



North Rosedale

RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

July 14, 2021

TO: **The Honourable Chrystia Freeland P.C. M.P.** – Deputy Prime Minister of Canada, Minister of Finance, and Member of Parliament, University – Rosedale

TO: **The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson M.P.** – Minister of Environment and Climate Change

TO: **The Honourable Doug Ford M.P.P.** – Premier of Ontario

TO: **His Worship John Tory** – Mayor, City of Toronto

TO: **Mister Mike Layton** – Councillor, City of Toronto, Ward 11 – University – Rosedale

RE: **Request for Federal Environmental Impact Assessment (FEIA) for:
The Proposed Don Valley Train Layover Facility (Metrolinx GO Expansion Program)**

The Request:

Toronto City Council adopted a motion regarding Metrolinx's proposed Don Valley Train Layover Facility at its meeting on Sept 30, Oct 1 and 2, 2020:

EX16.4: Metrolinx-City of Toronto Master Agreement for the GO Expansion Program.

City Council directs the City Manager and the Executive Director of the Transit Expansion Office to advise Metrolinx that the City strongly recommends Metrolinx undertake an Environmental Assessment & Impact Study; in consultation with the City, the General Manager of Parks Forestry and Recreation and the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority. This group will consider the possible impacts of this proposed facility on the Don Valley Park, its watershed, the implications for the City's Ravine Strategy, and a full range of alternative solutions and locations for this project (The Don Valley Layover Facility).

As you can see, The City of Toronto has requested information on the Facility's Environmental Impact!

As indicated in City Council's Motion, three key aspects are driving the need for a Federal Environmental Assessment:

- (a) The unsuitability of the facility for its described purpose.**
- (b) Its impact on the Don Valley ravine (Don Valley Park) and its watershed.**
- (c) The failure of Metrolinx to reveal the full range of alternative solutions and potential alternative locations as related to the Don Valley Layover Facility.**

The Project:

The Don Valley Train Layover Facility is one of four new layover facilities proposed under Metrolinx's New Tracks and Facilities TPAP. The proposed facilities provide a location for storage and light maintenance (including cleaning, garbage disposal, and sanitary sewage removal) for GO trains during off-peak periods.

The Location & Our Concern:

The estimated area of the layover site is 11 acres or 2.3 hectares (2.4%) of the size of the Lower Don Parklands (97.4 hectares). The current configuration locates facilities to the north of the Bloor Viaduct.

The History:

While the Don Valley was an early site of industrialization in Toronto (water & power), later it was also used by railways and the Don Valley Parkway. However, in the last 50 years, governments have recognized the need to protect the Don Valley, prevent development on the floodplain, and re-naturalize the Parklands. The placement of the Layover Facility in the Don Valley represents a complete reversal of this environmental direction. It amounts to a re-industrialization of the Valley, a bad precedent within the area itself for the future, not to mention a slippery slope for further expansion of the entire site for other development. Furthermore, this type of industrialization introduces a risk of contamination of the Don River, its watershed, and naturalized parkland loss. Like the Don Valley, Toronto's Ravines are gems that enhance our City with many ecological wonders and recreation opportunities for both its citizens and wildlife; unfortunately, they are also an extremely fragile resource!

This letter:

This is a direct request from our membership; to the **Federal, Provincial and Municipal Governments**, who each have the authority, the resources, and the mechanism to perform an Environmental Impact Assessment Study (EIA) and to do a proper environmental assessment of Metrolinx's proposed Don Valley Train Layover Facility sites.

It should also be noted that [FoNTRA](#) – **Federation of North Toronto Residents' Associations** – a large group comprising a dozen or more local Toronto Residents Associations, as well as significant environmental groups such as [Friends of the Don East](#), have **ALL** come out in support of the same Environmental Impact study, and opposition to this project as proposed!

We all understand Toronto needs to continue to grow to address our ever-increasing population, infrastructure and transit demands; however, we cannot do so at the expense of precious and ever-dwindling green space. So, we must continue to protect, grow and steward our forests, parks and ravine areas for the generations to come!

Respectfully submitted,

North Rosedale Residents Association
NorthRosedale.ca