

QTN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

QUEENSWAY TERRACE NORTH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

April 14, 2020

Kiewit-Eurovia-Vinci (KEV)
Councillor Theresa Kavanagh
Stage 2 LRT Project Team

Dear Oliver Kolouch,

On behalf of the Queensway Terrace North (QTN) Community Association, thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed berms and landscape plan for Connaught Park. The LRT system from Lincoln Fields to Pinecrest Station is a multi-million dollar piece of a billion dollar project with significant impacts for our community; your consultation process is critical to maximize the positive impacts while minimizing the negative ones. To be effective, more information about specific plans, diagrams that show results from the perspective of residents, and transparency in the process itself are essential.

We support retaining soil on-site and its use in the landscape plan. Since 2016, we have maintained that the creation of berms is essential. The design of the fly-over itself, the berms, and the landscaping requires more careful attention from the perspective of the residents who have to live with it forever. We are concerned that the landscape plans are being rushed to meet short-term needs. Your consultation process needs to be modified to address both short-term needs to retain soil and assure an appropriate long-term design.

The diagram you provided on the consultation website does not include the necessary details we require in order to provide informed and meaningful



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feedback. For example, the resolution of the image is too low to make out significant details such as the height of the berms as they step-up in planned height. The omission of diagrams illustrating how the enhancements improve drainage, sightlines, and sound buffering does not allow residents to understand the full context. In addition, a top down diagram which includes the LRT fly-over is frequently requested by our community. This information is critical in understanding the true impact on existing infrastructure such as the current and future multi-use pathways - plans that are being revisited in a review of connectivity studies, due to a lack of appropriate consultation.

We must be able to see how the berms will shield the community from visual intrusion and noise as trains navigate from Lincoln Fields to Queensview and Iris Station. As a community we have only seen conceptual drawings which lack sufficient information about the height along the corridor and design elements that can reduce the visual impact of this massive, tall structure in what is valuable green space. For example, we have been informed of the minimum height that a fly-over must be to cross the bike path but that is entirely different from providing information on the anticipated maximum height of the fly-over, including the catenary. Please consider adding a cross-sectional visualization in addition to the top-down drawing.

QTN residents are also concerned about the relationship between the berms and other elements of a full landscaping plan, such as the planned restoration and daylighting of Pinecrest Creek, improved connectivity to transit stations, long-standing drainage issues, and preserving the possibility to include community gardens.

Given the multiple parties involved, magnitude of the costs and community impact, we are unclear and concerned as to how feedback, consultation and approvals on detailed



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plans will proceed across the City of Ottawa and the National Capital Commission. Flyers were only distributed to immediate neighbours of Connaught Park; however, over 5000 individuals reside in the surrounding neighbourhoods and they will all be impacted by what appears to be a fast-moving, high risk design process that is fraught with incomplete information.

Your process does not define how the input you receive will be considered and whether you will ensure any revisions will be presented to the community before they are submitted to the NCC for approval. How can we have confidence that our input is understood, taken seriously and results in positive improvements?

As you are aware, many residents have already provided thoughtful feedback based on their experience living in our community. We look forward to your engaged responses to their questions as much as we do our own. Meaningful consultation is grounded in transparency and reciprocity - it does not happen unannounced.

We are asking that you:

1. Establish a direct contact with the QTN community association to ensure we are able to communicate to our members in a timely and appropriate way;
2. Provide adequate concepts which detail the aesthetic and practical improvements (sound and visual buffering, drainage) and do not omit critical details such as LRT infrastructure and connectivity plans; and
3. Modify your consultation process to allow for iterative, meaningful community input in order to deliver on the NCC's FLUDA obligation for appropriate land use and design excellence.



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While we recognize that the COVID-19 pandemic has required revisiting traditional interactions, we reaffirm our commitment to this project and to working with you. We are willing to meet with you to discuss these matters in more detail to arrive at the best possible plan.

We look forward to your response,

Sincerely,

Simon Partridge, President

Kathy Vandergrift, Vice-President & Chair of the QTN Planning Committee

on behalf of the

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