

**From:** KARIN IRELAND  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 3, 2021 2:37 PM  
**To:** Regional Clerk <[ClerkGeneralLine@york.ca](mailto:ClerkGeneralLine@york.ca)>  
**Subject:** YORK SUBWAY NORTH EXTENSION

Dear Council members

My husband and I have lived in the Royal Orchard COMMUNITY for 48 years. During that time we have followed all the rules, paid our taxes and put down deep community roots. Like many others I was surprised, upset, appalled and VERY, VERY ANGRY when Metrolinx announced, without prior consultation, it would be running the YONGE St. subway under our homes (Option 3)! The route for 20 years had been under its namesake, Yonge Street. Now it wants to accommodate thousands of people who don't live here yet in buildings that don't exist yet at the expense of long term residents and a beautiful, vibrant, peaceful, friendly area of hundreds of homes! Markham and Vaughan councils have both rejected "Option 3" and we are imploring the Regional Council to support the voices of the people, your voters.

Please consider the following: -

1. Based on Metrolinx's own analysis **Option 1** (under Yonge Street) -

(a) delivers more new riders

(b) diverts more cars off the road

(c) reduces more greenhouse emissions than Option 3

2. Metrolinx admits it has never before tunneled under a **large, diverse residential community with 3 schools** as well as hundreds of homes. How well can students learn with noise and vibration from the **390 proposed trains a day**? We are to be GUINEA PIGS!!!

3. Option 3 is high risk with low value.

4. When Federal funds were allocated to the subway project there were a number of conditions. One was that the subway **must go through high density areas**. Our RESIDENTIAL community is NOT HIGH DENSITY. Another condition was "inclusive community consultation". There was no consultation prior to Metrolinx's announcement and the community meetings basically stated what they wanted to do and tried to re-assure us with vague promises of mitigation. Basically the meetings were a paternalistic pat on our heads and a "don't worry, trust us approach".

5. Metrolinx promises mitigation around the very concerning problems of noise and vibration. I assume that mitigation efforts would be the same ones as those used on the recently completed Spadina extension terminating at Jane St. and Hwy. 7. Although Metrolinx's site claims no problems in a lecture hall on York University campus, the

students in a nearby residence complain that they hear and feel every train. If Metrolinx is using older mitigation I hope it doesn't lead to a total collapse of the ground as happened in Cologne, Germany, where 3 buildings were demolished and 2 people died.

At our recent community rally September 27th, held beside the drilling rigs on a small residential street, the following Federal, Provincial and Markham leaders had this to say.

**Peter Kent**, former M.P. - "...this is a project of our generation, a project of the century really" ... "This is a one time chance to do the right thing to build this subway properly" ...

**Melissa Lantsman**, M.P. - "...as your M.P. I will have a voice. I will have a seat at the table" ... "It's going under your homes and it's absolutely not acceptable and **it should stay on Yonge Street**... " we will change it" ... "I will continue working for you and I will continue to lobby on your behalf"

**September 13/21 joint statement by Peter Kent and Melissa Lantsman** - "The proposed Option 3 does not adequately address the needs or desires of our community ... "We strongly urge Metrolinx to abandon this ill-thought out cost- saving option that would negatively impact Thornhill's historical village and immediately revert to the original plan with stops along Yonge Street."

**Gila Martow**, M.P.P. " Why not on Yonge Street ... it is obvious to a child ...if you don't have to go under homes or buildings it's cheaper, it's less dangerous, it's less intrusive, less of an environmental concern"

**Keith Irish**, Ward 1 Councillor - regarding the drilling that started in our community in September 2021 - " In the middle of July, the Minister of Transportation, Caroline Mulroney, issued a press release ... that said more or less "we are looking at refining the alignment to reduce the impact on existing communities." Councillor Irish's reply "If that's the case, why not wait until we figure out what that is, **before** you do this (drilling).

**Keep the Subway on Yonge Committee** "We believe

- There is NO rationale to build a subway line through the heart of a single-family neighbourhood, tunneling under dozens of homes.

- NO GUARANTEE the ongoing mitigation suggested by Metrolinx to keep homes safe and residents comfortable will be delivered (too expensive or impossible to achieve?)

- **Option 3 is all pain and no gain for Royal Orchard**

  - \* years of noise/vibration/tremors/possible property damage

  - \* hundreds of homes - thousands of residents affected

\* possible negative environmental impacts

The current plan will devastate our Thornhill neighbourhood and could be a very costly mistake.

Many of you live far away from our area and may feel this is not your problem. But think about this. What Metrolinx is doing to our area may happen in your area in the future. Please support our desperate need to **stop Option 3** now and we will support you as needed in the future.

Thank you.

Karin Ireland