



**PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE AND
WORKS COMMITTEE
DECISION DOCUMENT
MEETING 1**

To be considered by City Council on September 28, 2004

Date of Meeting:	Monday, September 13, 2004	Enquiry:	Patsy Morris
Time:	9:00 a.m.		Committee Administrator
Location:	Council Chambers City Hall 100 Queen Street West Toronto, Ontario		416-392-9151 pmorris@toronto.ca

The Decision Document is for preliminary reference purposes only. Please refer to the Committee's Report to City Council or to the minutes for the official record.

How to Read the Decision Document:

- *recommendations of the Committee to City Council are in bold type after the item heading;*
- *action taken by the Committee on its own authority does not require Council's approval – it is reported to Council for information, and is listed in the Decision Document in bold type under the heading "Action taken by the Committee"; and*
- *Declarations of Interest, if any, appear at the end of an item.*

Communications/Reports:

1. **St. Clair Avenue West Transit Improvements Environmental Assessment:
Yonge Street to Gunns Road (just West of Keele Street)
(St. Paul's, Davenport, York South-Weston)**

Recommendations:

The Planning and Transportation Committee and the Works Committee recommend to the Policy and Finance Committee that City Council approve the following:

- (I) **the adoption of Recommendation (A) of the Toronto Transit Commission in the communication (September 13, 2004) from the General Secretary, Toronto Transit Commission, subject to the following amendments to the staff recommendations in the Recommendations Section of the report (August 31, 2004) from the Commissioner of Urban Development Services, the Acting Commissioner of Works**

and Emergency Services, the Chief General Manager, Toronto Transit Commission, and the President, Toronto Parking Authority:

(i) amending Recommendation (1) to read as follows:

“(1) the Preferred Design Concept identified through the St Clair Avenue West Transit Improvements Class Environmental Assessment study process, the principal elements of which are as follows, be approved”;

(ii) amending Recommendation (4) by adding the following words:

“(4) and that the Consultation Group participate in all streetscape enhancements, urban design decisions, streetcar shelter and platform design and public art decisions, and that this group include, and be co-chaired by the four local City Councillors and report to the Commissioner of Urban Development Services;”;

(iii) amending recommendation (7) by adding the following words:

“(7) and that any trees lost as a result of sidewalk cuts or other road widening be replaced with appropriate sized trees in the immediate vicinity, and that the overall number of trees be substantially increased on St. Clair Avenue West, and that the placement of these new trees be approved by the local BIA (or Councillor in the absence of a BIA);”

so that the recommendations now read as follows:

“It is recommended that:

(1) the Preferred Design Concept identified through the St. Clair Avenue West Transit Improvements Class Environmental Assessment study process, the principal elements of which are as follows, be approved;

(i) two centre lanes reserved for exclusive use by streetcars (and emergency vehicles) protected by a raised, but mountable, trackbed;

(ii) during peak periods, two general purpose traffic lanes in each direction, located on either side of the streetcar tracks, providing sufficient capacity to accommodate all current peak period traffic volumes on St. Clair;

(iii) during off-peak periods and weekends, one general purpose traffic lane and one parking lane in each direction providing sufficient capacity to accommodate all current off-peak and weekend traffic volumes;

- (iv) **left-turns lanes at signalized intersections to permit left-turn and U-turns on their own exclusive signal phases;**
 - (v) **on-street parking on both sides of the street during off-peak times on weekdays and at all times on weekends will be permitted in the majority of the curb lanes, and new off-street parking, resulting in a net increase in the parking supply along St. Clair Avenue West; and**
 - (vi) **enhanced streetscape, urban design, streetcar shelters and platforms, public art and safety features in the overall design and implementation of the transit improvement project;**
- (2) **authority be granted to the Commissioner of Urban Development Services to file the Draft Environmental Study Report (ESR) for the St. Clair Avenue West Transit Improvements Environmental Assessment with the City Clerk and to give notification of such filing in accordance with the requirements of the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment process;**
 - (3) **authority be granted to commence negotiations to acquire the property interests and initiate expropriations if required, to implement the Preferred Design Concept for the St. Clair Avenue West Transit Improvements Environmental Assessment;**
 - (4) **a community design consultation group consisting of representatives of the St. Clair Avenue West business community, residents and other stakeholders be established to work with the project team to provide input during the detailed process, and that the Consultation Group participate in all streetscape enhancements, urban design decisions, streetcar shelter and platform design and public art decisions, and that this group include, and be co-chaired by the four local City Councillors and report to the Commissioner of Urban Development Services;”;**
 - (5) **additional funding be provided in the 2005-2009 TTC and City capital budgets to undertake the enhanced streetscape, urban design, and public art elements associated with the finalized design concept;**
 - (6) **the Commissioner of Urban Development Services develop a proposal to engage the local arts communities to provide input on the development of a public art program and themes for St. Clair Avenue West, and report back to Council by December 2004 for approval;**
 - (7) **the Commissioner of Economic Development, Culture and Tourism, in consultation with the City’s Urban Design section, the City’s Tree Advocate and project design team, develop a detailed implementation plan for landscaping along St. Clair Avenue West, with particular attention to creating viable tree plantings and associate attractive tree-pit containers,**

where possible, and report back to Council upon completion of the detailed design; and that any trees lost as a result of sidewalk cuts or other road widening be replaced with appropriate sized trees in the immediate vicinity, and that the overall number of trees be substantially increased on St. Clair Avenue West, and that the placement of these new trees be approved by the local BIA (or Councillor in the absence of a BIA);”

- (8) that approval be granted in principle for the traffic bylaws required to implement this project as summarized in Appendix A; and
 - (9) the appropriate City Officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary actions to give effect thereto.”;
- (II) that a “Beautiful St. Clair Committee” be established in order to facilitate staff recommendations (6) and (7) in the report (August 31, 2004) from the Commissioner of Urban Development Services, the Acting Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services, the Chief General Manager, Toronto Transit Commission, and the President, Toronto Parking Authority:
 - (III) that Economic Development’s Small Business and Local Partnership staff, working with local BIAs, support a “Shop St. Clair” campaign during the construction period; and that City departments waive fees related to hosting community festivals on St. Clair Avenue West from 2005 to 2007 (the construction period and immediately thereafter);
 - (IV) that businesses along all of St. Clair Avenue be entitled to apply for the Commercial Façade program, starting in 2005 and that Economic Development staff forward a budget request to this end through the 2005 Capital Budget process;
 - (V) that Transportation staff be directed to conduct polling on all Ward 21 local streets adjacent to St. Clair Avenue West and where signalized intersections exist to determine street support for speed humps, such polling to include residents two blocks north and south of St. Clair Avenue West;
 - (VI) that the preservation of the current sidewalk width on St. Clair Avenue West be made a key guiding principle in the detailed design work to be undertaken; and that the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services be requested to investigate further possibilities to minimize and eliminate cuts to sidewalks and to add sidewalk space where possible;
 - (VII) that Council request that the Toronto Parking Authority, in order to allocate up to \$6 M in 2005-2006 for necessary replacement parking to address the parking deficiencies identified in the Hillcrest Village BIA, St. Clair West BIA and Corso Italia BIA areas specifically, be requested to amend its capital budget submission to that effect;

- (VIII) that Council request Toronto Hydro to move all the hydro lines under ground in the areas along St. Clair Avenue West where conduits and transformer vaults have already been installed, as part of this project;**
- (IX) that the project retain and/or replace a full inventory of street furniture and improvements of any kind paid for by BIA funds, affected by this proposal;**
- (X) that the Commissioner of Urban Development Services be requested to consider, as part of the St. Clair Avenue Study being conducted in 2005, the relocation of the Landsdowne Loop to Caledonia and the connection to the Bradford Line GO Station; and that the Mayor, the Chair of Toronto Transit Commission and the local Councillor be requested to meet with GO Transit to review the feasibility of the connection; and**
- (XI) that the Toronto Transit Commission be requested to consider:**
 - (i) increasing the frequency of stops and streetcars on St. Clair Avenue West; and**
 - (ii) the possibility of converting short turn loops into parking lots to support the commercial district of St. Clair Avenue West.**

Action taken by the Committee:

The Planning and Transportation Committee:

- (1) requested the Acting Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services to report directly to Council for its meeting on September 28, 2004 on:**
 - (i) the possibility of incorporating a bicycle lane on either the transit or vehicular Right of Ways of St. Clair Avenue West; and**
 - (ii) the possibility of using the “Barnes Dance” signal operation for pedestrians to cross in any direction when all vehicular traffic is stopped in the St. Clair Avenue West proposal; and**
- (2) requested the Acting Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services and the Commissioner of Urban Development Services to submit a report directly to Council revising Alternative 6 to guarantee that any trees to be removed will be replaced with a tree of a comparable size and no pedestrian space be reduced.**

Report (August 31, 2004) from the Commissioner of Urban Development Services, the Acting Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services, the Chief General Manager, Toronto Transit Commission, and the President, Toronto Parking Authority, providing the results of the St. Clair Avenue West Transit Improvements Class Environmental

Assessment (EA) study, request approval of the Preferred Design Concept, and direct staff to continue with the Environmental Assessment approvals process.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

- (1) the Preferred Design Concept identified through the St Clair Avenue West Transit Improvements Class Environmental Assessment study process, as described in this report be approved, the principal elements of which are:
 - (i) two centre lanes reserved for exclusive use by streetcars (and emergency vehicles) protected by a raised, but mountable, trackbed;
 - (ii) during peak periods, two general purpose traffic lanes in each direction, located on either side of the streetcar tracks, providing sufficient capacity to accommodate all current peak period traffic volumes on St. Clair;
 - (iii) during off-peak periods and weekends, one general purpose traffic lane and one parking lane in each direction providing sufficient capacity to accommodate all current off-peak and weekend traffic volumes;
 - (iv) left-turns lanes at signalized intersections to permit left-turn and U-turns on their own exclusive signal phases;
 - (v) on-street parking on both sides of the street during off-peak times on weekdays and at all times on weekends will be permitted in the majority of the curb lanes, and new off-street parking, resulting in a net increase in the parking supply along St. Clair Avenue West; and
 - (vi) enhanced streetscape, urban design, streetcar shelters and platforms, public art and safety features in the overall design and implementation of the transit improvement project;
- (2) authority be granted to the Commissioner of Urban Development Services to file the Draft Environmental Study Report (ESR) for the St. Clair Avenue West Transit Improvements Environmental Assessment with the City Clerk and to give notification of such filing in accordance with the requirements of the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment process;
- (3) authority be granted to commence negotiations to acquire the property interests and initiate expropriations if required, to implement the Preferred Design Concept for the St. Clair Avenue West Transit Improvements Environmental Assessment;
- (4) a community design consultation group consisting of representatives of the St. Clair Avenue West business community, residents and other stakeholders be

established to work with the project team to provide input during the detailed process;

- (5) additional funding be provided in the 2005-2009 TTC and City capital budgets to undertake the enhanced streetscape, urban design, and public art elements associated with the finalized design concept;
 - (6) the Commissioner of Urban Development Services develop a proposal to engage the local arts communities to provide input on the development of a public art program and themes for St. Clair Avenue West, and report back to Council by December 2004 for approval;
 - (7) the Commissioner of Economic Development, Culture and Tourism, in consultation with the City's Urban Design section, the City's Tree Advocate and project design team, develop a detailed implementation plan for landscaping along St. Clair Avenue West, with particular attention to creating viable tree plantings and associate attractive tree-pit containers, where possible, and report back to Council upon completion of the detailed design;
 - (8) that approval be granted in principle for the traffic bylaws required to implement this project as summarized in Appendix A; and
 - (9) the appropriate City Officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary actions to give effect thereto.
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- 1(a)** Communication (July 28, 2004) from Ida Vivacqua, on behalf of concerned residents and business owners of St. Clair Avenue West, providing comments about this matter.
 - 1(b)** Communication (July 14, 2004) from Ida Vivacqua providing comments about this matter.
 - 1(c)** Communication (September 1, 2004) from Wendy Strickland providing comments about this matter.
 - 1(d)** Communication (August 31, 2004) from Linda Genova providing comments about this matter.
 - 1(e)** E-mail communication (September 2, 2004) from J.P. Beaudry, President, The WestClair, MTCC #778, providing comments about this matter.