



STATEMENT

CSST East-West Tunnel Trucking Options Consultation

Ottawa, Ontario, February 27, 2017

The New Edinburgh community supports the CSST project as a whole and recognizes that the neighbourhood will need to “take one for the team” due to the location of the sewer infrastructure. However, as the community has on numerous occasions in the past few months made clear, we do not accept that all of the muck from the entire length of the East-West tunnel must be hauled out through a residential area with no clear path to a truck route, particularly given that there are viable alternatives.

The presentation “for community input” of a series of equally unacceptable trucking options at the Open House on February 22 and at this late stage in the project planning was problematic at best. The New Edinburgh Community Alliance (NECA) continues to receive a great deal of feedback from community members about the very flawed process that has been undertaken for this project.

Had the City completed an appropriate consultation process that included residents who would be most affected by the project at the time when critical decisions were being made, it would have been in a better position to consider the significant impact to human health and safety and make the right choices with respect to the project; this is particularly true as it relates to the decision regarding trucking routes for the main extraction mucking activity.

As it stands, the decision to locate an intensive trucking operation in the middle of a densely-populated, heritage area with small residential streets with little or no ability to handle or absorb the intensive trucking activity does not make good sense. The proposed location is directly adjacent to a children’s playground, a stone’s throw from recreational facilities and a dog park, and within blocks of several schools and multiple

seniors' residences. What could possibly go wrong? That is exactly what residents are worried about. We do not want to find out a year from now that anyone has been injured or worse, and we did not do everything we could to encourage the City to do the right thing and avoid a foreseeable calamity.

The decision to extract all of the tunneling debris from Stanley Park and truck it out through narrow residential streets is even less understandable in light of the fact that there are viable alternatives – either by moving to a location that is not as densely populated and that has direct access to commercial transportation infrastructure, or other means to move the muck out of the area while also minimizing the impact to human health and safety and the local environment.

The February 22 Open House consultation did provide a welcome opportunity for residents to obtain more detailed information and to express their numerous concerns with respect to the project as a whole and in particular the pre-vetted trucking options. However, there are concerns that an attempt may be made to use the input received to validate a particular option. To be clear, the residents of New Edinburgh have been unwavering in asserting that none of the options that include trucking through small, neighbourhood streets or that would decimate the length of the park along the Rideau River are acceptable.

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