

Crosstown LRT Project – Update, May 4, 2018

TDSB staff held a teleconference with Metrolinx on May 2 to discuss our concerns regarding this project. We have been advised that the construction of the sewer work at the west end will start on May 7, 2018; this is prior to the installation of the temporary barrier.

Due to this new information, TDSB staff made the following requests:

- that work won't start until the barrier is in place
- that work won't take place between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.
- implementation of noise mitigation strategies as needed

Metrolinx made it clear that work would not be stopped as that would push their schedule back and leave them open to potential delay claims from the contractor. In addition, Metrolinx reiterated that the work was not a risk to the school, and that the Ministry of Labour (MOL) had already reviewed the work site and, as there were no violations, they are free to continue with the work as scheduled. Metrolinx continues to maintain that the barrier is not required as the work is safe and it wouldn't provide the type of protection that parents believe it will. We disagree with their position and have decided to ask the City to help protect the public in the vicinity of the project by ensuring compliance with local by-laws. In addition, the fact that MOL visited the site only means they did not observe any violation, but that does not mean ongoing safety for the public.

However, Metrolinx did agree to:

- install the barrier as soon as possible, but indicated that it will not be in place prior the start of the next phase of construction which is starting on May 7. At this point, they are targeting May 9 for the barrier construction to take place.
- pay for the installation of Plexiglas to cover all the windows that overlook the construction site as an additional safety measure.
- investigate ways to mitigate any noise issues, if we demonstrate a valid concern.

TDSB approved the mitigation measures proposed by ECOH (risk management consultant), which include the installation of full time noise and dust monitoring equipment in the school. ECOH will provide weekly updates on observations and measurements and recommend additional mitigation measures when necessary.

The TDSB will continue to advocate for safety measures to be in place prior to the start of the sewer work and do our best to mitigate any concerns, if we cannot secure Metrolinx support.