

The vibration also would definitely be affecting the structure of the old houses such as mine around that area at Gerrard and Carlaw Ave .

5. Please NOTE: !We do not need a subway here In these neighborhoods .We already have very good transportation in this area

From my house, it is a 5 minute bus ride to the subway or a 15 minute walk to the Pape Subway or Chester Subway. They are streetcars on Gerrard and Queen, There are Buses on Pape, Carlaw and Dundas and Gerrard Ave

This area is not Etobicoke, Mississauga ,downtown Bloor and Bedford or King St Condo town. This is historic Riverdale and Leslieville where people walk and bike enjoy the green areas as a respite from the growing concrete of this city.

This is why people live in this area here ---There is no need for a subway. This project destroys the essence of our neighborhood.

6 SO _I ASK--Who is this subway project really serving ? Certainly not the residents in our neighbourhoods of Riverdale and Leslieville.

7. In my opinion this Bill 171 and Ontario Line Project has not been thought through properly and puts in jeopardy these historic and interesting neighborhoods of Toronto. As Riverdale and Leslieville already have a good transportation system with bus and streetcar the consequences of this subway line on our neighborhood coupled with the cost of building the line far outweigh the benefits and is therefore the money would be very badly spent. The money for this project especially now in the COVID Crisis would be better directed to fixing or updating the present subway system and finishing other subway projects-

BUT most importantly with the impact of the COVID PANDEMIC and its aftermath it is essential to preserve the green space in Toronto and all Ontario cities as more people will be working at home and not using the subways and trains as much. As they will be more people working from home there will be a greater need in the community for green space and parks and a hospitable living environment .

8. On a last note, I am somewhat disturbed that this meeting is taking place during the COVID Pandemic and therefore will not give the public a proper open forum to discuss this Bill and the issues of the Ontario Line .

I therefore hope that what I have said today will be properly considered. This is an issue which affects many lives.

Sincerely
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