


Bad vibes compel GO to replace piledriver

Noise complaints finally bring concessions at Junction rail site

Apr 30, 2009 04:30 AM

[Comments on this story](#)  (4)

Patty Winsa

Staff Reporter

After months of agitation by residents and elected officials, GO Transit is finally testing quieter equipment at its West Toronto Diamond rail expansion.

And the commuter service has agreed to allow the Canadian Transportation Agency to mediate its dispute with the community, which has complained about the noise and vibrations during construction.

Under the agency's new rules, the community could apply to have the work stopped.

The concessions are a huge departure for GO, which has continued work on the Junction-area rail expansion despite complaints about the diesel-fed piledrivers, which have been hammering pieces of a steel interlocking wall into the ground since January.

"It's a long time coming, but at least they're moving in the right direction," says Cheri DiNovo, New Democratic MPP for Parkdale-High Park, who says that in meetings, GO officials "stonewalled or said they couldn't use any other technology.

"I gather that they're very aware finally that this problem isn't going to go away . . ."

Today, contractors begin testing a computer-controlled piledriver, brought from France, which will work the steel walls partway into the ground using vibrations.

The hammer piledriver will still be needed to pound the wall the rest of the way in.

Comments on this story

GO Running on Fumes

Now GO and Metrolink can concentrate on preventing the explosion of needless diesel pollution (yes the kind talked about here in the Star today: <http://www.thestar.com/article/626662>) that they propose to inflict on the entire West End of Toronto.

Submitted by ScottD at 1:49 PM Thursday, April 30 2009

- Agree
- Disagree 1

Railroad noise vs. piledriving noise - big difference!

The noise of living near railroad tracks is vastly different from the noise and vibration of piledriving. Residents of the Junction expect train noise. But anyone who has seen video footage of the piledriving understands that this noise is far beyond what one could reasonably expect people to deal with on a daily basis for over a year. The noise is often over 100 dB and the vibration is equivalent to between a 3 and a 4 on the Richter scale. Alternate technologies exist and should have been incorporated into the original plan. NIMBYs would want to halt any expansion - Junction residents just want to be able to live and work in their homes and offices.

Submitted by attention at 12:19 PM Thursday, April 30 2009

- Agree 4
- Disagree

Let the cost overruns begin!

I wonder how much more expensive this will be, Now all taxpayers will suffer and pay because of a few people who chose to LIVE NEAR RAILROAD TRACKS! NIMBYs gone wild!

Submitted by realtycoon at 8:43 AM Thursday, April 30 2009

- Agree 1
- Disagree 11

They should have used the quieter machine in the first place

Back in the early fifties, I was in a naval hospital for two weeks and four times a day, I was given penicillin shots in my butt. It got to the point where I couldn't walk. Finally I refused to accept any more shots. The doctor then said, "That's OK. We can give you the penicillin orally if you would prefer." Why do we have to suffer when there is a better and easier way to deal with problems?

Submitted by Dahn Batchelor at 7:54 AM Thursday, April 30 2009

- Agree 9
- Disagree 2