

Don Mills / Leslie Street LRT Project

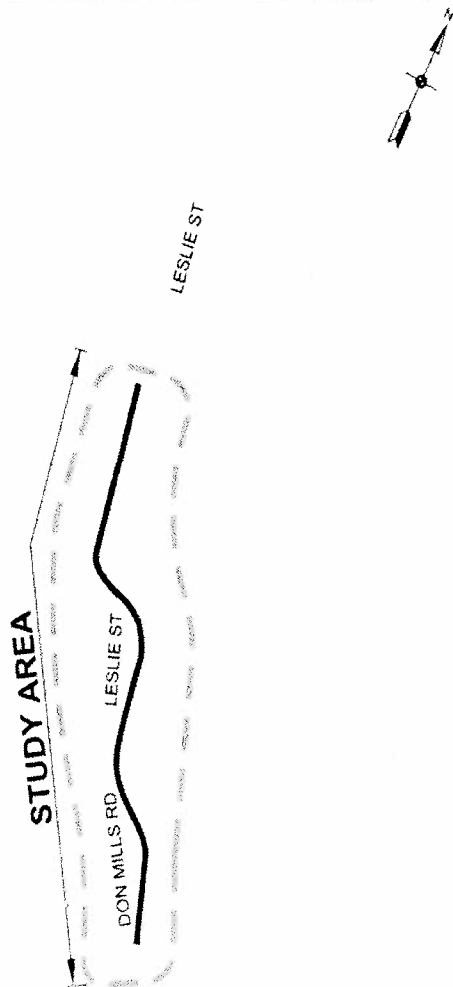
Markham Development Services Committee 09.15.2009



vivanext

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What are we studying?



We are undertaking a transit planning and assessment study for light rail transit on Don Mills Road and Leslie Street from Steeles Avenue to Highway 7.

- **Phase 1** will define the specific details of the LRT system.
- **Phase 2** will assess the environmental effects and mitigation for the preferred transit project.

What is happening north of
Highway 7?

Sustainable Travel Choices

A *Sustainable Travel Choices* study is currently being undertaken for the area bounded by Yonge Street, York-Durham Line, Major Mackenzie Drive and Steeles Avenue, which is expected to be complete in Fall 2010.

The Class EA for road improvements on Leslie Street from Highway 7 to Major Mackenzie is on hold pending the outcome of the Sustainable Travel Choices Study.

First Round of Consultation Summary of Dates

York Region Rapid Transit
Committee



Municipal Staff Workshop with
Markham and Richmond Hill



Richmond Hill Committee of
the Whole



Markham Development
Services Committee



Technical Agency Meeting



Public Consultation Centre
(drop-in centre with presentation)



17th

21st

15th

Feb 4,
2009

May 8,
2009

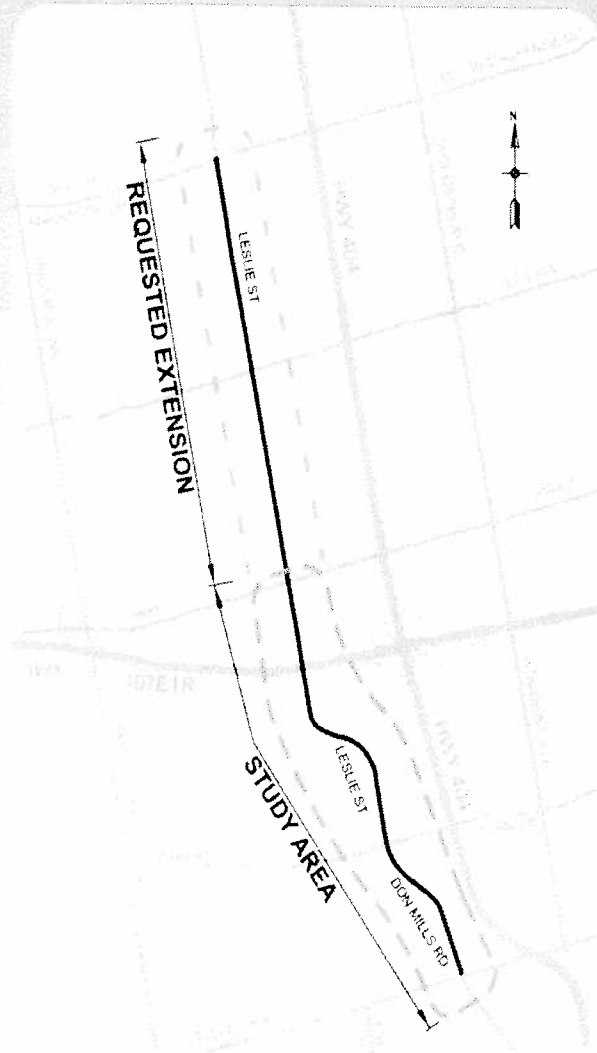
May 19,
2009

May 26,
2009

June 10,
2009

Sept
2009

What we heard from Markham and Richmond Hill Council in May 2009



Feedback received at both local committees was positive toward the Leslie Street and Don Mills LRT and there was general support for rapid transit implementation in the earliest timeframe.

Motions were received from the Town of Markham and the Town of Richmond Hill to extend the LRT study limit north of Highway 7 to Major Mackenzie Drive.

This request was acknowledged and is currently under review.

Study Area Limit Alternatives

Alternative 1: Proceed with the LRT study from Steeles Avenue to Highway 7

Advantages:

- ✓ Project can proceed concurrent with Toronto's LRT study south of Steeles Avenue
- ✓ Provides flexibility for comprehensive transit network and technology planning for all transit corridors north of Highway 7
- ✓ Consistent with the Regions TMP and Metrolinx RTP
- ✓ Provides a key north-south connection between the TTC Subway network and the Highway 7 Rapidway
- ✓ Does not preclude further extension of the LRT north of Highway 7

Study Area Limit Alternatives

Alternative 2 - Extend the study area limits to Major Mackenzie Drive

Advantages:

- ✓ Provides for comprehensive transit planning for the entire Leslie Street corridor
- ✓ Consistent with request from Markham and Richmond Hill Council
- ✓ Provides a key north-south connection between the TTC Subway network and the growth areas north of Highway 7

First Round of Consultation Key Objectives

- Introduce the project in the context of the overall planned transit network (vivaNext, Metrolinx and Toronto Transit City);
- Describe the study process including the initial planning phase to define the transit project, followed by the 6-month transit assessment process;
- Seek input on corridor constraints and opportunities as well as community issues and concerns;
- Seek input on the consultation plan and opportunities to get involved; and
- Identify next steps.

First Public Consultation Centre

- ① 156 people signed the PCC meeting register;
- ① 58 public comment sheets were received;
- ① Public input was recorded following the presentation during the question period; and
- ① A number of interactive display boards where people were encouraged to provide detailed comments directly onto the PCC boards.

What we heard at the First Public Consultation Centre

The following is a summary of the most common issues raised:

- The project team should consider an alternative route (18 respondents), particularly Highway 404 (5 respondents) or Woodbine Avenue (9 respondents);
- Respondents do not support LRT on Leslie Street (22);
- Consultation and/or meeting notice was inadequate (10 respondents);
- Concerns with existing transit ridership being too low (8 respondents);
- Concerns with noise and vibration impacts (6 respondents);

What we heard at the First Public Consultation Centre (con'd)

- Concerned with the effect of the project on their property values (5);
- Concerns regarding the effective use of public funds (5 respondents);
- Respondents (4) would like to see LRT in the corridor; and
- Traffic congestion and safety is a concern for residents (6).

What we learned from the First Public Consultation Centre

- The PCC material presented to the public on June 10 was focused mainly on introducing the project from a ***regional and inter-regional perspective***.
- It is clear from the feedback we received that the team needs to demonstrate the benefits of the project from a ***local perspective***.
- The follow-on public engagement will be designed to present the benefits of the project to the local community and address local concerns.

Moving Forward

- Regional staff will be reporting to the York Region Council and York Rapid Transit Board in the fall of 2009 with a detailed discussion of options and a recommendation with regard to the request to extend the study area limits to Major Mackenzie Drive, in consideration of input we receive from Markham and Richmond Hill Councils.

Moving forward with this project, the team requests confirmation on the following two items:

- Town of Markham support and commitment to continue with this project; and
- If yes, confirm if the motion previously received to extend the LRT study limit north of Highway 7 to Major Mackenzie Drive is supported.*

Both of the above items require a motion to take back to Regional Council.

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?