



Office of the President & Chief Executive Officer

Phil Verster
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June 10, 2020

His Worship Tom Mrakas
Office of the Mayor
100 John West Way, Box 1000
Aurora, ON L4G 6J1

Dear Mayor Mrakas,

RE: Cousins Drive Crossing

Thank you for your letter dated May 13, 2020 regarding a new crossing at Cousins Drive, which is approximately mile 29.48 on the Newmarket Subdivision. I appreciate the opportunity to respond.

As I shared at our meeting at the beginning of this year, we remain committed to collaborating with the Town of Aurora to deliver exceptional transit in the region.

As you noted, safety is critical to everything we do. Nothing we plan or do can compromise safety. Our tracks and infrastructure are inspected twice-weekly per Transport Canada regulations for any signs of degradation or trespassing.

From our regular inspections, observations and safety reporting, we have not noted any trespass incidents since September 2019 and no near-miss incidents with trains and pedestrians.

To stop previous misuse, we installed expanded metal mesh over the chain link fencing from Aurora GO Station all the way down Cousins Drive. The reinforced fence remains in good condition. It has not been breached (see photo).



Reinforced Chain Link Fence down Cousins Drive as of June 3, 2020

In addition to the regulatory requirements, we take a risk-based approach to public and passenger safety. We regularly deploy members of our Transit Safety team to monitor this location for trespassing and/or vandalism. They will continue to coordinate with your local law enforcement as needed.

However, it is imperative to note that the solution to this challenge is not more fences or more patrols; it lies in a discussion about alternative access possibilities for pedestrians.

While our teams are available to continue earlier discussions about safety measures that would need to be in place to explore alternative access, we are not prepared to discuss the reopening of the level crossing. Instead, we would be open to exploring an infrastructure solution that is not at-grade (e.g., a grade-separated overpass or underpass).

As we increase service levels along the corridor as a part of our GO Expansion program, we are increasing safety by enhancing the level of warning protection at current grade crossings and exploring options for grade-separated crossings. We are also closing many level crossings where it is pragmatic to do so.

To discuss the risk assessment process at the site and to explore the potential for a new grade-separated pedestrian crossing, please contact Rajesh Khetarpal, Director, Stakeholder Relations at Rajesh.Khetarpal@metrolinx.com or 416-202-3806.

Again, I look forward to furthering our collaborative efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Phil Verster', with a stylized, looped initial 'P' and a checkmark-like flourish at the end.

Phil Verster
President & CEO

cc. Honourable Christine Elliott, MPP (Newmarket-Aurora), Deputy Premier and Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
Michael Parsa, MPP (Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill)