

TORONTO TRANSIT COMMISSION REPORT NO.

MEETING DATE: November 21, 2012

SUBJECT: ASHBRIDGES BAY STREETCAR MAINTENANCE AND
STORAGE FACILITY NAME CHANGE

ACTION ITEM

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Commission endorse changing the name of the new streetcar maintenance and storage facility currently being built at Leslie Street and Lake Shore Boulevard to "The Leslie Barn".

FUNDING

The recommendation of this report does not have any funding implications.

BACKGROUND

The facility, currently referred to as the Ashbridges Bay Streetcar Storage and Maintenance Facility, is being constructed to accommodate Toronto's new fleet of low-floor accessible streetcars that are scheduled to be in revenue service starting in 2014. This facility is the first new one to be built in Toronto since the Eglinton Carhouse opened in 1922. That facility closed in 1954. The two Carhouses in operation today are the Roncesvalles Carhouse (built in 1896) and the Russell Carhouse (1916).

This 279,463 square foot modern facility is being built to the Toronto Green Development Standard on a 22-acre site and includes a storm water management pond and a green roof. Construction began with the award of the soil removal contract. Construction of the facility itself began in summer 2012.

A streetcar connecting track will also be built along Leslie Street from Queen Street East into the facility.

This project has been developed with extensive input from the local community through a series of public meetings and consultations on site location and design of the facility, landscape architecture and streetscaping on Leslie and Queen Streets. The community liaison group will deal with specific construction-related issues. The facility, including utility upgrades, streetscape enhancements and Leslie Street connecting tracks are scheduled to be complete by the end of 2014.

DISCUSSION

In the two years since this project was announced, staff have had extensive contact with members of the local community, both residents and businesses, and with the local Councillors, Paula Fletcher (Ward 30) and Mary Margaret McMahon (Ward 32). It has become apparent that the name Ashbridges Bay Streetcar Storage and Maintenance Facility is not appropriate for a number of reasons. It does not resonate with the local community, and it is an overly long and technical name that is associated with the sewage treatment plant, which has the same name and is located immediately to the south.

The proposed name, The Leslie Barn, better reflects the neighbourhood and the high standard of design and community involvement in the project.

Councillors Fletcher and McMahon, in a letter to Chair Stintz attached as Appendix A, proposed the “shorter, more evocative name which reflects the immediate neighbourhood and the connecting track along Leslie Street.”

There is a long tradition within TTC of using the major nearby street as the name of our streetcar Carhouses – Roncesvalles, Danforth, Lansdowne, Eglinton, Yorkville, Dundas, King, Bloor West, Gerrard, Sherbourne are all Carhouses that were named this way. The name “Leslie” for our new facility is appropriate as streetcars heading there will display that on their destination signs (“501 LESLIE”) and the name appropriately identifies the location.

Adding ‘Barn’ as a suffix has no official TTC historical precedent though, as typically, streetcar and bus facilities are not referred to as “barns” within formal TTC naming conventions. However, referring to Carhouses as “barns” is part of the public lexicon, as in Wychwood Barns, referring to the now defunct St. Clair Carhouse.

CONCLUSION

Staff recommend that the Commission endorse the name of the Leslie Barn for the new streetcar maintenance and storage facility.

November 7, 2012

55-4-3

03-06-000096455

Attachments: Appendix A

Rendering of New Streetcar Maintenance & Storage Facility

APPENDIX A



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October 17, 2012

Councillor Karen Stintz
Chair, Toronto Transit Commission
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West, Suite B32
Toronto, Ontario
M5H 2N2

Dear Chair Stintz,

Re: Naming of the Ashbridge TTC Facility to Leslie Barns

We are writing to request that the new maintenance and storage facility currently being referred to as the *Ashbridge Bay Light Rail Vehicle Maintenance and Storage Facility (ABMSF)* be renamed "The Leslie Barns."

The current name of the facility is inappropriate. It is associated with the Ashbridge Sewage Treatment Plant and is unnecessarily long and technical. If left unchanged, we fear the current name will hinder efforts to improve the image of the facility among local residents. Furthermore, the high standard of design which has been achieved for the proposed building and landscaping is not reflected in the current moniker.

We propose a shorter, more evocative name which reflects the immediate neighbourhood and the connecting track along Leslie Street. Branding the facility as The Leslie Barns, will improve its reputation in the local community and will immediately evoke associations with the Wychwood Barns, an institution that is a model of high design and community involvement.

Finally, we ask that if you choose to accept our recommendation that this re-branding begin immediately.

Thank you,

Councillor Paula Fletcher
Ward 30, Toronto Danforth

Councillor Mary Margaret McMahon
Ward 32, Beaches East York

