

CP Express Building Demolition - Union Station

In August 2000, LEA Consulting Ltd. were retained by GO Transit to provide a preliminary design for a new bus terminal to replace the existing CP Express Building that extends between Bay and Yonge Street south of Front Street opposite Union Station in Toronto.

It was concluded that the existing building would have to be removed in its entirety in order to accommodate the new bus lanes and platforms as well as parking and truck access behind the Federal Building to the north.

LEA's contract was subsequently extended to incorporate the design and construction administration for the demolition of the existing building. The work was started in summer 2001.

The demolition procedures were complex since the north wall of the existing structure formed a retaining element that supported the high level rail tracks entering Union Station from the east. The frame of the existing structure therefore had to remain in place until a new retaining wall could be constructed.

The new reinforced concrete wall consisted of a 1 m thick stem supported on a continuous grade beam in turn supported on concrete caissons. The wall had to be tied back with rock anchors that



extended underneath the existing tracks. All these elements had to be constructed while the existing building remained in place.

The old structure, although not listed as a Heritage Building was nevertheless an important part of the history of the area. The CP Express Building was built with the same limestone fascia as the office building beside Bay Street around the same time as Union Station structure. The limestone fascia was carefully dismantled and stored for future use and a sample of one of the dock doors was retained to be used as a heritage feature in the new bus terminal.

During the demolition contract, LEA were assigned, along with their team of consultants including Roger du Toit Architects and du Toit Allsopp Hillier for architectural and landscape design and Hidi Rae for mechanical and electrical design, the work of preparing the design and tender documents for the new bus terminal.

PROJECT SUMMARY

Client:
GO Transit

Location:
City of Toronto, Canada

Services Provided:
Preliminary and Detailed Structural Design, Contract Preparation, Construction Administration

Cost:
\$3.5 Million

Completion Date:
early 2002

