



Impact Assessment  
Agency of Canada

Ontario Region  
600-55 York Street  
Toronto ON M5J 1R7

Agence d'évaluation  
d'impact du Canada

Région de l'Ontario  
600-55 rue York  
Toronto ON M5J 1R7

February 2, 2021

Sent by email

Derrick Toigo  
Executive Director  
Toronto City Hall  
24th Floor E., 100 Queen Street West  
Toronto ON M5H 2N2  
Derrick.Toigo@toronto.ca

Dear Derrick Toigo:

**Subject: Designation Request for the Proposed Ontario Line Project under the  
*Impact Assessment Act***

On January 19, 2021, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change (the Minister) received a request to designate the proposed Ontario Line Project (the Project) under subsection 9(1) of the *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA).  
The designation request is enclosed (Enclosure 1).

**The Proposed Project**

The Project would be located in Toronto, Ontario. The Ontario Line Project includes a new 16-kilometre transit line in Toronto that would connect the Ontario Science Centre in the northeast to Exhibition/Ontario Place in the southwest. Over half of the route would run through underground tunnels and the remainder would run along elevated and at-grade rail corridor sections. Fifteen stations are proposed, with numerous connections to the broader transit network. The Project also includes ancillary facilities used to support or facilitate the transportation of passengers by rail and ancillary works needed to establish, construct, operate, change or retire those facilities or services<sup>1</sup>. The Project as proposed is not a designated project as described in the *Physical Activities Regulations*. The impact assessment process under IAA only applies to designated projects.

Further information on the Project can be found on the Proponent's website (<http://www.metrolinx.com/en/greaterregion/projects/ontario-line.aspx>) including in their Final Environmental Conditions Report (<https://www.metrolinxengage.com/en/content/ontario-line-final-environmental-conditions-report>).

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<sup>1</sup> Sources: Infrastructure Ontario and Ontario Regulation 341/20: Ontario Line Project

### Designation Request

Under subsection 9(1) of IAA the Minister may, by order, designate a physical activity that is not prescribed in the *Physical Activities Regulations*. The Minister may do this, if, in the Minister's opinion, the physical activity may cause adverse effects within federal jurisdiction or adverse direct or incidental effects (resulting from federal decisions, including funding), or public concerns related to those effects warrant the designation. In accordance with subsection 9(4) of IAA, it is expected that the Minister will respond, with reasons, to the request by April 19, 2021.

The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) will review information about the Project; any concerns expressed from the public and Indigenous groups and local government; and expert advice from federal authorities and input from provincial ministries in order to inform the Minister on whether the Project should be designated. If designated, to proceed with the Project Metrolinx would be required to submit an Initial Project Description, thereby commencing the planning phase of IAA. In that case, the planning phase would include the Agency determining whether a federal impact assessment is required.

Additional information regarding the process for designation requests can be found at the following link: <https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/policy-guidance/designating-project-impact-assessment-act.html>.

### Invite for Input

The Agency notes that both the provincial regulatory development process for *Ontario Regulation 341/20: Ontario Line Project* and the project assessment process by Metrolinx has included consultation with the City of Toronto.

However, to support the Agency's analysis of the designation request, we wish to invite the views and input from representatives of the City of Toronto.

In particular, the Agency would like to confirm whether any City of Toronto bylaws or requirements apply to the Project.

- If applicable, would any of those involve consultation with the public and Indigenous groups?
- If applicable, what environmental, social, economic or health issues would those bylaws or requirements address?

In general, please confirm whether Metrolinx is addressing interests and issues of importance to the City of Toronto. The Agency will be pleased to receive any other comments. Given the 90-day legislated timeline for the Minister to make a decision, your response is requested by **February 17, 2021**.

In the coming days, a Registry page for the Project will be available on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry Internet site at <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations>. Please use the *submit a comment* feature on the Project's Registry page to provide the Agency with information regarding this file. Letters can be uploaded using this feature. If you have difficulties with this feature, immediately contact Chiara Calabrese, Project Manager, at [chiara.calabrese@canada.ca](mailto:chiara.calabrese@canada.ca) or 416-476-8915.

**Important Note:** All records produced, collected or received in relation to the designation request process – unless prohibited under the *Access to Information Act* or *Privacy Act* – will be considered public and may be released. Should you wish to provide any comments or documents that contain confidential or sensitive information that you believe should be protected from release to the public, please contact the Agency before submitting the information. Information marked as confidential will not be accepted without prior contact made with the Agency.

If you have any questions regarding the designation process or the response sheet, please do not hesitate to contact Chiara Calabrese by telephone or email.

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

Anjala Puvananathan  
Regional Director

Enclosure: Designation request letter from Save Jimmie Simpson! And Lakeshore  
East Community Advisory Committee

c.c.: Faisal Khan, GO Expansion Program, Director  
Julia Murnaghan, GO Expansion Program, Senior Project Manager