



STATEMENT

CSST Noise Barrier “Consultations”

Ottawa, Ontario, September 26, 2017

New Edinburgh residents, and particularly those most impacted by the noise, dust and vibration of the City’s Combined Sewage Storage Tunnel (CSST) project, are running out of patience. The latest cause for consternation is the not-so-small matter of a promised 5-metre noise barrier at the site where ear-splitting hoe-ramming occurs just outside the front doors of residential homes (at Queen Victoria and River Lane).

In December 2016, based on the projected noise levels at the site that was to be the noisiest of the CSST construction sites, the City proposed a 5-metre wall. This barrier was required, in the City’s judgement, in order to provide the appropriate noise mitigation to safeguard residents.

Since then however, things have gone seriously awry. After local residents questioned the validity of the contractor-provided noise control plan, the City admitted, based on revised data, that the noise levels will be higher than originally projected – about ten times higher. Now the community discovers that to put in the proposed 5-metre wall will cause even more noise over an extended period of time – effectively the “cure will be worse than the disease.” Yet, despite these revelations, residents were willing to try to work with the City to find an appropriate solution. A consultation was requested where clear, relevant and complete information on the possible solutions would be provided as a basis for discussion and community input.

As has happened consistently throughout the project planning for the CSST project, the promised consultation has morphed into yet another information “open house”. It is no wonder that residents are opting to “down tools” and to not participate in the City’s proposed “drop-in information session”, set for Thursday, September 28.

According to New Edinburgh Community Alliance President Cindy Parkanyi, residents are frustrated and angry. “I am extremely disappointed by the City’s lack of understanding of the concepts of engagement and consultation. The City’s own Public Engagement Strategy is very clear on what it all means.”

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