

January 17, 2011

Bruce McCuaig, President & CEO
Metrolinx, 20 Bay Street, Suite 600 Toronto, ON M5J 2W3
Email: carrie.sterling@metrolinx.com

Dear Mr. McCuaig,

Re: ARL station in Liberty Village

The Liberty Village BIA (LVBIA) attended the November Smart Commute awards and we gratefully received one of the Employer of the Year 2010 Awards. We were recognized by Metrolinx for “reducing parking and congestion and enhancing the economic health and wealth of the Liberty Village business community”. The Liberty Village BIA provides our members with reduced fare TTC passes, are installing infrastructure to support cycling, and we have greened our streets to make them more pedestrian friendly.

Another opportunity to improve the economic health of the greater Liberty Village community is available to us now, and that is to include a Liberty Village station along the Union to Pearson air-rail link (ARL).

A direct connection to the airport will serve as an important resource for this west-end Toronto community which has seen much economic development in the last 10 years. Liberty Village is a designated employment district with over 6000 employees working in more than 500 businesses. King Liberty Village is a new and rapidly growing residential community, home now to an estimated 10,000 people and with more to arrive. Exhibition Place continues as a major event destination, and includes the new 160,000 square foot Allstream convention centre, and a soon to be completed hotel. Lamport Stadium and BMO field are both located here and will very likely be venues for the upcoming Pan Am Games. There are plans for the West-rail cycling path to connect with Liberty Village within the next year. Liberty Village and Exhibition Place are active business and tourist destinations. Liberty Village and Exhibition Place are both partners in Metrolinx’s SMART Commute program. A Liberty Village ARL station would give users an option to off load in west Toronto, in advance of the more congested Union Station stop.

We were disappointed that a GO station in Liberty Village could not be accommodated (for technical reasons) as part of the GO Georgetown expansion. However, we understand that the ARL is a shorter two-car-length train that can fit between King Street and where the track lowers towards Strachan Avenue.

Unless a local station is built to serve this west Toronto community, ARL users will be unrealized by Metrolinx. We feel strongly that Liberty Villagers, along with our neighbours, will take advantage and will shift over to use the ARL if it is accessible to them in Liberty Village. It would be a convenient and cost effective option to and from Pearson airport for business and personal travel.

The Liberty Village BIA is certain that Metrolinx will agree that this important community needs to be serviced by the ARL. We look forward to discussing further with you this commuting improvement that both Metrolinx and the greater Liberty Village community will benefit from.

Sincerely,

Lynn Clay, Executive Director, Liberty Village BIA
416-516-1723 lynnclay@lvbia.com

cc:

Stephen Lipkus, Executive Director, Georgetown South Project, Corporate Infrastructure Office, GO Transit
20 Bay Street, Suite 600, Toronto, ON M5J 2W3 via email: stephen.lipkus@gotransit.com;

cc cont'd:

John Brodhead, Vice-President, Strategy and Communications, Metrolinx, 20 Bay Street, Suite 600, Toronto, ON M5J 2W3 via email: john.brodhead@metrolinx.com ;

Robyn Connelly, Community Relations, Georgetown South Project, robyn.connelly@metrolinx.com;

Gord Perks, Councillor, Ward 14 Parkdale-High Park, City Hall, councillor_perks@toronto.ca ;

Mike Layton, Councillor, Ward 19 Trinity-Spadina, City Hall, councillor_layton@toronto.ca ;

Dianne Young, CEO & General Manager, Exhibition Place, dyoung@explace.on.ca ;

Marco Iacampo, Smart Commute Toronto-Central, Toronto Environment Office, City Hall
miacamp@toronto.ca

ABOUT LIBERTY VILLAGE

Liberty Village is a former industrial and manufacturing area that is now a talented centre of entrepreneurship, arts and creativity. Many of Toronto's leading creative thinkers and companies in high tech, arts, design, music and entertainment and multi media businesses are located in this unique mixed use community, at King and Dufferin.

One of more than 70 Business Improvement Areas (BIAs) across Toronto, the Liberty Village BIA works on behalf of, and supports, the areas 500 businesses and 7000 employees, to create a safe, attractive community environment, to promote economic development within the BIA boundaries and to represent the area to all levels of government and to neighbouring community groups.

Liberty Village BIA - Championing and Nurturing a Creative and Vibrant Community www.lvbias.com www.libertyvillage.ca
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