

EA INFO SHEET – Visual Impacts

November 2016

VISUAL AND AESTHETIC EFFECTS & MITIGATION MEASURES

Electrification of the rail corridors requires installation of infrastructure such as an Overhead Contact System (OCS) for the operation of electric trains. Views along the rail corridor may be affected by the installation of this infrastructure.

This Info Sheet outlines some of the visual and aesthetic effects, along with mitigation measures to be considered.



Overhead Contact System

The Overhead Contact System (OCS) will be installed to distribute power to the electric trains. OCS equipment consists of poles and wires that will be visible along the rail corridor particularly in areas where trees and vegetation will be removed.



Possible Mitigation Measures:

During detailed design, efforts will be made to minimize visual effects as much as possible.



Bridges

All overhead pedestrian bridges will require barriers to be added for safety which may affect the aesthetics of the bridge.

Possible Mitigation Measures:

Where possible, bridge barriers will be designed in a manner that maintains views. During detailed design, a design excellence process will review design treatments/options for enhancing the aesthetics of bridge barriers where possible.



Traction Power Facilities

Traction Power Facilities help convert and distribute the electric power into a useable format for the trains. They can be up to 75m X 50m in size. However, wherever feasible, these facilities have been located in industrial/non-residential areas, in order to minimize impacts on sensitive visual landscapes.

Possible Mitigation Measures:

Where possible, landscape buffers or screening may be considered if the facility is located in the vicinity of residential or other sensitive areas.



For more information contact: electrification@metrolinx.com or call 1-800-GET-ON-GO or (416)869-3200