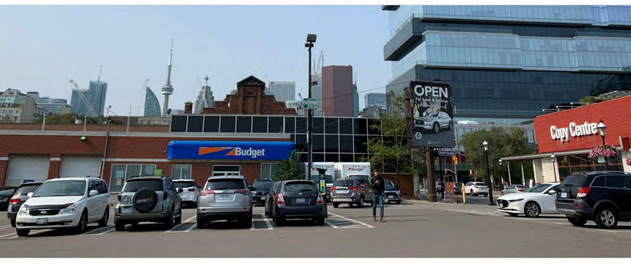

BLOG, COMMUNITY BENEFITS, COMMUNITY RELATIONS, HISTORY, METROLINX, METROLINX NEWS, ONTARIO LINE, RAPID TRANSIT, TORONTO

Ontario Line – Metrolinx says plans to include old site of first Parliament Buildings would preserve now-hidden history

A site in downtown Toronto that will be a vital part of the Ontario Line subway once played an important role in Canadian history. Now, work on the new Toronto subway route may help to pay tribute to that legacy.

It doesn't now look like a piece of Canadiana – largely a parking lot and commercial properties, including a car wash and car dealership.

But the area in downtown Toronto, located at Berkeley Street and Front Street East, has an important place in Canadian history – home to the first two Parliament Buildings in Upper Canada (from 1797 to 1813 and 1820 to 1824 respectively).

History underneath – This parking lot was once home to the first Parliament Buildings in Canada. (Mike Winterburn photo)

It's now become the focus of media and social media attention, as it will also play an important role in the future of the city, as part of the Ontario Line. Metrolinx is committed to partnering with the city to ensure the subway brings great opportunity to this neighbourhood.

The site will be undergoing archaeological assessments, that will look to raise, and profile, the legacy of the land, say Metrolinx officials.

While there are no historical buildings on site, Ontario Line plans will commemorate the area's importance to Toronto, and the country.

Archeological assessments are being planned in advance of any potential use for the project. This is an important first step as Metrolinx will work with the Ontario Heritage Trust, the City of Toronto, property owners, and community members to ensure any archaeological findings, or historical features, are properly documented or conserved. Itwould also involve them being made accessible for the public to learn more about.

Metrolinx has pointed out the history of the land goes back much further than the first parliament buildings. The transit agency is committed to working with Indigenous communities to better understand the important histories and rights of the peoples that have and continue to live in this area.

With regard to archaeological studies, Metrolinx will engage with First Nations to ensure their involvement, participation and identification of any Indigenous sites or artifacts that may be found in accordance with that Nation's protocols.

Want to know more about this work, and how it fits into the larger Ontario Line project? Check out this earlier story for more details.

JANUARY 22, 2021

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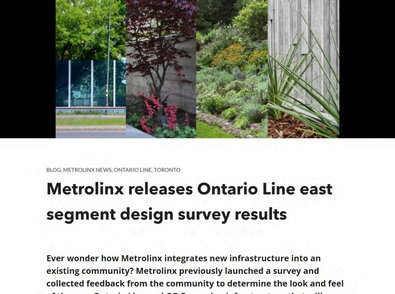

BLOG, METROLINX NEWS, ONTARIO LINE, TORONTO

Metrolinx releases Ontario Line east segment design survey results

Ever wonder how Metrolinx integrates new infrastructure into an existing community? Metrolinx previously launched a survey and collected feedback from the community to determine the look and feel of the new Ontario Line and GO Expansion infrastructure that will serve Riverside, South Riverdale and Leslieville. Here are the results.

Asked and answered.

Metrolinx asked for public input on how transit changes for the new Ontario Line and GO Expansion infrastructure would fit into established Toronto neighbourhoods, such as Riverside, South Riverdale and Leslieville.

The results of the design consultation, which summarize the feedback from east end residents are in and will help shape the future of transit in Canada's largest city.

Back on Oct. 24, 2021, Metrolinx closed the online questionnaire and feedback that focused on new retaining walls, noise barriers, underpass treatments and vegetative landscaping. There were 749 total comments and 162 unique respondents. The report can be viewed here.

Overall feedback on design objectives

When it comes to ranking the design priorities for the new infrastructure, the survey participants prioritized reducing noise levels, protecting the tree canopy, introducing new trees and plants, and minimizing the potential visual and physical impacts of transit service within the rail corridor.

If you missed the Lakeshore East Joint Corridor Early Works key findings, Metrolinx conducted a noise and vibration study, and committed to a minimum noise wall height of five metres which would effectively maintain or reduce existing noise levels for the majority of properties, despite the expected increase in transit service through the Ontario Line and GO Expansion projects.

Noise walls

An artist concept of a noise wall. (Metrolinx image)

Several survey participants preferred noise barriers made from the material that has the strongest noise-reducing benefit and noted the level of transparency should vary depending on the location. Respondents expressed their preference for having translucent or opaque noise walls in residential areas, to ensure privacy, while more transparent walls were preferred in areas with green space or activity zones near the rail corridor to allow light in.

Based on this feedback, Metrolinx conducted additional studies on alternative noise wall materials and found that, along the Ontario Line/GO Transit corridor that runs through Riverside and Leslieville, solid – non-transparent – sound-absorbing walls offered little noise reducing benefit over the transparent walls while the visual impact of a solid wall was significant.

Retaining walls

An artist rendering of park space next to a rail line. (Metrolinx image)

For both the future retaining and noise walls, survey participants said they wanted Metrolinx to explore greenery and artwork to soften the visual impact of the new infrastructure. In addition, a consistent theme found in the survey and residents' feedback is the importance of graffiti management.

Activity Features for Open Green Space

Accessibility, deterring vandalism and a desire for multi-use trails were the top priorities from survey participants for the new green space Metrolinx is creating after construction is complete.

This feedback will help guide ongoing discussions between Metrolinx and the City of Toronto as they work together to deliver this new green space for the community. In addition to this, both partners are exploring neighbourhood park enhancements, a multi-use path for Jimmie Simpson Park and a temporary alternative location for the Gerrard-Carlaw Parkette during construction.

Underpass treatments

Queen Street East bridge that will be revitalized and expanded. Metrolinx is working closely with City of Toronto staff and community feedback to ensure the new bridge is integrated into the existing fabric of Riverside and Leslieville (Metrolinx image using Google maps)

As part of Ontario Line upgrades, new rail bridges at Eastern Avenue, Queen Street, Dundas Street and Logan Avenue will be built. Based on feedback from the community, Metrolinx is exploring architectural lighting that can be integrated into the underpass walls. In addition, there is an ongoing discussion with the City of Toronto to explore a potential public art mural program.

Landscaping and Planting features

Metrolinx will not be exploring terraced landscape features as the survey results were clear that this option is not preferred because it would take up space. Instead, embankments and vertical green walls are being explored using evergreen and perennial plants for colourful vegetation in all seasons. Continuous bench seating that is accessible and integrated will be explored in neighbourhood parks.

When it comes to new trees, deciduous row and coniferous trees are the top choices selected by survey respondents to create a diverse species mix while providing greenery all year round. Working with the City of Toronto, Metrolinx is exploring early tree plantings as suggested by survey participants.

Moving forward

Metrolinx recently began vegetation clearing within the rail corridor to support the GO Expansion infrastructure. Construction of the Lakeshore East Joint Corridor Early Works will begin in mid-2022 on the south side of the corridor first. If you missed it, Metrolinx has created a video animation to visualize how this work will be completed.

Look for future stories on how community input will help shape Metrolinx transit projects.

You can reach Metrolinx Ontario Line community experts at ontarioline@metrolinx.com with comments and feedback on the design elements of the noise walls, retaining walls and vegetation ideas.

Story by Daryl Gonsalves and Katiana Moussa, Metrolinx community relations and issues specialist for Ontario Line.

JANUARY 26, 2022

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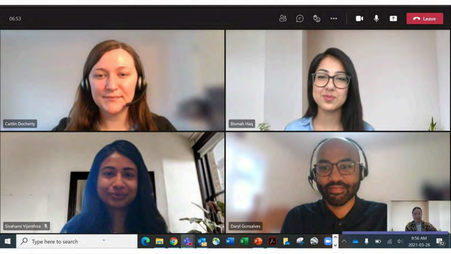


COMMUNITY RELATIONS, ONTARIO LINE, SUBWAY, TORONTO

Ontario Line team to hold virtual open house on latest project plans

Now that Metrolinx has shared new station plans for the Ontario Line from Gerrard to Science Centre, and published the latest draft environmental assessment, Metrolinx teams are hosting another series of open houses. And they're starting this month. Read on to find out when events are happening and how to register.

With Ontario Line plans coming into greater focus, Metrolinx is hosting another round of virtual open houses to share updates with communities.

The four virtual open houses will take place later this month and into March. Transit officials will be giving an overview of the recently published draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report.

Registration for the four upcoming open houses is now open on Metrolinx Engage and community members are invited to attend one of four events.

Mapping the details

New station maps that build off the details in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report are now available across the entire line, offering a more complete picture of customers can expect from one end to the other.

Map showing Pape Station location. View a more detailed project footprint in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report **here**. (Metrolinx image)

Updated maps can be viewed on the newly developed interactive map on Metrolinx Engage. This new interactive portal allows people to take a virtual tour of the route while also gaining insight into the latest plans, reports, and updates along the way.

A screenshot showing part of the new interactive map on Metrolinx Engage. (Metrolinx image)

"All our stations have been planned to give communities better, faster, and easier access to all that Toronto and the broader region has to offer," says Metrolinx sponsor for the Ontario Line, Malcolm MacKay.

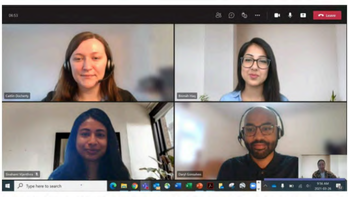
"We know people will have questions about our plans and how we make certain decisions, and we're happy to answer them."

Open house information

The events will include a question-and-answer period, and participants can submit questions online in advance of the event or ask them over live audio while it's in progress.

Register for the four upcoming open houses by logging onto Metrolinx Engage.

- February 22 – Science Centre to Gerrard
- February 24 – Science Centre to Gerrard
- March 1 – Gerrard to Exhibition
- March 3 – Gerrard to Exhibition.



Look familiar? Members of Ontario Line's community relations team gather in an online meeting. (Metrolinx image)

Digging into the details

The draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report, released on Feb. 7, looks at the entire Ontario Line footprint, from Exhibition Station all the way to the Ontario Science Centre. It outlines existing conditions along the route along with ways to protect and preserve communities during construction and beyond when it comes to traffic, noise, vibration, trees and vegetation, and more.

Other studies completed to date include the Environmental Conditions Report and five targeted assessments for advance construction work needed at Exhibition Station, Corktown, the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard area, East Harbour, and the Lakeshore East Junior Corridor.

This last report marks a critical step toward building some of the bigger parts of the project, which include the tunnels, stations, and rail systems.

Members of the public are invited to review the draft report and provide feedback before Mar. 9, 2022.

Story by Sara Wilbur, Metrolinx communications senior advisor, subway program

FEBRUARY 15, 2022

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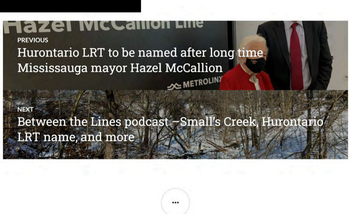

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METROLINX, ONTARIO LINE, TORONTO

Ontario Line connections that will reduce travel times

Each subway route is more than a single line on a map. It links to other routes that bring more neighbourhoods closer to new transit arteries. The Ontario Line was designed for easy connections at all 15 stations along its 15.6-km route. These connections will rewire the city and the region by speeding up travel times for a wide range of travellers, not just the people who will live within walking distance of stations. *Metrolinx News* is exploring these neighbourhoods to demonstrate how the network effect will deliver faster new travel opportunities.

Do you remember rush hour before COVID?

At subway stations across Toronto, crowds of people walked briskly to catch the next train.

Those fortunate enough to live within walking distance entered in a steady stream, but the big rushes came when buses and streetcars unloaded people connecting from the subway.

In fact, about 40 per cent of TTC subway riders walk to their home station, with the rest generally connecting from other forms of transit.

Subway planners design routes to maximize these connections in addition to offering station-to-station time savings.

The Ontario Line will stretch 15.6-km from a new station at the Ontario Science Centre to the existing Exhibition GO Station. At the northeast end, the Science Centre station will attract riders connecting from neighbourhoods along the new Eglinton Crosstown LRT and TTC bus routes.

Want to know more about the Ontario Line? Just click here.

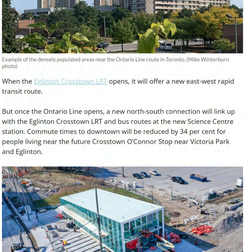
The Ontario Line will offer more than 40 transit connections across 15 stations. This will do more than shave time off commutes – it will open up the city by making a variety of trips, for business and pleasure, much easier than they are today.

Here are some examples.

Cutting the corner from Scarborough

Travelling on the TTC Line 2 subway from Scarborough into the financial district will be easier than ever once the Ontario Line is completed.

A new transfer under Danforth Avenue at the current Pape Station will make getting downtown easier by offering an option that bypasses the Bloor-Yonge transfer from Line 2 to Line 1.



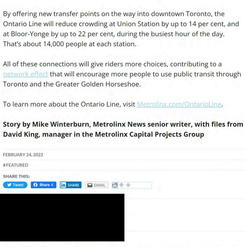
A TTC subway stops to pick up passengers. (TTC photo)

From Pape, a route that gently curves towards downtown (with fewer stations) will cut five minutes off the trip and avoid crowding and congestion at Bloor-Yonge station.

Speeding up travel times from Etobicoke

Connections between GO trains and the Ontario Line at Exhibition Station will give residents of Etobicoke (and communities to the west) a new way to reach Toronto's downtown core.

A commuter who gets on a GO train in Mimico, heading towards the busy corner of Queen and Spadina, will save 18 minutes by connecting to the Ontario Line at Exhibition.



Exhibition Station will be a major transfer hub for the Ontario Line. (Mike Winterburn image)

A DVP detour you will actually like

Avoiding a drive on often congested highways like the Don Valley Parkway (DVP) is one of the best reasons to take public transit.

If you're stuck in traffic on the DVP, it's easy to see how densely populated the neighbourhoods surrounding it are, with many apartment towers located on both sides of Eglinton Avenue and into the Thorncliffe Park neighbourhood. This part of the city is not currently served by the subway, but that's about to change.

Example of the densely populated areas near the Ontario Line route in Toronto. (Mike Winterburn photo)

When the Eglinton Crosstown LRT opens, it will offer a new east-west rapid transit route.

But once the Ontario Line opens, a new north-south connection will link up with the Eglinton Crosstown LRT and bus routes at the new Science Centre station. Commute times to downtown will be reduced by 34 per cent for people living near the future Crosstown O'Connor Stop near Victoria Park and Eglinton.

An aerial view of the Eglinton Crosstown Station under construction at the Ontario Science Centre. (Metrolinx photo)

It now takes 41 minutes to reach Queen and Yonge, but once the Ontario Line is completed, that will be down to only 27 minutes.

For people living near Eglinton and Don Mills, a ride on the whole length of the Ontario Line from the Science Centre to Exhibition Place for a Toronto FC game or Canadian National Exhibition will take 30 minutes or less, compared to 70 minutes it takes on transit today.

By the numbers

The Ontario Line offers more than 40 connections at its 15 stations including:

- Lakeshore West, Lakeshore East, and Stouffville GO train services
- Line 1 and Line 2 TTC subways
- Line 5 (Eglinton Crosstown LRT)
- Streetcars at 10 stations
- Buses at 12 stations

By offering new transfer points on the way into downtown Toronto, the Ontario Line will reduce crowding at Union Station by up to 14 per cent, and at Bloor-Yonge by up to 22 per cent, during the busiest hour of the day. That's about 14,000 people at each station.

All of these connections will give riders more choices, contributing to a network effect that will encourage more people to use public transit through Toronto and the Greater Golden Horseshoe.

To learn more about the Ontario Line, visit Metrolinx.com/OntarioLine.

Story by Mike Winterburn, Metrolinx News senior writer, with files from David King, manager in the Metrolinx Capital Projects Group

FEBRUARY 24, 2022

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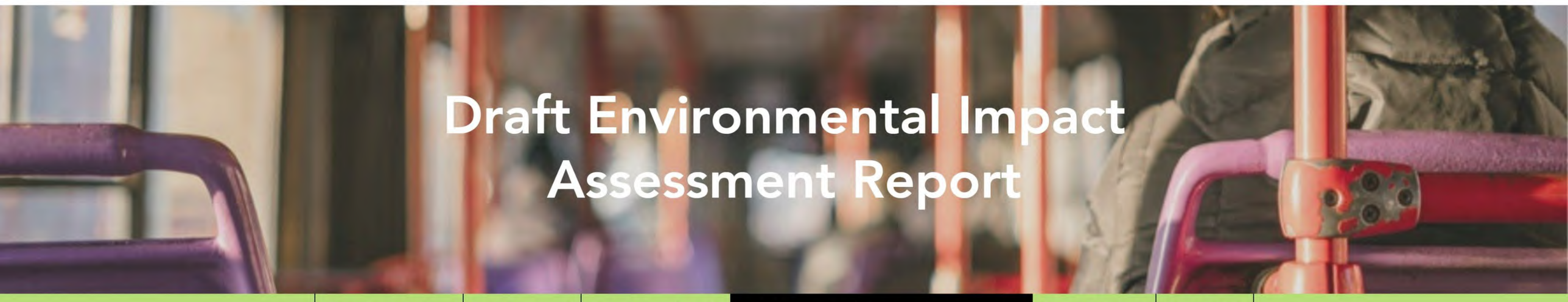

Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report

The Ontario Line - Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report

The Ontario Line will bring 15.6 kilometres of new subway service to Toronto, making it faster and easier for people to get where they need to be each day. The line will stretch across the city, from the Ontario Science Centre in the northeast to Exhibition/Ontario Place in the southwest.

The Ontario Line will have:

- 15 new stations, including six interchange stations;
- Connections to three GO train lines, two existing subway lines, the new Eglinton Crosstown LRT, and streetcar lines at 10 stations;
- A combination of tunneled, surface and elevated segments.

The Ontario Line will also be completely separated from traffic to provide fast and reliable service.

Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report

The Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report, prepared in accordance with Ontario Regulation 341/20: Ontario Line Project, Section 15, provides a description of local environmental conditions, potential impacts, proposed mitigation and monitoring measures, a record of consultation, and a description of future permits and approvals that may be required.

How to Participate

The Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report is available for public review and general comment until **March 09, 2022**.

To read the results of a **specific environmental study** and leave comments related to that study, select one of the environmental studies below and fill out the feedback form at the bottom of the page.

To review the **full report** and leave general comments, visit the Full Report page and fill out the feedback form at the bottom of the page.

The Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report is available for review:

View the Full Draft Report

Assessment Process

The environmental assessment process for Ontario Line included assessment of impacts and identification of mitigation measures for the following environmental components:

Appendices

Air Quality

Archaeology

Built Heritage Resources & Cultural Heritage Landscapes

Natural Environment

Noise & Vibration

Socio-Economic & Land Use Characteristics

Soil & Groundwater

Traffic & Transportation

Environmental impacts of the Ontario Line Project are being assessed in accordance with Ontario Regulation 341/20: Ontario Line Project (O. Reg. 341/20), under the Environmental Assessment Act. The assessment process includes the following:

- Reviewing and examining Project components and activities;
- Understanding local environmental conditions through desktop reviews and field studies;
- Assessing and evaluating potential impacts that Project components and activities may have on the environment;
- Proposing mitigation measures to avoid or reduce impacts, and monitoring activities to verify effectiveness of mitigation measures; and,
- Identifying any municipal, provincial, federal or other permits and approvals that may be required as planning progresses.

The Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report provides the following:

- A description of the Project;
- A map showing the site of the Project;
- The rationale for proceeding with the Project and a summary of background information;
- A description of the local environmental conditions;
- A description of studies undertaken;
- Metrolinx's assessment and evaluation of the impacts that the Project might have on the environment;
- A description of measures proposed by Metrolinx for mitigating negative impacts that the Project might have on the environment;
- A description of the means Metrolinx proposes to use to monitor or verify the effectiveness of mitigation measures proposed;
- A description of municipal, provincial, federal or other approvals or permits that may be required for the Project; and,
- A consultation record.

Project Components

Project Components

The Ontario Line works are planned to extend from the Ontario Science Centre in the northeast to Exhibition/Ontario Place in the southwest and will include:

- Stations;
- Tracks and tunnels;
- Bridges;
- Operations and maintenance (train storage yard, maintenance facility and operations centre, layover facilities);
- Emergency exit buildings;
- Construction laydown and staging areas;
- Noise barriers;
- Portals;
- Retaining walls;
- Traction power substations;
- Vehicles; and
- Ancillary works (new public road connections, Hydro One corridor relocation, new multi-use trail, streetcar diversion tracks).

Environmental Studies

Air Quality - Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report

Review the air quality study key findings and potential impacts and mitigation measures and leave your comments.

Archaeology – Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report

Review the archaeology study key findings and potential impacts and mitigation measures and leave your comments.

Built Heritage Resources & Cultural Heritage Landscapes - Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report

Review the built heritage resources & cultural heritage landscapes study key findings and potential impacts and mitigation measures and leave your comments.

Natural Environment - Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report

Review the natural environment study key findings and potential impacts and mitigation measures and leave your comments.

Noise and Vibration - Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report

Review the noise and vibration study key findings and potential impacts and mitigation measures and leave your comments.

Socio-Economic & Land Use Characteristics - Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report

Review the socio-economic & land use characteristics study key findings and potential impacts and mitigation measures and leave your comments.

Soil & Groundwater - Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report

Review the soil & groundwater study key findings and potential impacts and mitigation measures and leave your comments.

Traffic & Transportation - Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report

Review the traffic & transportation study key findings and potential impacts and mitigation measures and leave your comments.

Full Report - Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report

Read the full Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report and leave your general comments.

Full Report - Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report

← *Return to Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report*

Draft Report and Appendices

Ontario Line Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report →

Notice of Publication of Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report and Virtual Open Houses (ENG) →

Notice of Publication of Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report and Virtual Open Houses (FR) →

Appendices:

- Appendix A1 – Natural Environment Report →
- Appendix A2 – Heritage Detailed Design Report →
- Appendix A3 – Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment Report →
- Appendix A4 – Socio-Economic and Land Use Characteristics Assessment Report →
- Appendix A5 - Air Quality Report →
- Appendix A6 - Noise and Vibration Report →
- Appendix A7 - Transportation and Traffic Report →
- Appendix B - Consultation and Correspondence Record →

Thank you!

We appreciate the time you have taken to learn more about the Environmental Impact Assessment Report, and we value your opinions. Please provide input online from February 07 to March 09, 2022, by completing the online Feedback Form below.

Metrolinx will establish an issues resolution process to attempt to resolve any concerns raised by the public or Indigenous Nations during the review period. At the end of the review period, Metrolinx will update the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report by adding a description of issues identified, what Metrolinx did to address concerns, and any implications to the Ontario Line timeline. Metrolinx will then publish the Final Environmental Impact Assessment Report on the Project webpage: www.metrolinx.com/ontarioline and issue a Notice of Publication of Final Environmental Impact Assessment Report.

Stay involved with the Ontario Line.

Download the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report from the Ontario Line Project Website.

Email us at ontarioline@metrolinx.com
Call us at 416-202-5100
Visit our website: www.metrolinx.com/ontarioline

Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report – Feedback

What are your thoughts on the results of the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment environmental studies? *

Which Draft Environmental Impact Assessment environmental study is most important to you and why? *

Is there anything we missed? Please let us now if you have any additional thoughts or concerns about the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment.

Stay Involved with the Ontario Line

We appreciate the time you have taken to learn more about our plans and value your opinions. Please submit your feedback by March 09, 2022.

www.Metrolinx.com/OntarioLine
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For more information, please visit http://www.metrolinx.com/en/aboutus/privacy.aspx or contact: Metrolinx' Senior Privacy Officer at (416) 202-5941.

Pour plus d'information, veuillez contacter le ontarioline@metrolinx.com.

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Air Quality - Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report

← *Return to Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report*

Key Findings

Typical of highly urbanized environments like the City of Toronto, there are existing Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks Air Quality Guideline exceedances of vehicle exhaust combustion criteria such as benzene and benzo(a)pyrene. Background concentrations of these contaminants are also generated by regional industrial operations.

- Vehicular, rail and industrial emissions were identified as sources of emissions impacting overall air quality in the Study Area.
- The operation of the Project would support the overall provincial objective in shifting towards a more sustainable mode of transportation, with an estimated reduction of 266,000 kilometres travelled by private vehicles per day.
- The Ontario Line supports provinical objectives to provide more sustainable modes of transportation and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by up to 14,000 tonnes per year. There will also be up to 7.2 million fewer litres of fuel consumed each year.
- 145 existing representative sensitive receptors*, and 71 potential future sensitive receptors have been identified in the Study Area.

View Full Map

- 90 existing critical receptors**, and six potential future critical receptors have been identified in the Study Area.
- Receptors are representative points where projected air quality impacts are measured.
- There is potential for temporary increases in air quality emissions associated with construction vehicles. Potential construction air quality impacts will be managed by implementing a suite of mitigation measures, such as using low emission construction equipment and dust suppressants.
- Ambient air monitoring will be conducted to confirm the effectiveness of the mitigation measures and allow for adaptive management, as required.

*A sensitive receptor is a building in which a person resides on a permanent or semi-permanent basis, such as a house or an apartment.
**A critical receptor is a location where sensitive populations reside or spend a significant amount of time daily, such as schools, retirement homes, hospitals, or day cares.

Potential Effects & Mitigation Measures

Potential Effects:

Construction

- Increase in air pollution and odour because of construction vehicle emissions and increased traffic due to construction activities.
- Increase in dust, silica and airborne particulate matter resulting from earthworks, material handling and transfer, demolition, and construction activities.
- Construction activities could expose contaminated soils/ materials and/or result in the spreading of contaminated materials.
- Greenhouse gas emissions are expected to increase temporarily due to construction activities, but a net overall decrease in Greenhouse gas emissions will occur as a result of the operation of the Project.

Operations

- There is expected to be a net overall decrease of 14,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions per year.
- Operation of the maintenance and storage facility and maintenance staff may cause minor air quality impacts from work vehicle fuel combustion and maintenance activities.

Example of trucks spraying water as part of dust control mitigation.
Source: Metrolinx 2020

Mitigation Measures:

Construction

- Dust monitors will be used in some areas to monitor allowable dust levels and when mitigation measures will be required.
- A detailed Construction Air Quality Management Plan will be developed and implemented to manage air quality throughout construction.
- Dust suppressants such as water sprayers will be used, as required.
- Low emission construction equipment will be used, wherever possible.
- A Communications Protocol will be developed to encourage timely resolution of complaints.
- Crews will reduce the amount of machines operating in one area at any given point where possible.
- Visual and olfactory inspections will be conducted during excavation or for incoming loads to screen for odour, visible staining or debris per the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks Management of Excess Soils, A Guide for Best Management Practices (2019).

Operations

- A detailed Operations Air Quality Management Plan will be developed and implemented.
- Emissions will be assessed and modelled following Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks guidance and will comply with applicable Ontario Regulation 419/05 standards.
- To reduce emissions intensity at the maintenance and storage facility, select equipment with engines and propulsion systems that meet higher emission standards (i.e., Tier 4 rather than a lower tier) will be used.

← *Return to Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report*

What are your thoughts on the Air Quality study key findings and identified potential impacts and mitigation measures? *

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Archaeology – Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report

← *Return to Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report*

Key Findings

- Most of the Study Area has been cleared of archaeological concerns. Where archaeological potential is present and disturbance is anticipated, further archaeological assessments will be completed prior to construction.
- Impacts are not anticipated during operations, as no additional ground disturbance is planned for operations or maintenance activities.
- Metrolinx is collaborating with agencies, Indigenous Nations and public stakeholders regarding the First Parliament site and other sites of archaeological investigations and mitigation.

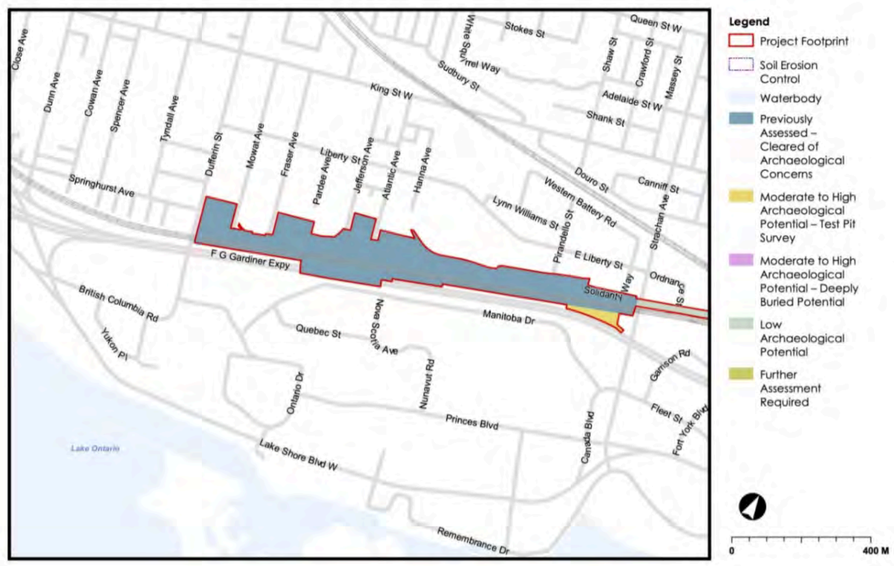
Potential Effects & Mitigation Measures

Potential Effects:

- During construction, there is potential for the recovery and disturbance of unassessed and undocumented archaeological resources.

Mitigation Measures:

- Complete additional archaeological assessment(s) where required as early as possible and in advance of any ground disturbance.
- If unexpected archaeological materials are encountered (or suspected), all work will stop at that location. The site will be protected from impact until assessment by a licensed archaeologist.



View Full Map

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What are your thoughts on the Archaeological Resources study key findings and identified potential impacts and mitigation measures? *

Submit

Built Heritage Resources & Cultural Heritage Landscapes - Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report

← *Return to Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report*

Key Findings

- A total of 272 cultural heritage resources have been identified in the Study Area.
- Of the cultural heritage resources that have been identified, 35 of these have the potential to be directly impacted by the Project.
- Of the cultural heritage resources that have been identified, 126 of these have the potential for indirect vibration impacts by the Project.

Potential Effects & Mitigation Measures

Potential Effects

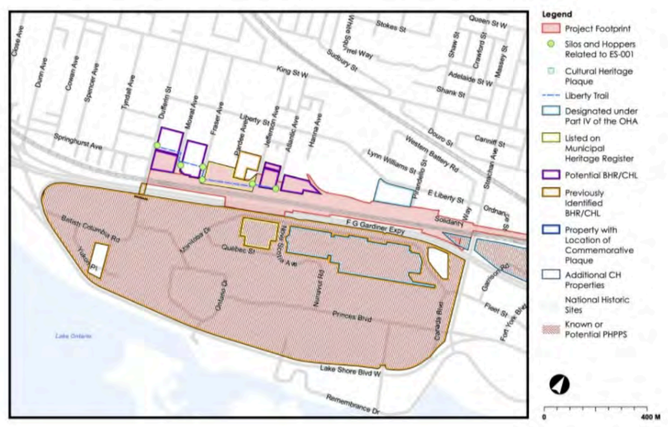
- Potential for direct effects have been identified during construction activities where a change is proposed to a built heritage resource or cultural heritage landscape.
- Potential for indirect effects have been identified where construction activities have the potential for vibration effects to a built heritage resource or
- Impacts to built heritage resources/cultural heritage landscapes are not anticipated during operations.

Mitigation Measures

Site-specific mitigation measures for impacted properties include:

- Sensitive and/or compatible design (i.e., minimal encroachment, site-specific design integration);
- Continue consultation with the City of Toronto Heritage Planning Unit;
- Complete Adaptive Reuse Study for the reuse of the building, if appropriate;
- Documentation and conservation of affected buildings;
- Interpretation/Commemoration Framework;
- Monitor vibration during construction using seismographs, with audible and/or visible alarms when limits are approached or exceeded; and
- Advanced planning and design will be completed in accordance with Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries Minister's Consent conditions.

153 Dufferin Street: Rear part of the building was built between 1903 and 1913. This building was formerly occupied by the Universal Tool and Steel Company.
Source: Stantec 2021



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What are your thoughts on the Built Heritage Resources & Cultural Heritage Landscapes study key findings and identified potential impacts and mitigation measures? *

Submit

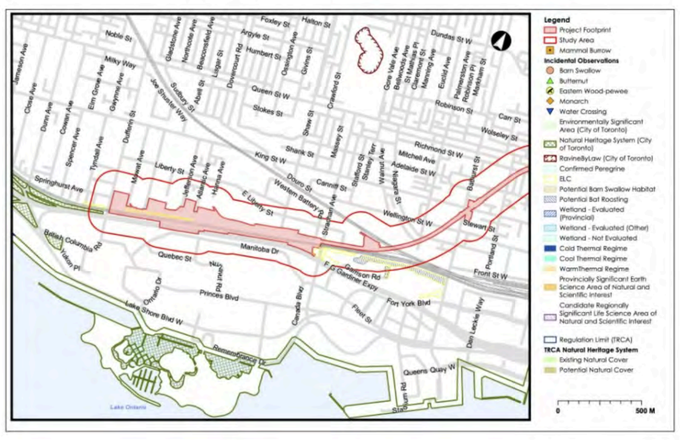
Natural Environment - Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report

← *Return to Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report*

Key Findings

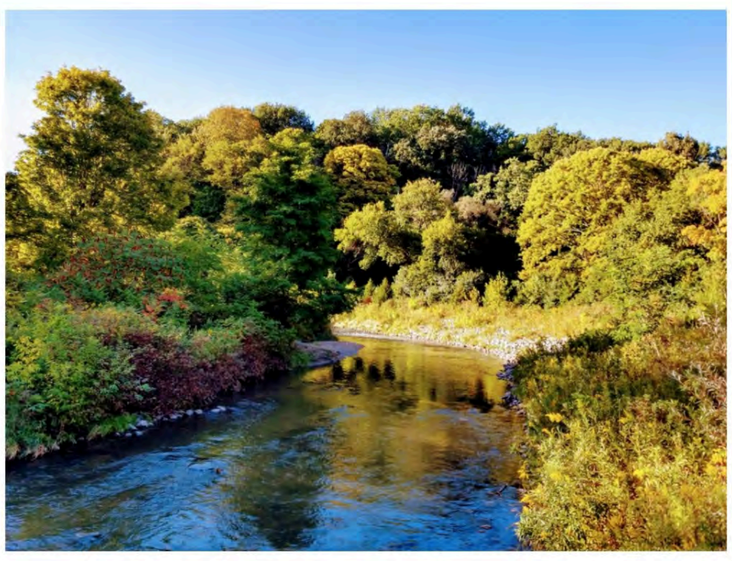
The Study Area is largely urbanized with very limited naturalized areas providing low-quality habitat for urban wildlife.

- There are no Provincially Significant Wetlands, Locally Significant Wetlands or provincially significant Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest in the Study Area.
- The Don River in the Study Area provides fish habitat important for migration, feeding, and refuge.
- The following species at risk have a high probability of occurring in the Study Area: Barn Swallow, Chimney Shift, American Eel, and Butternut.
- The following species at risk have a medium probability of occurring in the Study Area: Eastern Small-footed Myotis, Little Brown Myotis, Northern Long-eared Myotis, Tri-coloured Bat, and Bank Swallow.
- The following species at risk have a low probability of occurring in the Study Area: Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark, and Blanding's Turtle.



View Full Map

Barn swallow (Hirundo rustica)
Source: Malene Thyssen



E.T. Seton Park
Source: My Amazing Canada 2020

Potential Effects & Mitigation Measures

Potential Effects

Construction

- Disturbance, displacement, or mortality of wildlife.
- Removal of/damage to trees, terrestrial vegetation, and wildlife habitat.
- Introduction or spread of invasive species.
- Erosion and sedimentation.
- Reduction in ecological function, habitat quality, and integrity.
- Removal of/damage to aquatic/riparian vegetation and wetlands.
- Potential for direct, in-water impacts to fish and fish habitat related to temporary crossing structures for the Don River crossings/bridges.
- Construction may cause soil erosion and increased surface water/stormwater run-off resulting in changes to stormwater quality and quantity.

Operations

- Operations may cause soil or water contamination as a result of spills (e.g., grease and/ or fuel) from equipment use during maintenance activities.
- Operations may cause disturbance or displacement of wildlife during vegetation maintenance activities.

Mitigation Measures

Construction

- Vegetation removal will be reduced to the greatest extent possible and limited within the area affected by construction and maintenance activities.
- Compensation for tree removals and vegetation will be undertaken in accordance with the Metrolinx Vegetation Guideline (2020) and principles of the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority Guideline for Determining Ecosystem Compensation (June 2018).
  - Temporarily disturbed areas will be re-vegetated using non-invasive, preferably native plantings and/or seed mix.
- Erosion and sediment control measures will be implemented.
- A Spill Prevention and Response Plan will be developed for construction and operations.
- All requirements of the Fisheries Act including those pertaining to in-water works will be met during construction.
- Sensitive wildlife timing restrictions will be followed for construction activities (e.g., removal of vegetation outside of the breeding bird season).
- Wildlife exclusion measures will be implemented as required to avoid destruction, injury or interference with wildlife species and their habitat.
- All requirements of the Endangered Species Act and Species at Risk Act will be met.
- Floodplain impact assessment will be conducted during detailed design following Toronto and Region Conservation Authority guidelines.
- A Stormwater Management Plan will be developed prior to construction.

Operations

- A Spill Prevention and Response Plan will be developed for operations.
- Vegetation removal will be reduced to the extent possible and limited to the Metrolinx right-of-way.
- Monitoring and management of trees/vegetation in the rail corridor right-of-way.
- An Integrated Vegetation Management Plan will be developed.

← *Return to Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report*

What are your thoughts on the Natural Environment study key findings and identified potential impacts and mitigation measures? *

Submit

Noise and Vibration - Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report

← Return to Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report

Key Findings

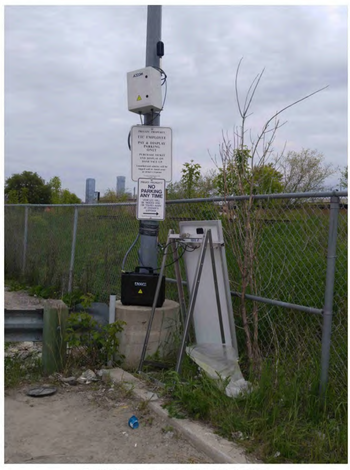
Noise

- The impact assessment assumed a worst-case approach to provide a conservative assessment of potential noise impacts.
- During operations, the stations, maintenance storage facility, railway, and emergency exit buildings have the potential to generate noise at nearby sensitive receptors*.
- Potential for exceedances will be addressed by implementing appropriate mitigation measures (see Potential Effects & Mitigation Measures) and through development and implementation of a plan to manage construction noise before construction begins.
- Implementation of noise barriers along the joint corridor is anticipated to reduce noise compared to existing levels at most locations in the area.

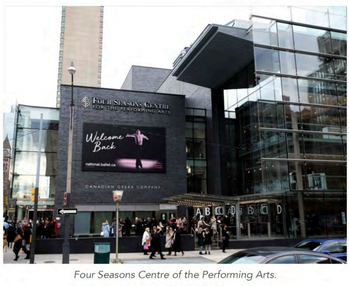
* A sensitive receptor is a location that is sensitive to noise, where noise levels are assessed. Examples of these locations include living and sleeping quarters of residences, and sleeping quarters of noise sensitive institutional and commercial land uses such as hotels, hospitals, etc.

Vibration

- The impact assessment assumed a worst-case approach to provide a conservative assessment of potential vibration impacts.
- Operational vibration levels will be below perceptible levels, with implementation of readily-available mitigation measures.
- Construction vibration will be carefully managed through development and implementation of site-specific management plans before construction begins.



Example of a construction noise monitor.
Source: AECOM 2017



Four Seasons Centre of the Performing Arts.
Source: Stantec 2021

View Full Map

Potential Effects & Mitigation Measures

Construction Noise

Potential Effects

- Environmental noise may cause annoyance and disturb sleep.
- Additional truck traffic accessing staging areas could cause sound level increases.

Operations Noise

Potential Effects

- Environmental noise may cause disturbance and/or annoyance.
- Airborne noise will result from the operations of the Project and may be a concern for noise sensitive areas.

Construction Noise

Mitigation Measures

- Establishing and applying Project-specific construction noise criteria/exposure limits.
- Keeping construction equipment in good working order and operate with effective muffling devices.
- Use of localized noise barriers for specific equipment and operations.
- Noise monitoring and regular reporting throughout the construction phase, as required.
  - Site-specific mitigation will be determined prior to the start of construction based on selected means and methods.
- Develop a communications protocol for providing advanced notice of construction work and addressing public complaints in a timely manner.

Operations Noise

Mitigation Measures

- Noise barriers of varying heights are required in a number of locations along the rail alignment to mitigate train noise.
- As part of the future detailed design of the stations, comfort ventilation systems should be selected to comply with a maximum sound level limit of 60 dBA at 1 metre from all mechanical louvers and rooftop HVAC equipment.
- Excess noise sources at the station are to be fitted with mitigation as required to meet Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks Noise Pollution Control 300 criteria.
- Outdoor audio paging system, transformers, and generators will be required to meet Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks Noise Pollution Control 300 noise limits at adjacent receptors, and the system will be designed to do so by limiting speaker volume and positioning speakers away from neighbouring residences.

The maintenance and storage facility doors will remain closed (a central colling system may be required in the garage area) and/or a sound-reducing vestibule will be constructed around the door openings.

Potential Effects & Mitigation Measures

Construction Vibration

Potential Effects

- Vibration from tunneling can cause annoyance, interfere with human activities, and interfere with vibration-sensitive equipment operations.
- The highest levels of construction ground-borne vibration are expected to be associated with compaction with a vibration roller, truck activities in staging areas, and operation of the tunnel boring machine.
- Without mitigation, vibration may cause damage to buildings, utilities, and other structures during construction.

Operations Vibration

Potential Effects

- Vibration levels are anticipated to be low and not cause structural damage.
- Vibration impacts were predicted at seventy-one (71) representative points along the entire alignment, to inform development of site-specific mitigation measures.

Construction Vibration

Mitigation Measures

- Maintain the setback distances for construction equipment.
- Site-specific mitigation will be determined prior to the start of construction based on selected means and methods.
- Develop a communications protocol for providing advanced notice of construction work and addressing public complaints in a timely manner.
- Vibration measurements will be assessed using mock-up construction activities prior to construction at certain receptor locations (i.e., St. Michael's Hospital, Bell Media Headquarters, Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts).

Operations Vibration

Mitigation Measures

- Consider equipment with low vibration levels.
- Site-specific mitigation will be determined prior to the start of operations based on selected means and methods
- Develop a communications protocol for providing advance notice of construction work and addressing public complaints in a timely manner.

← Return to Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report

What are your thoughts on the Noise & Vibration study key findings and identified potential impacts and mitigation measures? *

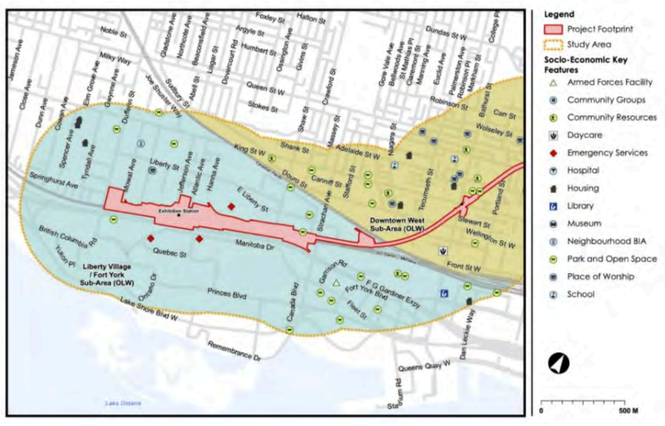
Submit

Socio-Economic & Land Use Characteristics - Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report

← *Return to Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report*

Key Findings

- Land uses in the Study Area include neighbourhoods, core and general employment areas*, mixed-use areas, parks and natural areas, regeneration areas**, institutional areas, and utility corridors.
- The Study Area includes 36 schools, seven libraries, 87 places of worship, one major hospital, 12 emergency services (ambulance and police facilities), two armed forces facilities, 80 parks and open spaces, and 112 community resources (day cares, supportive housing, non-profit organizations, community centers, and business associations).
- During construction, access disruptions, visual effects, and nuisance effects such as dust and construction noise will be temporary and reduced via appropriate mitigation measures (see Potential Effects & Mitigation Measures).
- The Ontario Line will create jobs as well as promote the purchase of local goods and services. Throughout construction, the Project is anticipated to support direct and indirect jobs.
- The Project will result in a greater area of parkland by creating new parkland and increasing parkland in some areas of the Joint Corridor.



View Full Map

* Core employment areas contain businesses and economic activities such as manufacturing, processing, warehousing, offices, etc. General employment areas are places for business and economic activities such as restaurants, retail, service uses, etc., generally located on the peripheries of employment areas.

** Regeneration areas are primarily former manufacturing areas targeted for growth and development in Toronto and are encouraged to develop as mixed-use places.

Potential Effects & Mitigation Measures

Potential Effects

Construction

- Permanent and temporary property acquisition within the Project footprint.
- Potential for disruption to Study Area neighbouring land to accommodate Project construction activities.

Operation

- Potential for disruption to Study Area neighbouring land to accommodate Project operation activities.
- Visual effects from permanent public-facing structures and Project activities.

Mitigation Measures

Construction

- Restore temporary occupied lands once construction is complete.
- Provide well connected, clearly delineated, and appropriately signed walkways and cycling route options, with clearly marked detours where required.
- Maintain access to businesses during working hours where feasible. Where regular access cannot be maintained, alternative access and signage will be provided.

Operation

- Reduce visual effects of Project structures by considering their location, building materials, architectural design, and surrounding landscape treatments.
- Provide lighting and wayfinding signs and cues to aid navigation around each station site.

Typical streetscape of Toronto. University Avenue and Queen Street West, looking South.
Source: Stantec 2021

← *Return to Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report*

What are your thoughts on the Socio-Economic & Land Use Characteristics study key findings and identified potential impacts and mitigation measures? *

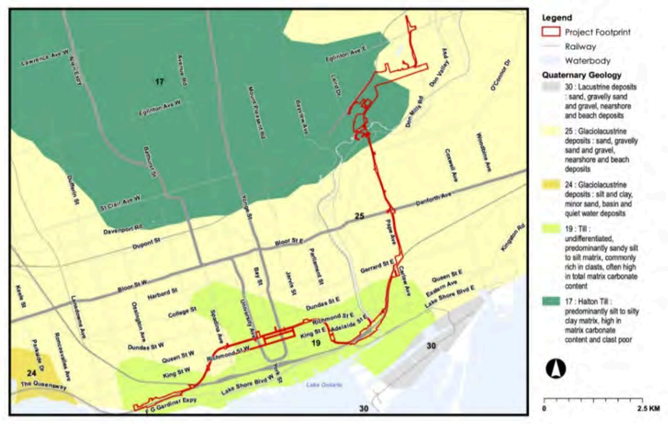
Submit

Soil & Groundwater - Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report

← *Return to Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report*

Key Findings

- The Study Area consists primarily of gravelly sand, gravel, silt, clayey silt, silty clay, sand and silty sand.
- The following source water features are relevant to the Study Area: an Intake Protection Zone*, a regional Highly Vulnerable Aquifer** and an Event Based Area***.
- The area is serviced by municipal water supply from Lake Ontario.
- Without mitigation, there is potential for impacts to groundwater (e.g., temporary drawdown of the water table) and soil (e.g., ground movement and settlement as a result of excavation). The completion of hydrogeological and geotechnical investigations and a construction dewatering assessment during detailed design, completion of groundwater and soil management plans as planning progresses, and implementation of appropriate mitigation measures during Project activities are anticipated to reduce potential impacts (see Potential Effects & Mitigation Measures).



View Full Map

* Areas of land and water that contribute source water to a surface water drinking system intake.

** An aquifer (underground layer of permeable soil and/or rock) susceptible to contamination due to its location near the ground surface or the surrounding soils.

*** Areas in a watershed where a spill could pollute the drinking water supply.

Potential Effects & Mitigation Measures

Potential Effects

Construction

- Construction activities will cause displacement of soils and bedrock. This may result in ground movement and settlement.
- Construction activities could expose pre-existing contaminated materials and/or result in the spreading of contaminated materials.
- Construction dewatering may impact private groundwater supply wells and groundwater-dependent natural features.
- Construction activities have the potential to affect groundwater quality through contaminant releases.

Operation

- Impact to soil and groundwater and not anticipated during operations.

Mitigation Measures

Construction

- Develop a Soil and Excavated Materials Management Plan for the handling, management and disposal of all excavated materials that is generated or encountered during construction.
- A Spill Prevention and Response Plan is required to be developed prior to initiation of construction activities.
- Conduct dewatering such that ground loss is controlled/minimized.
- Site-specific mitigation measures and monitoring programs related to potential groundwater impacts will be determined prior to work commencing.

Operations

- As no impacts are anticipated during operations, no mitigation measures are recommended.

← *Return to Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report*

What are your thoughts on Soil & Groundwater study key findings and identified potential impacts and mitigation measures? *

Submit

Traffic & Transportation - Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report

← *Return to Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report*

Key Findings

- The Study Area includes a substantial road network and is served by both local and regional transit networks through a range of train, subway, streetcar and bus options, including the TTC, GO Transit and VIA Rail commuter lines. Freight trains operated by Canadian National Railway and Canadian Pacific Railway are also present.
- An active transportation network is present across the Study Area including major multi-use pathways, minor multi-use pathway connecting trails, sidewalks, and on-street bike lanes.
- A new multi-use trail will be constructed as a result of the Ontario Line.
- Planned mitigation measures will permanently enhance the downtown streetcar network.
- During construction, lane restrictions/closures, travel time delays, realignment of sidewalks and bike lanes, and rail service restrictions will be temporary and reduced with appropriate mitigation measures (See Potential Effects & Mitigation Measures).

Active transportation system.

University Avenue and Queen Street West, looking east.
Source: Stantec 2021

Potential Effects & Mitigation Measures

Potential Effects

Construction

- Construction will result in the need for temporary, partial, and full lane, street, sidewalk and trail closures.
- Queen Street between Yonge Street and Victoria Street will be closed for approximately 6 months. Queen Street west of Victoria Street will be closed for the duration of the Queen Station construction.
- Increase in construction vehicle traffic may cause impacts to traffic flow on the local road network.
- Temporary, partial, or full closures of sidewalks, trails, pedestrian and cyclist pathways.
- Construction may result in access restrictions to local bus routes, temporary changes in bus stop shelters/locations, and temporary disruptions to the existing rail corridor.

Operation

- Traffic improvements are anticipated as a result of operations.
- The connection between Banigan Drive and Thorncliffe Park Drive will be permanently closed.
- The increased pedestrian demands generated in the vicinity of Ontario Line stations may coincide with increased delays and worsened pedestrian levels of service for existing pedestrian trips that are not taking the Ontario Line.

Mitigation Measures

Construction

- Develop and implement a Transit and Traffic Management Plan prior to construction in consultation with local transportation and transit authorities.
- Issue notifications and advisory signage to alert traffic and transit users of any upcoming road closures and disruptions as required.
- Ensure the appropriate signage and notifications are provided to safely direct pedestrians and cyclists around closed active and transit network sections.
- Access to nearby lands and businesses will be maintained to the extent possible.

Operation

- Signage and advance notification are recommended to notify station users of any detours.
- Increase the surface transit stop area through either the removal or relocation of sidewalk furniture and increasing surface transit frequency/capacity should be considered, where feasible.

← *Return to Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report*

What are your thoughts on the Traffic & Transportation study key findings and identified potential impacts and mitigation measures? *

Submit

E-Newsletters

View this email in your browser

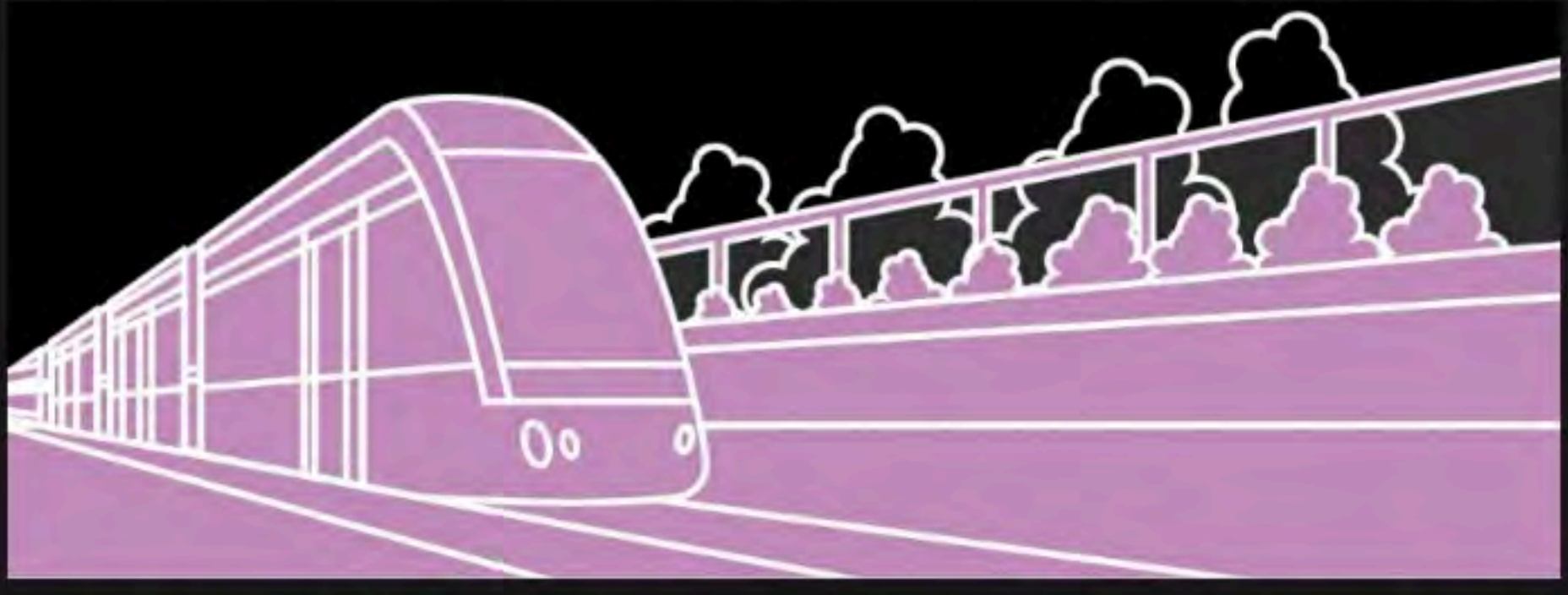
IT'S HAPPENING.

METROLINX

Ontario Line

November 22, 2021

Register now: Ontario Line Open Houses Tuesday and Thursday



As we approach the end of the year, Metrolinx is excited to host the next round of Ontario Line virtual open houses this **Tuesday** and **Thursday** at 6:30 p.m.

These engagements will be slightly different as we will look at the project as a whole from Exhibition to the Science Centre. We will briefly recap past project milestones while detailing what communities can expect in 2022.

Both the Tuesday and Thursday virtual open houses this week will have similar presentation materials so feel free to participate in which ever one works best for your schedule. Each virtual open house will also feature a question and answer period so you can better connect with the Ontario Line project team.

Register now to save your spot and start submitting questions in advance by clicking here.

Contact Us

You can reach the Ontario Line Community Relations Team by email at OntarioLine@Metrolinx.com or by calling 416-202-5100. You can also share comments and ask questions at Metrolinx Engage.

You are receiving this e-blast because you signed up through our online form, or participated in one of our community events and indicated you would like to receive these e-updates. Our email list is only used for information about project events, initiatives and construction updates. It is not sold or provided to any other party for their use, nor to market our services or products.

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IT'S HAPPENING.
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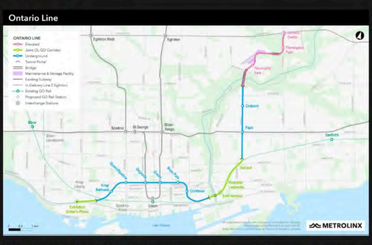
Ontario Line

February 18, 2022

Four Virtual Open Houses Happening This February and March



With the release of the draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report on February 7th, Metrolinx is holding four virtual open houses for residents to get further information on the report and have their questions answered.

The report is now available for community review and feedback. The virtual open house events will provide residents with more information on report findings, project updates and what will happen next.

The dates for the open houses are;

- February 22, 2022 - Science Centre to Gerrard
- February 24, 2022 - Science Centre to Gerrard
- March 1, 2022 - Gerrard to Exhibition
- March 3, 2022 - Gerrard to Exhibition

If you are interested in joining us for one of the meetings, please register here.

Investigative Drilling and Rail Corridor Surveying

Geotechnical drilling and surveying continues at several points along the Ontario Line route to gather information on ground conditions.

A few recent notices informed residents of work taking place on:

Daytime and overnight investigative hydrovac work at Cherry Street underpass and Don Yard (rail corridor) - starting as early as February 14

Investigative CCTV work along Pape Ave, Carlaw, Riverdale Ave. and Langley Ave - starting as early as February 22

Surveying near Eglinton and Don Mills - starting as early as February 10

You can find all current community notices on our website.

Reminder: Joint Corridor Vegetation Removal

Crews are still working on tree removal in the joint corridor, within Metrolinx property, in preparation for the future GO electrification. These tree removals were studied and approved under the GO Expansion electrification Transit Project Assessment Process (TPAP) in 2017, and through an addendum in 2021.

The 2021 environmental assessment addendum identified all trees within the Metrolinx corridor that are within approximately seven meters from the outside track will be removed – this is the work that is taking place now. We are currently only removing the trees from the south side of the tracks of the Lakeshore East Rail Corridor, on the side where the GO Trains will run, between Eastern Avenue and Gerrard Street East.

If you would like further information please see the notice here.

What you need to know about Toronto's Davenport Diamond Greenway community consultations and connections it will bring

Metrolinx often asks for public input – but what really becomes of that consultation?

Here's how it's worked for the Toronto's Davenport Diamond project, and why it's vital to make plans for today as well as chart a wider transit path ahead.

The Greenway is the public space located below the Davenport Diamond Guideway and is currently in the design phase. Detailed design is a key step in establishing the necessary details and specifications that the future contractor will need to build the project.

If interested in learning more about the different community consultations that took place, please view the story here.

Recent Metrolinx News

See new Yonge North Subway Extension updated environmental studies and station area maps
February 10, 2022

Metrolinx CEO releases open letter to residents surrounding Small's Creek
February 4, 2022

Contact Us

You can reach the Ontario Line Community Relations Team by email at OntarioLine@Metrolinx.com or by calling 416-202-5100. You can also share comments and ask questions at Metrolinx Engage.

You are receiving this e-blast because you signed up through our online form, or participated in one of our community events and indicated you would like to receive these e-updates. Our email list is only used for information about project events, initiatives and construction updates. It is not sold or provided to any other party for their use, nor to market our services or products.

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IT'S HAPPENING.
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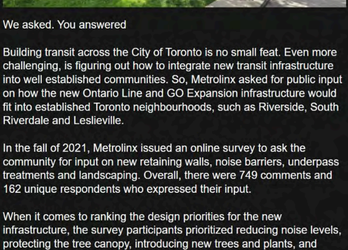
Ontario Line

January 28, 2022

East segment design survey results



We asked. You answered

Building transit across the City of Toronto is no small feat. Even more challenging, is figuring out how to integrate new transit infrastructure into well established communities. So, Metrolinx asked for public input on how the new Ontario Line and GO Expansion infrastructure would fit into established Toronto neighbourhoods, such as Riverside, South Riverdale and Leslieville.

In the fall of 2021, Metrolinx issued an online survey to ask the community for input on new retaining walls, noise barriers, underpass treatments and landscaping. Overall, there were 749 comments and 162 unique respondents who expressed their input.

When it comes to ranking the design priorities for the new infrastructure, the survey participants prioritized reducing noise levels, protecting the tree canopy, introducing new trees and plants, and minimizing the potential visual and physical impacts of transit service within the rail corridor.

For more details, the report can be viewed here. Or read the blog story here.

Investigative Drilling and Rail Corridor Surveying

Geotechnical drilling and surveying continues at several points along the Ontario Line route to gather information on ground conditions.

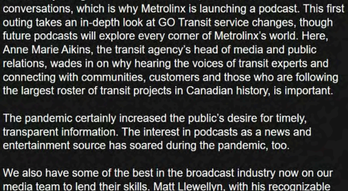
A few recent notices informing residents of work taking place on:

Tree removals at Corktown early works site - starting as early as February 1

Utility survey along Lewis Street between Eastern Avenue and Queen Street East – starting as early as January 25

You can find all current community notices on our website.

Metrolinx Celebrates Black History Month



Metrolinx is celebrating Black History Month in February with a number of initiatives, including an upcoming GO Transit bus wrap and a visual arts installation at Union Station's Bay Concourse (southwest corner, close to the Scotiabank Arena entrance).

Both the bus wrap and art display will debut at the start of next month (Feb.).

Recognition of the late Salome Bey, Canada's 'First Lady of the Blues', will be the most visible aspect in Metrolinx's commemoration, as her image will be prominent on a bus making its way around the Greater Golden Horseshoe Region of Ontario.

A new Spotify playlist, created by Metrolinx, features music by Bey and other artists that expressed the need for social change.

Metrolinx will also mark Black History Month with internal speakers and gatherings, including a forum and panel discussion featuring Metrolinx Chief Inclusion Officer Karima Hashmani.

If interested in more on this story please see here.

Metrolinx launches first podcast – Between the Lines

Audio storytelling features more intimate, detailed transit conversations, which is why Metrolinx is launching a podcast. This first outing takes an in-depth look at GO Transit service changes, though future podcasts will explore every corner of Metrolinx's world. Here, Anne Marie Aikins, the transit agency's head of media and public relations, wades in on why hearing the voices of transit experts and connecting with communities, customers and those who are following the largest roster of transit projects in Canadian history, is important.

The pandemic certainly increased the public's desire for timely, transparent information. The interest in podcasts as a news and entertainment source has soared during the pandemic, too.

We also have some of the best in the broadcast industry now on our media team to lend their skills. Matt Llewellyn, with his recognizable radio voice and interviewing skills is our host, while James Wattie, an award-winning broadcast producer, is producing Between the Lines.

Together, they have planned some fascinating and timely discussions.

The podcast is also about hearing directly from Metrolinx voices and experts who can explain the transit advances and changes the best.

Podcasts air every Tuesday and Thursday and you can find them here.

Recent Metrolinx News

A top e-book for GO Transit customers? Find out what's trending on the GO Wi-Fi Plus content portal
January 25, 2022

PRESTO E-Tickets now available on Oakville Transit
January 24, 2022

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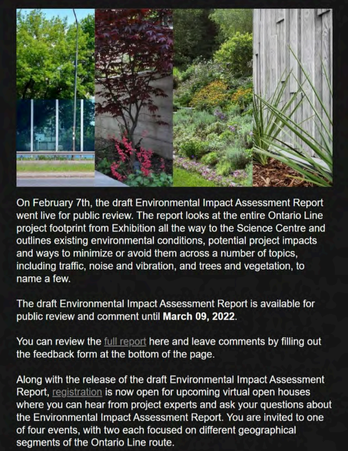
Ontario Line

February 11, 2022

Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report Release



On February 7th, the draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report went live for public review. The report looks at the entire Ontario Line project footprint from Exhibition all the way to the Science Centre and outlines existing environmental conditions, potential project impacts and ways to minimize or avoid them across a number of topics, including traffic, noise and vibration, and trees and vegetation, to name a few.

The draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report is available for public review and comment until **March 09, 2022**.

You can review the full report here and leave comments by filling out the feedback form at the bottom of the page.

Along with the release of the draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report, registration is now open for upcoming virtual open houses where you can hear from project experts and ask your questions about the Environmental Impact Assessment Report. You are invited to one of four events, with two each focused on different geographical segments of the Ontario Line route.

- February 22, 2022 - Science Centre to Gerrard
- February 24, 2022 - Science Centre to Gerrard
- March 1, 2022 - Gerrard to Exhibition
- March 3, 2022 - Gerrard to Exhibition

Investigative Drilling and Rail Corridor Surveying

Geotechnical drilling and surveying continues at several points along the Ontario Line route to gather information on ground conditions.

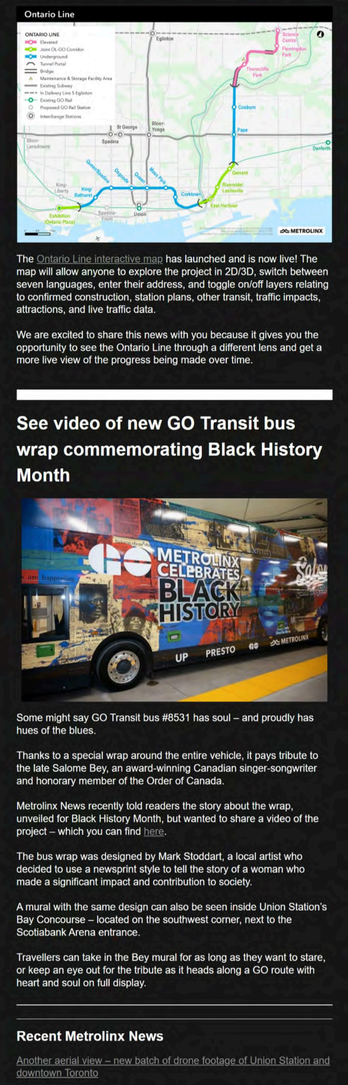
A few recent notices informed residents of work taking place on:

Investigative hydrovac and CCTV work on Adelaide Street West and East - starting as early as February 7

Investigative drilling work in the Bell Media parking lot at 299 Queen Street West - starting as early as February 7

You can find all current community notices on our website.

Ontario Line Interactive Map Launch



The Ontario Line interactive map has launched and is now live! The map will allow anyone to explore the project in 2D/3D, switch between seven languages, enter their address, and toggle on/off layers relating to confirmed construction, station plans, other transit, traffic impacts, attractions, and live traffic data.

We are excited to share this news with you because it gives you the opportunity to see the Ontario Line through a different lens and get a more live view of the progress being made over time.

See video of new GO Transit bus wrap commemorating Black History Month

Some might say GO Transit bus #8531 has soul – and proudly has hues of the blues.

Thanks to a special wrap around the entire vehicle, it pays tribute to the late Salome Bey, an award-winning Canadian singer-songwriter and honorary member of the Order of Canada.

Metrolinx News recently told readers the story about the wrap, unveiled for Black History Month, but wanted to share a video of the project – which you can find here.

The bus wrap was designed by Mark Stoddart, a local artist who decided to use a newsprint style to tell the story of a woman who made a significant impact and contribution to society.

A mural with the same design can also be seen inside Union Station's Bay Concourse – located on the southwest corner, next to the Scotiabank Arena entrance.

Travellers can take in the Bey mural for as long as they want to stare, or keep an eye out for the tribute as it heads along a GO route with heart and soul on full display.

Recent Metrolinx News

Another aerial view – new batch of drone footage of Union Station and downtown Toronto

February 7, 2022

Scarborough Subway Extension update – Three teams shortlisted for contract to build stations

February 9, 2022

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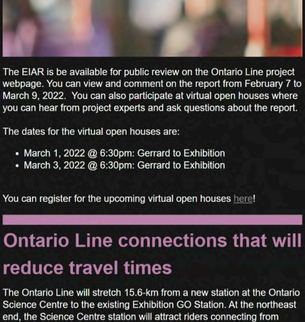
Ontario Line February 28, 2022

Join the Ontario Line Team for another set of virtual open houses



The EIAR is be available for public review on the Ontario Line project webpage. You can view and comment on the report from February 7 to March 9, 2022. You can also participate at virtual open houses where you can hear from project experts and ask questions about the report.

The dates for the virtual open houses are:

- March 1, 2022 @ 6:30pm: Gerrard to Exhibition
- March 3, 2022 @ 6:30pm: Gerrard to Exhibition

You can register for the upcoming virtual open houses here!

Ontario Line connections that will reduce travel times

The Ontario Line will stretch 15.6-km from a new station at the Ontario Science Centre to the existing Exhibition GO Station. At the northeast end, the Science Centre station will attract riders connecting from neighbourhoods along the new Eglinton Crosstown LRT and TTC bus routes.

With more than 40 transit connections across 15 stations, this will do more than shave time off commutes – it will open up the city by making a variety of trips, for business and pleasure, much easier than they are today.

By the numbers

The Ontario Line offers more than 40 connections at its 15 stations including:

- Lakeshore West, Lakeshore East, and Stouffville GO train services
- Line 1 and Line 2 TTC subways
- Line 5 (Eglinton Crosstown LRT)
- Streetcars at 10 stations
- Buses at 12 stations

By offering new transfer points on the way into downtown Toronto, the Ontario Line will reduce crowding at Union Station by up to 14 per cent, and at Bloor-Yonge by up to 22 per cent, during the busiest hour of the day. That's about 14,000 people at each station.

All of these connections will give riders more choices, contributing to a network effect that will encourage more people to use public transit through Toronto and the Greater Golden Horseshoe.

To learn more, please view the article here.

Investigative Drilling and Rail Corridor Surveying

Geotechnical drilling and surveying continues at several points along the Ontario Line route to gather information on ground conditions.

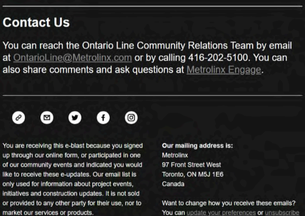
Below are community notices for this week;

Overnight investigative CCTV work on Adelaide Street West and East - starting as early as February 22

Investigative CCTV work along Pape Ave, Carlaw, Riverdale Ave, and Langley Ave – starting as early as February 22

You can find all current community notices on our website.

Check out the Ontario Line Interactive Map



Metrolinx recently launched an interactive map tool to give residents a closer look at the project. This new interactive portal allows people to take a virtual tour of the route while also gaining insight into the latest plans, reports, and updates along the way.

The interactive map provides a detailed view of not only where the Ontario Line will run but also where the portals, bridges, and stations will be.

If you haven't had a chance to take a look at the interactive map and are interested, you can view it here!

One person can change a life: Metrolinx commits to the Ontario anti-human trafficking strategy

As a hidden crime, most cases of human trafficking go undocumented, but studies show that traffickers use public transit as part of their operations. To help disrupt traffickers' use of the networks, Metrolinx is supporting Ontario's anti-human trafficking strategy. The transit agency is raising awareness and focusing on early intervention; knowing one interaction with a Revenue Protection Officer, Special Constable, or an informed rider can change someone's life.

That's why when a Metrolinx Revenue Protection Officer recently met a young woman exhibiting some common red flags associated with human trafficking, he took action.

To read more, please view the full article here.

Recent Metrolinx News

Safety remains a priority on Hurontario LRT project

February 22, 2022

Watch the first ever Finch West LRT vehicle test run in new video

February 23, 2022

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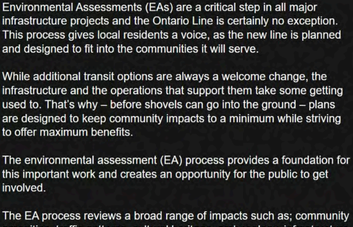
Ontario Line | January 21, 2022

Environmental Assessment Review



Environmental Assessments (EAs) are a critical step in all major infrastructure projects and the Ontario Line is certainly no exception. This process gives local residents a voice, as the new line is planned and designed to fit into the communities it will serve.

While additional transit options are always a welcome change, the infrastructure and the operations that support them take some getting used to. That's why – before shovels can go into the ground – plans are designed to keep community impacts to a minimum while striving to offer maximum benefits.

The environmental assessment (EA) process provides a foundation for this important work and creates an opportunity for the public to get involved.

The EA process reviews a broad range of impacts such as; community amenities, traffic patterns, cultural heritage, archaeology, infrastructure and utilities. The EA gives a comprehensive view of how a project fits into that environment, what the impacts are, and how to lessen those impacts.

There are unique challenges to consider before building transit lines in a densely populated city like Toronto, which is why EA reports are important before shovels go in the ground.

Protection of the environment will remain a priority as Metrolinx works to deliver transit relief.

You can read more about the EA process here!

Investigative Drilling and Rail Corridor Surveying

Geotechnical drilling and surveying continues at several points along the Ontario Line route to gather information on ground conditions.

A few recent notices informed residents of work taking place on:

Demolition at 1/1A Atlantic Avenue to get ready for Exhibition Station early works - starting as early as January 17

You can find all current community notices on our website.

Metrolinx adjusts GO Transit schedules further to address reduction in ridership during latest wave of pandemic

Find the latest on GO Transit service by going here. Please check back frequently as the schedules are being updated in real time.

This is not a unique situation. Metrolinx, like many other transit companies and businesses around the globe, is experiencing significantly reduced ridership, as well as an impact on staffing, due to the Omicron variant.

A recent 15 per cent reduction in rail services did not adequately address the impact of the latest wave of the virus, which interrupted what was looking like a slow return to some travel normalcy.

GO Transit ridership had grown throughout the summer and fall of 2021. However, ridership began to rapidly fall at the end of 2021 through this part of 2022, as illness levels grew, and is currently approximately 10 to 12 per cent of pre-pandemic levels – a very similar level of ridership seen during the early days of the pandemic in 2020.

Simply put, there are far fewer customers using GO Transit buses and trains right now as many return to working from home, post-secondary students study online and events are cancelled or attendance is limited. The recent storm meant even fewer customers climbed onboard trains and buses.

Although in some ways it may feel like Groundhog Day, there are important differences from March 2020 – there is a better understanding as to how the virus spreads; there are rapid tests to detect it; and most importantly, there are vaccines.

Along with all of the dozens of safety actions in place since March 2020, vaccination remains a key part of protecting staff and customers. More booster clinics for Metrolinx staff and contractors are also scheduled throughout the month of January.

Essential workers and others who must travel during this challenging time, should stay protected and wear a well-fitted mask while on transit.

Metrolinx will be closely monitoring ridership, staff availability and public health advice and will make adjustments to service as required.

Recent Metrolinx News

Toronto's Finch West LRT project sees work on Humber River Bridge
January 19, 2022

GO Transit VAXX bus fleet expanding to help tackle Omicron spread in Ontario
January 18, 2022

Get involved – Metrolinx launches latest virtual engagement for Dundas Bus Rapid Transit project
January 18, 2022

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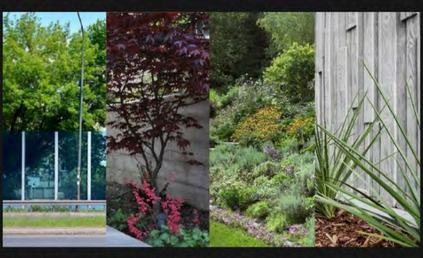
Ontario Line

March 11, 2022

Joint Corridor Design Working Group



Metrolinx is committed to working with the community on the look, feel and features of the new walls to ensure that they fit into the neighbourhood. As part of this commitment, our teams have worked with local community groups and members and elected representatives to establish a Joint Corridor Design Excellence Working Group. The goal is to create welcoming spaces around the corridor that reflect the community's interests and priorities.

You can learn more about this group, find materials from each session and provide feedback here.

Community Notices

Geotechnical drilling and surveying continues at several points along the Ontario Line route to gather information on ground conditions.

Please see notice for this week below;

Borehole Testing on Distillery Lane - starting as early as March 10

You can find all current community notices on our website.

Metrolinx Celebrates International Women's Day

On this years International Women's day we would like to take some time to recognize the hard work of women all over the world. You all play an important role in the lives of others.

This year, Metrolinx is welcoming its first all-female bus driver class. Metrolinx attracts more and more talented women who feel at ease applying for positions that were historically male dominated. Discover how Metrolinx successfully improved its bus driver recruitment to break down barriers for women and move towards gender balance here.

GO Transit customers to Anne Marie Aikins – 'We're getting ready to ride again'

As many GO Transit and UP Express riders return, or prepare to come back to riding trains and buses, Anne Marie Aikins, Metrolinx's head of Media and Public Relations, recently reached out on social media to ask how passengers are feeling. They responded – in substantial numbers. Here's what they had to say to her.

Click here to learn more and read the full article.

Recent Metrolinx News

Preparing to use PRESTO, GO Transit and UP Express again? Here are ways to save

March 9, 2022

Metrolinx releases new station maps for Scarborough Subway Extension

March 7, 2022

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Ontario Line

April 12, 2021

Province announces two transit-oriented community proposals along the Ontario Line

Today, the Province of Ontario announced it has begun working with the City of Toronto on preliminary plans to build transit-oriented communities at the future East Harbour Transit Hub and Corktown station along the Ontario Line subway. Following municipal engagement on these preliminary plans, the province will host public consultations with the local communities and stakeholders as early as summer 2021.

The Province will work with the City and the landowner to deliver the East Harbour Transit Hub proposal, which includes the creation of a major employment centre expected to bring more than 50,000 jobs to the area.

For the transit-oriented community proposal for Corktown station, the Province will work closely with the City of Toronto, stakeholders and Indigenous Nations - in particular the Treaty 13 signatory, the Mississaugas of the Credit - to collaborate on a meaningful plan to commemorate the rich heritage of Canada's First Parliament site. Before any development happens, the site will be used for construction of the Ontario Line and a new station once important archaeological studies are done. Learn more here.

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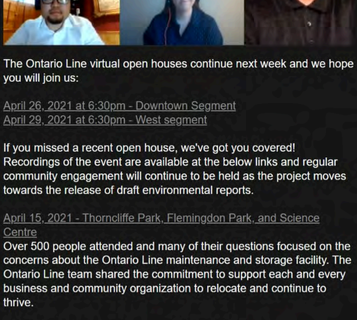
Ontario Line | April 23, 2021

Ontario Line Virtual Open Houses Continue



The Ontario Line virtual open houses continue next week and we hope you will join us:

April 26, 2021 at 6:30pm - Downtown Segment
April 29, 2021 at 6:30pm - West segment

If you missed a recent open house, we've got you covered! Recordings of the event are available at the below links and regular community engagement will continue to be held as the project moves towards the release of draft environmental reports.

April 15, 2021 - Thorncliffe Park, Flemingdon Park, and Science Centre
Over 500 people attended and many of their questions focused on the concerns about the Ontario Line maintenance and storage facility. The Ontario Line team shared the commitment to support each and every business and community organization to relocate and continue to thrive.

April 19, 2021 - Pape, Cosburn, Don Valley Crossing
Over 100 people attended and we answered questions focused on noise and vibration, plans for portal construction on the Don Valley slope, and supports available for businesses at Cosburn and Pape.

April 22, 2021 - East segment
Over 200 people attended with questions related to the feasibility and costing of tunneled alternatives, as well as noise, vibration, and safety. The Ontario Line team provided information on how building the Ontario Line in the existing rail corridor will minimize impacts to the community by protecting beloved parks in the area. We also talked about the effectiveness of noise walls in this neighbourhood and how they will be designed with community input.

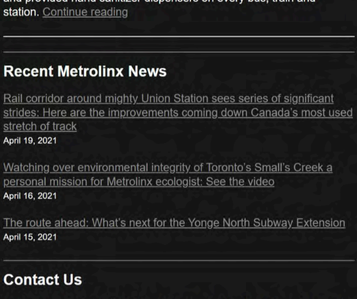
Investigative Drilling and Rail Corridor Surveying

Geotechnical drilling and surveying continues at several points along the Ontario Line route to gather information on ground conditions.

A recent notice informed residents of work taking place:
Daytime and overnight off-peak hours surveying at Osgoode station and surrounding area -Starting as early as April 18

You can find all current community notices on our website.

Ontario Line East segment update



At the virtual open house for the East segment last night, the Ontario Line team shared details about how seamless noise walls proposed along the existing rail corridor in the neighbourhoods of Riverside and Leslieville are expected to result in quieter, more peaceful streets, with noise levels lower than they are today at many locations along this stretch of the Ontario Line. Continue reading on Metrolinx News or watch the recording of yesterday's open house.

Harnessing the power of UV light to help customers kill germs

Starting April 19, CleanSlate UV sanitizers will be rolled out at 18 GO Transit and UP Express stations for customers to sanitize their electronic items on the go. And they are free to use.

The safety of customers is a top priority, so throughout the pandemic Metrolinx has implemented over 40 safety measures to ensure everyone remains healthy. In addition to CleanSlate UV, Metrolinx has installed seat dividers on GO trains and buses and UP trains, increased the deep cleaning at stations and on vehicles and provided hand sanitizer dispensers on every bus, train and station. Continue reading

Recent Metrolinx News

Rail corridor around mighty Union Station sees series of significant strides: Here are the improvements coming down Canada's most used stretch of track
April 19, 2021

Watching over environmental integrity of Toronto's Small's Creek a personal mission for Metrolinx ecologist: See the video
April 16, 2021

The route ahead: What's next for the Yonge North Subway Extension
April 15, 2021

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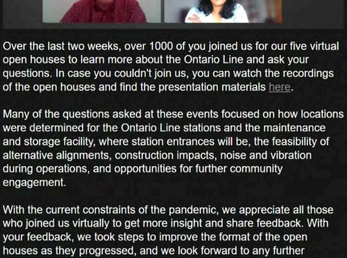
Ontario Line

April 30, 2021

Keeping the conversation going



Over the last two weeks, over 1000 of you joined us for our five virtual open houses to learn more about the Ontario Line and ask your questions. In case you couldn't join us, you can watch the recordings of the open houses and find the presentation materials here.

Many of the questions asked at these events focused on how locations were determined for the Ontario Line stations and the maintenance and storage facility, where station entrances will be, the feasibility of alternative alignments, construction impacts, noise and vibration during operations, and opportunities for further community engagement.

With the current constraints of the pandemic, we appreciate all those who joined us virtually to get more insight and share feedback. With your feedback, we took steps to improve the format of the open houses as they progressed, and we look forward to any further suggestions for our future sessions. We recognize that there are many questions we did not have time to get to, and we are working hard to address many of them on our FAQ page.

Stay tuned for next week's newsletter which will provide a recap of all the virtual open houses and some insight on next steps. In the meantime, here's how you can continue to reach us with your questions and comments:

- By email: ontarioline@metrolinx.com
- By phone: 416-202-5100
- Book a meeting with a member of our team here
- Through our public forum on Metrolinx Engage

Investigative Drilling and Rail Corridor Surveying

Geotechnical drilling and surveying continues at several points along the Ontario Line route to gather information on ground conditions.

A recent notice informed residents of work taking place:
Capturing sound and video information along the rail corridor - Starting as early as May 4

You can find all current community notices on our website.

Community: Building Roots

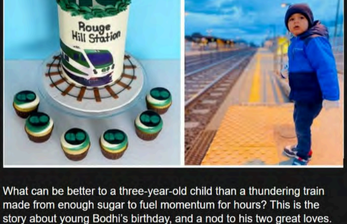
Started in 2013 as a progressive grassroots social venture, Building Roots was initially founded in response to a lack of fresh food access and agricultural growing space across Toronto.

Since quickly learning that inadequate food systems are a by-product of greater issues such as poverty, they began to build resources for social cohesion and co-create targeted interventions with communities across Downtown Toronto East. In 2019, they launched a charity called the *Growing Neighbourhoods Foundation* to expand this work.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Building Roots has been working not just to provide food to those who are in self-isolation, but also at-home resources for children out of school, families, seniors, and those with emotional or mobility barriers. In addition to delivering food baskets to vulnerable community members, the organization will also be delivering educational resources at its Moss Park Market.

Learn more about Building Roots here.

GO theme is frosting on the cake for one of transit's youngest fans



What can be better to a three-year-old child than a thundering train made from enough sugar to fuel momentum for hours? This is the story about young Bodhi's birthday, and a nod to his two great loves. Did we mention GO and dessert?

Thomas the Tank Engine is kid's stuff. For Bodhi's third birthday, it had to be a heaping slice of GO Transit. Continue reading on Metrolinx News.

Recent Metrolinx News

Spring bus schedule changes coming soon for GO Transit customers
April 20, 2021

GO train crew help elderly woman stranded at Kitchener GO Station
April 23, 2021

Metrolinx broadens focus to support staff vaccination in pandemic response
April 23, 2021

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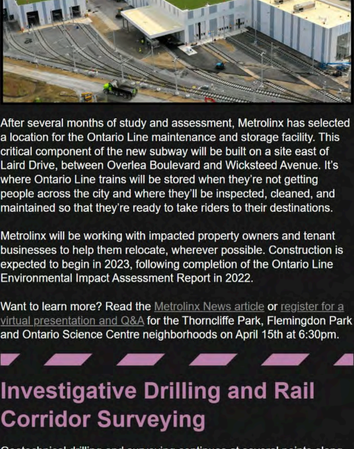
Ontario Line

April 9, 2021

East York site selected for Ontario Line maintenance and storage facility



After several months of study and assessment, Metrolinx has selected a location for the Ontario Line maintenance and storage facility. This critical component of the new subway will be built on a site east of Laird Drive, between Overlea Boulevard and Wicksteed Avenue. It's where Ontario Line trains will be stored when they're not getting people across the city and where they'll be inspected, cleaned, and maintained so that they're ready to take riders to their destinations.

Metrolinx will be working with impacted property owners and tenant businesses to help them relocate, wherever possible. Construction is expected to begin in 2023, following completion of the Ontario Line Environmental Impact Assessment Report in 2022.

Want to learn more? Read the Metrolinx News article or register for a virtual presentation and Q&A for the Thorncliffe Park, Flemingdon Park and Ontario Science Centre neighborhoods on April 15th at 6:30pm.

Investigative Drilling and Rail Corridor Surveying

Geotechnical drilling and surveying continues at several points along the Ontario Line route to gather information on ground conditions.

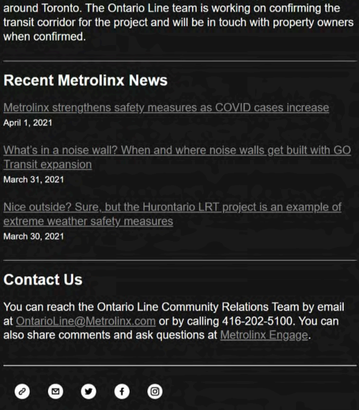
A few recent notices informed residents of work taking place.

West Segment:
Investigative drilling at 1 and 1A Atlantic Avenue near the rail corridor – Starting as early as April 5

East Segment:
Investigative drilling and environmental sampling at 240 First Avenue – Starting as early as April 12

You can find all current community notices on our website.

Refined Ontario Line plans will better serve communities of Riverside, Leslieville



Rearranging Ontario Line tracks within the existing GO rail corridor in Riverside and Leslieville will result in a better customer experience, slim down permanent infrastructure, and protect more park space. Continue reading here for a preview of the updates Metrolinx will be sharing at an upcoming virtual open house for the Ontario Line's East Segment.

How transit corridor lands will shorten construction timelines

Building transit in a large, urban landscape is a big challenge. With the region decades behind on building much-needed subways, getting shovels in the ground and keeping priority transit projects on track is more important than ever. Learn more on Metrolinx News about what it means to those living and working near some major transit projects around Toronto. The Ontario Line team is working on confirming the transit corridor for the project and will be in touch with property owners when confirmed.

Recent Metrolinx News

Metrolinx strengthens safety measures as COVID cases increase
April 1, 2021

What's in a noise wall? When and where noise walls get built with GO Transit expansion
March 31, 2021

Nice outside? Sure, but the Hurontario LRT project is an example of extreme weather safety measures
March 30, 2021

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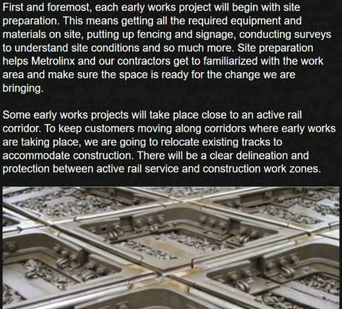
Ontario Line

August 13, 2021

Ontario Line Early Works Series: Activities

In our July 16 newsletter, we took a closer look at some of the equipment you might see used during early works construction on the Ontario Line. Let's now look at some common early works activities: track diversion, site preparation and alteration/construction of bridges.

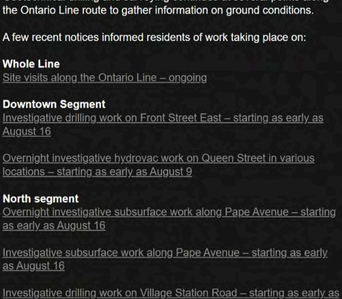
Before any early works begin, we release a dedicated Early Works Report that outlines the construction activities that will take place at a specific area or station site.



Picture: Confederation GO station site

First and foremost, each early works project will begin with site preparation. This means getting all the required equipment and materials on site, putting up fencing and signage, conducting surveys to understand site conditions and so much more. Site preparation helps Metrolinx and our contractors get to familiarized with the work area and make sure the space is ready for the change we are bringing.

Some early works projects will take place close to an active rail corridor. To keep customers moving along corridors where early works are taking place, we are going to relocate existing tracks to accommodate construction. There will be a clear delineation and protection between active rail service and construction work zones.



Picture: Davenport Diamond rail

Some early projects also require constructing new bridges or upgrading existing ones to prepare for the Ontario Line. Our teams are taking care to make sure the bridges are an attractive addition to the neighbourhoods they will serve, and to ensure all Aboriginal and treaty rights are respected.

These are a few examples of common early works activities you might see across the Ontario Line before major construction starts. Check out each Early Works Report for a detailed breakdown of the activities that are happening in areas across the line. Learn more about construction on our website.

Investigative Drilling and Rail Corridor Surveying

Geotechnical drilling and surveying continues at several points along the Ontario Line route to gather information on ground conditions.

A few recent notices informed residents of work taking place on:

Whole Line
Site visits along the Ontario Line – ongoing

Downtown Segment
Investigative drilling work on Front Street East – starting as early as August 16

Overnight investigative hydrovac work on Queen Street in various locations – starting as early as August 9

North segment
Overnight investigative subsurface work along Pape Avenue – starting as early as August 16

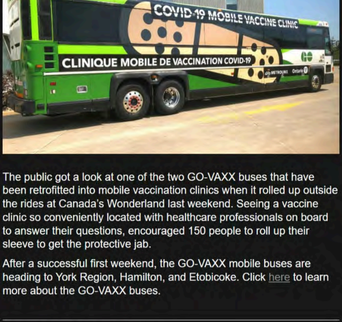
Investigative subsurface work along Pape Avenue – starting as early as August 16

Investigative drilling work on Village Station Road – starting as early as August 16

Geophysical surveying on Lipton Avenue – starting as early as August 10

You can find all current community notices on our website.

GO get vaccinated on a mobile vaccine clinic



The public got a look at one of the two GO-VAXX buses that have been retrofitted into mobile vaccination clinics when it rolled up outside the rides at Canada's Wonderland last weekend. Seeing a vaccine clinic so conveniently located with healthcare professionals on board to answer their questions, encouraged 150 people to roll up their sleeve to get the protective jab.

After a successful first weekend, the GO-VAXX mobile buses are heading to York Region, Hamilton, and Etobicoke. Click here to learn more about the GO-VAXX buses.

Recent Metrolinx News

Metrolinx reintroducing 30-minute all-day service on UP Express
August 11, 2021

Track construction means no Stouffville line trains this weekend plus Lakeshore East service impacts
August 10, 2021

New Metrolinx quiz tests your knowledge on the many changes that have taken place during pandemic
August 9, 2021

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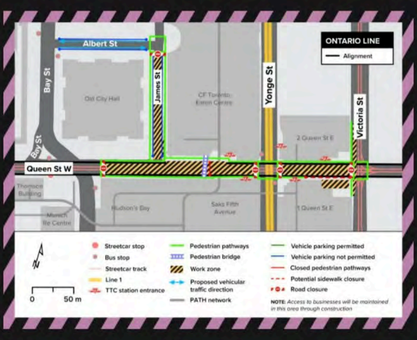
Ontario Line

August 20, 2021

Metrolinx releases detour plans to keep people moving on Queen Street



This week, Metrolinx shared plans to manage construction impacts around a new Ontario Line subway station at Toronto's Yonge and Queen intersection. This future station will be within a short 10-minute walk for more than 18,400 residents and connect people to 150,000 jobs in an area of the city where 5,100 households don't currently own a car.

Through extensive planning with our partners at the City of Toronto, Metrolinx created a plan which includes detours – for both streetcar lines and car traffic – around two small stretches of Queen Street on either side of Yonge, while maintaining important pedestrian connections.

The detours are expected to start in early 2023 and last for about four and a half years. Learn more about our plans here.

Investigative Drilling and Rail Corridor Surveying

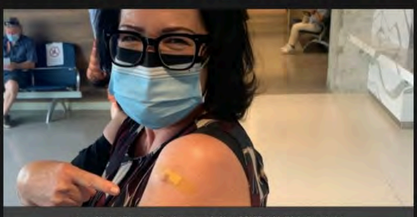
Geotechnical drilling and surveying continues at several points along the Ontario Line route to gather information on ground conditions.

A recent notice informed residents of work taking place on:

- Investigative drilling work in the parking lot at 11 Sunlight Park Road starting August 23 (notice will be live on our website shortly)

You can find all current community notices on our website.

Metrolinx announces mandatory COVID-19 vaccination for employees



Anne Marie Aikins proudly shows proof of her COVID 'jab' (Metrolinx photo)

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began in March 2020, Metrolinx invested in a multi-layered approach to safety to lower the risk and control the spread. This strategy included implementing over 40 safety measures – like mandatory masks, protective barriers between seats, daily health screening, rapid testing and other workplace safety protocols, as well as supporting staff to get fully vaccinated to keep everyone safe.

To date, these actions have helped keep cases low (approximately three per cent of the total Metrolinx workforce has tested positive) and prevented outbreaks on trains and buses.

Now, the more contagious Delta variant requires even stronger measures to ensure as many people as possible get fully vaccinated and are protected. At the direction of Caroline Mulroney, Ontario Minister of Transportation, Metrolinx is in the process of developing a detailed mandatory vaccination policy and implementation plan to be shared with all employees and released in the coming days. Learn more here.

Recent Metrolinx News

Metrolinx reminds customers to mask UP before they GO on transit
August 18, 2021

New agreement with City of Toronto helps bring new SmartTrack stations closer to reality
August 17, 2021

Metrolinx plans to bring 15-minute, two-way, all-day GO service further north on the Barrie Line to Bradford
August 12, 2021

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Ontario Line August 27, 2021

Final Lower Don Bridges and Don Yard Early Works Report Released

On August 25, Metrolinx took another step in the environmental assessment process for the Ontario Line with the release of the final Early Works Report for Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard. The final report incorporates the feedback received during the consultation period from June 22, 2021 to July 22, 2021.

To recap, this report provides details on the planned early works where the Ontario Line will run alongside GO train operations, the anticipated impacts from construction and the steps Metrolinx and its contractors can take to mitigate these effects. The scope of work includes:

- building a new bridge north of the existing rail bridge over the Lower Don River that will carry Ontario Line tracks;
- shifting GO tracks in the Don Yard and nearby rail corridor to accommodate Ontario Line infrastructure;
- modifying the existing rail bridge to accommodate GO track shifts and Ontario Line infrastructure; and,
- relocating and protecting utilities and signal infrastructure in the area.

As we move through 2021 and 2022, Metrolinx will release additional Early Works Reports and a comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment Report. These environmental assessment reports will be released in draft for public consultation. We look forward to sharing them and receiving your feedback.

Thorncliffe Park residents tour maintenance and storage facilities in Toronto

On August 12, Metrolinx organized bus tours for community members from Thorncliffe Park to visit a number of maintenance and storage facilities across Toronto, showing them how each fits within its surrounding – and thriving – neighbourhood. Participants also learned more about plans for the Ontario Line maintenance and storage facility in Thorncliffe Park.

The bus tour provided opportunities for back-and-forth discussion between community members and Metrolinx staff. Organizers asked participants what they liked and didn't like about the facilities and committed to gather more community input in future discussions and public meetings.

To read more about this tour, click here.

Investigative Drilling and Rail Corridor Surveying

Geotechnical drilling and surveying continues at several points along the Ontario Line route to gather information on ground conditions.

A reminder that ongoing site visits continue along the Ontario Line route.

You can find all current community notices on our website.

Recent Metrolinx News

Metrolinx's Customer Protection team looks for public input
August 27, 2021

Phil Verster explains the network effect and how it will create new transit possibilities for generations of customers
August 25, 2021

Metrolinx announces mandatory COVID-19 vaccination for employees
August 20, 2021

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Ontario Line August 6, 2021

Test your Ontario Line knowledge

As progress continues on the Ontario Line, we want to take a moment to let our readers to catch up on project benefits and facts that have been released so far.

We put together a short and sweet quiz to test your knowledge on some of the project's key facts and to allow you to brag with your friends who really is the ultimate transit enthusiast. Feel free to use these questions if you need to spice up your next trivia night.

Investigative Drilling and Rail Corridor Surveying

Geotechnical drilling and surveying continues at several points along the Ontario Line route to gather information on ground conditions.

A few recent notices informed residents of:

Site visits along the Ontario Line

Overnight investigative drilling work on Dundas Street East near Wardell Street starting as early as August 3

Topographic surveying on Albert Street between Bay Street and James Street - Starting as early as August 9

Overnight investigative subsurface work along Pape Avenue – starting as early as August 9

Investigative drilling work on Village Station Road – starting as early as August 9

Geophysical surveying on Lipton Avenue – starting as early as August 10

You can find all current community notices on our website.

Artist turns GO bus into his canvas to celebrate history and Toronto Caribbean Carnival

A bright and colourful GO Bus will soon hit the roads. Metrolinx has an ongoing partnership with the Toronto Caribbean Carnival and together they're unveiling a bus wrap to commemorate Emancipation Day in Canada. Click here to learn more about the renowned Toronto artist who turned a GO bus into a vibrant work of art to celebrate of one of North America's largest cultural events.

Recent Metrolinx News

See the first light rail vehicle arrive at Finch West Maintenance and Storage Facility
July 30, 2021

These six major transit connections will expand travel options on the Yonge North Subway Extension
July 29, 2021

Hovering above a nearly complete Mount Dennis Station on Toronto's Crosstown line
July 28, 2021

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Ontario Line

December 10, 2021

Reminder: Have your say on how the history of First Parliament site is recognized

How should we recognize history?

This is an important question for experts behind the Ontario Line subway station that will be built in Corktown, at King and Berkeley. The community still has an opportunity to share their opinions on how to commemorate the site's history in the new subway station through a new online survey. To help tell those stories, survey participants will rank themes that were identified in the city's strategy as priorities for presentation in the new station.

The commemoration project provides an opportunity to explore the history of this site. Indigenous Nations and interested community members are engaged in these efforts. This work builds on the City of Toronto's First Parliament Heritage Interpretation Strategy which was informed with feedback from Indigenous Nations, public consultation and research.

Learn more and access the survey here.

Passing by this area and wondering what work is taking place beyond the fencing? Read the Corktown Early Works Report here.

Investigative Drilling and Rail Corridor Surveying

Geotechnical drilling and surveying continues at several points along the Ontario Line route to gather information on ground conditions.

A recent notice informed residents of work such as:

Investigative drilling at Simcoe Street near Queen West and Richmond West starting as early as December 13

You can find all current community notices on our website.

Recent Metrolinx News

Lakeshore East weekend GO train service affected by upcoming construction
December 7, 2021

Mandatory vaccination policy takes effect for GO train crews
December 6, 2021

What is SmartTrack and how will it improve GO service in Toronto neighbourhoods?
December 6, 2021

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Ontario Line

December 17, 2021

Islamic Society of Toronto and Metrolinx to convert building in Thorncliffe Park to a new Islamic Centre

Earlier this week, the Islamic Society of Toronto (IST) and Metrolinx announced that an existing IST building, at 20 Overlea Boulevard in Thorncliffe Park, will be converted into a new Islamic Centre with significant additional community benefits, as part of the Ontario Line project.

The new centre will include larger and more extensive prayer spaces, new religious services and facilities, a mezzanine area that will provide bigger and better prayer spaces for women, as well as areas for educational and schooling programs.

Learn more about this joint announcement here.

Ontario Line in the community

Last weekend, Daryl and Katiana from the Ontario Line Community Relations team held a pop-up near Jimmie Simpson Recreation Centre during the Leslieville Flea Market. Residents asked great questions about project plans as we approach early works construction in 2022.

As per provincial health advice, our team will be pausing pop-up events until it is safe to physically engage the community again. You can still reach us via email, phone or book a meeting with us.

Investigative Drilling and Rail Corridor Surveying

Geotechnical drilling and surveying continues at several points along the Ontario Line route to gather information on ground conditions.

A few recent notices informed residents of work taking place such as:

Investigative drilling work on Graffiti Alley - starting as early as December 15

Overnight investigative drilling work in the rail corridor near Exhibition GO Station - starting as early as December 13

Investigative drilling work at Simcoe Street, near Queen West and Richmond West - starting as early as December 13

You can find all current community notices on our website.

Recent Metrolinx News

Metrolinx COVID update – From GO-VAXX Bus to where to find pop-up holiday free test kits
December 17, 2021

They're here. Tunnel boring machines for Scarborough Subway Extension and Eglinton Crosstown West Extension arrive
December 16, 2021

Local rail fan captures Guelph GO train speed increases in new video
December 16, 2021

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Ontario Line

December 3, 2021

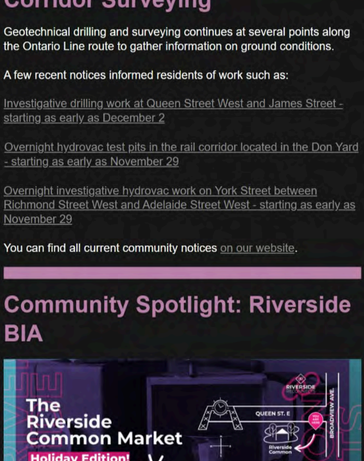
Metrolinx teams up with partners on early traffic plans to support Ontario Line construction

Metrolinx and its municipal partners are working together to manage impacts to downtown traffic while the Ontario Line subway project is under construction. Whether you are a transit user, driver, cyclist, pedestrian or someone with accessibility needs, Metrolinx and its partners have a plan to keep everyone moving.

The plan is an important step forward, for the Ontario Line, by mapping out the traffic changes needed from Exhibition GO Station to the future Corktown Station to make room for important construction work.

Click here to learn more.

Ontario Line in the community



The Ontario Line Community Relations team was at Parliament Square Park last weekend engaging the community on the current archaeological work at the First Parliament Site and the future Ontario Line station that will serve Corktown.

This Saturday, the Ontario Line team will be at the Victoria Memorial Square Park engaging the community about the work Metrolinx will be doing to bring better, faster and easier transit.

Investigative Drilling and Rail Corridor Surveying

Geotechnical drilling and surveying continues at several points along the Ontario Line route to gather information on ground conditions.

A few recent notices informed residents of work such as:

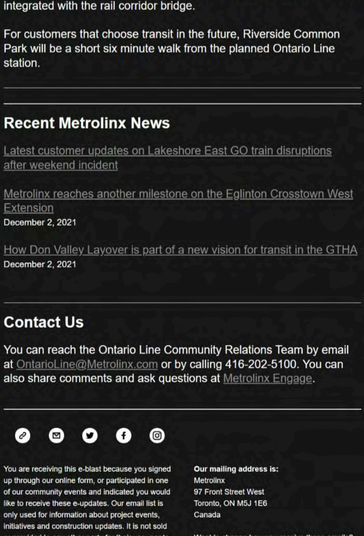
Investigative drilling work at Queen Street West and James Street - starting as early as December 2

Overnight hydrovac test pits in the rail corridor located in the Don Yard - starting as early as November 29

Overnight investigative hydrovac work on York Street between Richmond Street West and Adelaide Street West - starting as early as November 29

You can find all current community notices on our website.

Community Spotlight: Riverside BIA



On December 5th, Riverside BIA has organized a Riverside Holiday Outdoor Market & Festive Lighting at Riverside Common Park (657 Queen East, just west of Broadview Ave). There will be holiday shopping opportunities, music and a festive lighting of the park! Learn more here.

As many readers know, there will be an Ontario Line station serving Riverside and Leslieville at Queen Street East near De Grassi Street, integrated with the rail corridor bridge.

For customers that choose transit in the future, Riverside Common Park will be a short six minute walk from the planned Ontario Line station.

Recent Metrolinx News

Latest customer updates on Lakeshore East GO train disruptions after weekend incident

Metrolinx reaches another milestone on the Eglinton Crosstown West Extension
December 2, 2021

How Don Valley Layover is part of a new vision for transit in the GTHA
December 2, 2021

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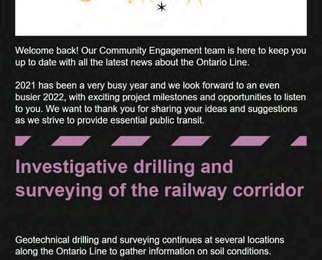
IT'S NOW.

Ontario Line january 8, 2022

Happy New Year!!



Welcome back! Our Community Engagement team is here to keep you up to date with all the latest news about the Ontario Line.

2021 has been a very busy year and we look forward to an even busier 2022, with exciting project milestones and opportunities to listen to you. We want to thank you for sharing your ideas and suggestions as we strive to provide essential public transit.

Investigative drilling and surveying of the railway corridor

Geotechnical drilling and surveying continues at several locations along the Ontario Line to gather information on soil conditions.

A few recent notices have informed residents of upcoming work such as:

Night Investigation Drilling In the Rail Corridor Between Carlaw Avenue and Jones Avenue – as of January

10 You can find all current community notices on our website.

Vegetation removal

Crews have begun removing trees in the joint in preparation for go's future electrification. This deforestation work was reviewed and approved as part of the Transit Project Assessment Process (PEPTC) for the electrification of the GO expansion in 2017, and through an addendum in 2021. The Addendum to the 2021 Environmental Assessment indicated that all trees in the Metrolinx corridor that are approximately seven metres from the outer lane will be removed, and that is the task we are doing now. We are only removing trees on the south side of the Lakeshore East rail corridor tracks, on the side where GO trains will run, between Eastern Avenue and Gerrard Street East. Read the review here.

As part of the mitigation program in response to the original 2017 environmental assessment, Metrolinx developed a comprehensive vegetation management program. Overall, we plant more trees than we take away. Metrolinx's vegetation guidelines are based on the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority's own highly regarded guidelines. Both are firmly rooted in ecological science to ensure that the city and region remain green as we offer more sustainable travel alternatives. To date, Metrolinx has funded and coordinated the reforestation of more than 24,000 native trees.

With respect to the Environmental Assessment of the Ontario Line, the report on the preliminary work on the Lakeshore East Common Corridor is now complete and published online, including the noise modelling assessment between Don River and Carlaw Avenue mentioned below (which is specific to cumulative operational noise for the GO expansion and the Ontario Line, and not vegetation). All tree felling related to the Ontario Line, in addition to those required to electrify the GO Transit, will take place in the fall of 2022.

To learn more about the Ontario Line environmental assessment process, click here.

Info Metrolinx : Les équipes chargées de l'engagement communautaire de Metrolinx terminent l'année avec un chiffre élevé et des promesses de création de nouveaux bureaux communautaires

Les équipes d'engagement communautaire de Metrolinx ont réussi à faire beaucoup de travail de sensibilisation au cours des douze derniers mois, répondant à toutes les questions imaginables, alors que l'organisme de transport en commun construit certains des plus grands projets d'infrastructure en Amérique du Nord.

L'équipe d'engagement communautaire est l'unique point de contact pour les résidents, les entreprises et les représentants élus qui ont des questions sur tout ce que Metrolinx fait dans leur cour. Il existe des équipes spécifiques pour les dix régions où des travaux de transport en commun sont prévus, et deux équipes desservent Toronto. Il existe également une équipe spécialisée pour chacun des quatre grands projets de métro.

Le personnel des relations communautaires de Metrolinx était présent dans la communauté à la place du Parlement (Parliament Square) pour organiser un événement contextuel afin de faire le point sur le projet et de répondre aux questions. (Photo de Metrolinx)

Près de 400 événements de sensibilisation ont été organisés en 2021 par les équipes d'engagement communautaire de la région élargie du Golden Horseshoe. Ces événements de sensibilisation ont contribué aux 100 000 interactions que l'équipe a eues avec le public cette année. De plus, les résidents et les associations communautaires ont été invités à établir des liens dans des cadres plus restreints, ce qui a donné lieu à plus de 600 réunions d'engagement des parties prenantes.

Le chef de la direction de Metrolinx, Phil Verster, a annoncé que Metrolinx ouvrira trois autres bureaux communautaires au cours de la nouvelle année pour les projets de prolongement vers l'ouest de la ligne Eglinton Crosstown, du prolongement vers le nord de la ligne de métro Yonge et de la ligne Ontario.

« Notre équipe d'engagement communautaire est disponible et veut vous entendre », a déclaré Verster. « Que vous assistiez à une réunion publique ou que vous souhaitiez rencontrer notre équipe en tête-à-tête, il est toujours possible de nous contacter. Nous sommes toujours à la recherche d'une occasion de mieux travailler avec les communautés que nous desservons alors que nous continuons à nous développer. »

Visitez Metrolinx.com/fr/greaterregion/default.aspx pour recevoir des mises à jour sur les projets dans votre communauté, ou inscrivez-vous dès maintenant ici.

D'autres nouvelles de Metrolinx

- Ce qui est à venir en 2022 pour la ligne Eglinton Crosstown – 5 janvier 2022
- Qu'est-ce que le TLR? Le transport léger sur rail expliqué – 4 janvier 2022

Nous joindre

Vous pouvez joindre l'équipe des relations communautaires de la ligne Ontario par courriel à OntarioLine@Metrolinx.com ou par téléphone au 416-202-5100. Vous pouvez également faire part de vos commentaires et poser des questions sur le site Metrolinx Participez.

Vous recevez ce bulletin électronique parce que vous vous êtes inscrit via notre formulaire en ligne ou avez participé à l'un de nos événements communautaires et avez indiqué que vous souhaitiez recevoir ces mises à jour électroniques. Notre liste d'adresses électroniques est uniquement utilisée pour vous informer des événements, des initiatives et des mises à jour du projet de construction. Elle n'est pas vendue ni fournie à quelque tiers que ce soit pour l'utilisation ou pour la commercialisation de nos produits ou services.

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IT'S HAPPENING.
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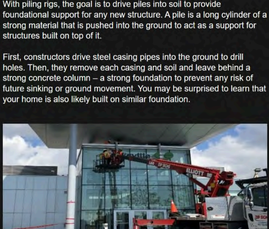
Ontario Line | July 16, 2021

Ontario Line Early Works Series: Equipment

In case you missed our introductory explainer about early works a few issues ago, we highlighted activities that will be happening in certain parts of the line before the main Ontario Line construction begins.

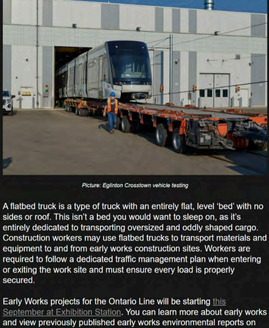
This week, we are providing a breakdown of some of the equipment you might see used for early works, including piling rigs, boom trucks and flatbed trucks.



Picture: Finch West LRT

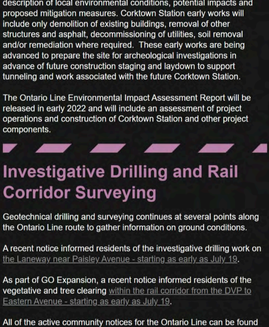
With piling rigs, the goal is to drive piles into soil to provide foundational support for any new structure. A pile is a long cylinder of a strong material that is pushed into the ground to act as a support for structures built on top of it.

First, constructors drive steel casing pipes into the ground to drill holes. Then, they remove each casing and soil and leave behind a strong concrete column – a strong foundation to prevent any risk of future sinking or ground movement. You may be surprised to learn that your home is also likely built on similar foundation.



Picture: Cooksville GO

A boom truck is a three-in-one wonder that combines three separate but critical functions and includes a hydraulic crane, a flatbed and a personnel hoist. Why is this useful? First, the crane helps workers lift heavy or unconventionally shaped items from the ground to the roof. Second, the flatbed provides space for items to be transported to different areas around the site. Third, the personnel hoist lifts workers in the air, allowing them to reach areas.



Picture: Eglinton Crosstown vehicle testing

A flatbed truck is a type of truck with an entirely flat, level 'bed' with no sides or roof. This isn't a bed you would want to sleep on, as it's entirely dedicated to transporting oversized and oddly shaped cargo. Construction workers may use flatbed trucks to transport materials and equipment to and from early works construction sites. Workers are required to follow a dedicated traffic management plan when entering or exiting the work site and must ensure every load is properly secured.

Early Works projects for the Ontario Line will be starting this September at Exhibition Station. You can learn more about early works and view previously published early works environmental reports on our website.

Corktown Early Works Report Finalized

Yesterday, Metrolinx took another step in the environmental assessment process for the Ontario Line with the release of the Final Early Works Report for Corktown Station. The final report incorporates the feedback received during the consultation period from May 12, 2021 to June 11, 2021.

To recap, the report provides details on the purpose of early works, a description of local environmental conditions, potential impacts and proposed mitigation measures. Corktown Station early works will include only demolition of existing buildings, removal of other structures and asphalt, decommissioning of utilities, soil removal and/or remediation where required. These early works are being advanced to prepare the site for archeological investigations in advance of future construction staging and laydown to support tunneling and work associated with the future Corktown Station.

The Ontario Line Environmental Impact Assessment Report will be released in early 2022 and will include an assessment of project operations and construction of Corktown Station and other project components.

Investigative Drilling and Rail Corridor Surveying

Geotechnical drilling and surveying continues at several points along the Ontario Line route to gather information on ground conditions.

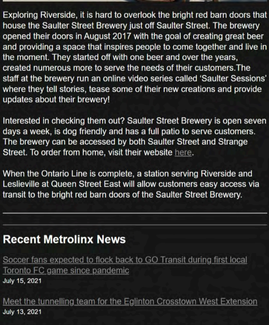
A recent notice informed residents of the investigative drilling work on the Laneway near Paisley Avenue - starting as early as July 19.

As part of GO Expansion, a recent notice informed residents of the vegetative and tree clearing within the rail corridor from the DVP to Eastern Avenue - starting as early as July 19.

All of the active community notices for the Ontario Line can be found on our website.

You can also find all the active community notices for GO Expansion on the Lakeshore East Rail Corridor here.

Community profile - Saulter Street Brewery



Exploring Riverside, it is hard to overlook the bright red barn doors that house the Saulter Street Brewery just off Saulter Street. The brewery opened their doors in August 2017 with the goal of creating great beer and providing a space that inspires people to come together and live in the moment. They started off with one beer and over the years, created numerous more to serve the needs of their customers.The staff at the brewery run an online video series called 'Saulter Sessions' where they tell stories, tease some of their new creations and provide updates about their brewery!

Interested in checking them out? Saulter Street Brewery is open seven days a week, is dog friendly and has a full patio to serve customers. The brewery can be accessed by both Saulter Street and Strange Street. To order from home, visit their website here.

When the Ontario Line is complete, a station serving Riverside and Leslieville at Queen Street East will allow customers easy access via transit to the bright red barn doors of the Saulter Street Brewery.

Recent Metrolinx News

Soccer fans expected to flock back to GO Transit during first local Toronto FC game since pandemic
July 15, 2021

Meet the tunnelling team for the Eglinton Crosstown West Extension
July 13, 2021

While COVID kept most transit riders at home much changed on GO Transit
July 13, 2021

Contact Us

You can reach the Ontario Line Community Relations Team by email at OntarioLine@Metrolinx.com or by calling 416-202-5100. You can also share comments and ask questions at Metrolinx Engage.

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Ontario Line July 2, 2021

Ontario Line North Segment Update

Last Wednesday evening, project leaders shared the latest details for the north segment, including updates surrounding the proposed train storage and maintenance facility in East York and a slight shift in the route of the line at the corner of Overlea Boulevard and Millwood Road in Thorncliffe Park to prevent impacts to the iconic Thorncliffe Park sign.

Metrolinx continues to having one-on-one conversations with local businesses and organizations currently operating in the area that will be occupied by the future maintenance and storage facility to help them relocate to other locations within the community or nearby, at no financial loss.

- Get all the details here
- View the updated north segment maps here.
- If you missed the open house, you can view a replay here.

This wraps up our June virtual open house series and we look forward to hosting more in the near future.

Investigative Drilling and Rail Corridor Surveying

Geotechnical drilling and surveying continues at several points along the Ontario Line route to gather information on ground conditions.

A recent notice informed residents of the Investigative drilling work and environmental sampling work at 265 Front Street – starting as early as July 5

You can find all current community notices on our website.

Metrolinx adding more GO Transit and UP Express service as pandemic continues to subside

Metrolinx is giving customers more options to get around. Weekend service is increasing on a number of popular GO train lines, as well as UP Express trips to and from Toronto Pearson Airport. Plus, Metrolinx is trying out a new pilot program that will help make it easier for some customers to visit the Toronto Zoo.

Get all the details here.

Recent Metrolinx News

Residents near northern segment of Ontario Line route invited to virtual open house event
June 30, 2021

GO Transit increases walking and cycling access to GO Stations
June 29, 2021

Metrolinx unveils new jobs portal for those hoping for transit career
June 28, 2021

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Ontario Line

July 23, 2021

Safety Moment - Protecting Against Extreme Weather

Picture: Metrolinx looks to contractors to trim, remove and replace vegetation that creates a safety risk through sections of its rail corridors. The Metrolinx Vegetation Guideline outlines the framework which this work is carried out.

In addition to what you might think of as traditional corridor maintenance – replacing of rail ties and rail sections, inspecting bridge structures, and updating signal software – making sure trees and vegetation don't obstruct the movement of trains is equally important to ensuring safe rail operations.

On July 18, a tree damaged a passing GO train in the Lakeshore East rail corridor within the Riverside neighbourhood. Due to recent bad weather, this specific tree had shifted and a large limb of the tree had blown on the tracks creating a safety risk. Once this incident was identified, emergency teams were dispatched to clear the tree in the early hours of July 19. Emergency teams took this opportunity to also complete the required bi-annual clearing of other vegetation on the tracks that posed a safety risk.

To better understand how dangerous fallen vegetation debris can be, click here to learn more.

Investigative Drilling and Rail Corridor Surveying

Geotechnical drilling and surveying continues at several points along the Ontario Line route to gather information on ground conditions.

A few recent notices informed residents of:

Investigative drilling work on Tiverton Avenue – starting as early as July 27

Investigative drilling work on the laneway off Logan Avenue – starting as early as July 22

Investigative drilling work on Bathurst Street – starting as early as July 20

You can find all current community notices on our website.

Ontario Line in the Community

This week, Islamic Society of Toronto Masjid Darus Salaam leadership invited CEO Phil Verster and other Metrolinx staff to join Eid al-Adha prayers in Thorncliffe Park and to discuss Ontario Line plans.

Recent Metrolinx News

Prepare for traffic impacts on Danforth Avenue as crews prepare for Lakeshore East Rail Corridor bridge work
July 22, 2021

From branded face coverings to Mini GO Bear plush toys Metrolinx opens new online shop for transit fans and customers
July 19, 2021

Clark Station to be included as fourth stop on Yonge North Subway Extension
July 16, 2021

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Ontario Line

July 9, 2021

June Open House Recap

Throughout the month of June, over 360 of you joined us for our four virtual open houses to learn more about the Ontario Line and ask your questions. In case you couldn't join us, you can watch the recordings of the open houses and find the presentation materials archived here.

There were over 260 questions asked and we appreciate the valuable feedback received. Back by popular demand, we had the 'Zoom Room' where 42 participants asked their question live on air. Some of the themes we heard included transit corridor lands, alignment considerations, station entrances, property impacts, environmental assessments, noise and vibration, and more. We are working hard to answer the questions we did not have time to get to during the live event. You can find these questions and answers posted on the event page for each virtual open house, soon.

As we slowly begin to emerge from lockdown restrictions, we are actively working to complete renovations and establish health protocols for our community offices in Riverside and at the East York Town Centre. We remain optimistic that we will be able to continue conversations in-person very soon. The next round of virtual open houses will take place in August. More details to come.

In the meantime, here's how you can continue to reach us with your feedback and questions:

- By email: ontarioline@metrolinx.com
- By phone: 416-202-5100
- Book a meeting with a member of our team here
- Through our public forum on Metrolinx Engage

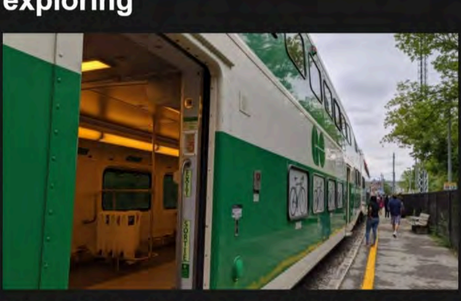
Investigative Drilling and Rail Corridor Surveying

Geotechnical drilling and surveying continues at several points along the Ontario Line route to gather information on ground conditions.

A recent notice informed residents of the Investigative drilling work on York Street – starting as early as July 21

You can find all current community notices on our website.

Metrolinx announces Weekend Pass to get riders moving and exploring



It's been awhile since many of us have gotten back to using GO Transit to travel across the region, especially during weekends. But now, as Ontario begins to leave the pandemic behind to venture out again, Metrolinx is offering Weekend Passes to help customers save money and rediscover the region. They're only available online – and here is where you can get all the details.

Recent Metrolinx News

Gardiner closure means weekend GO bus changes
July 7, 2021

Get protected at Metrolinx vaccine clinic and rewarded with free lunch
June 6, 2021

Survey finds work no longer primary reason riders will use GO Transit and UP Express as they return to transit
June 6, 2021

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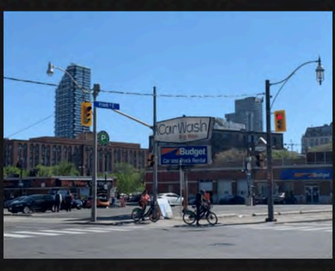
Ontario Line June 18, 2021

Locations for Ontario Line station buildings finalized from Osgoode to Corktown



Metrolinx will ensure the rich history of the currently paved First Parliament site is properly interpreted and commemorated as it supports construction of a future Ontario Line station. (Mike Winterburn photo)

Last week, Metrolinx unveiled the locations for station buildings from Exhibition Station to Queen and Spadina in the west segment of the Ontario Line. Yesterday, we shared more information about four more station sites located in the downtown segment: Osgoode, Queen, Moss Park and Corktown.

Two will connect with TTC's Line 1 subway at University Avenue and Yonge Street while two others will bring subway service to Moss Park and Corktown.

Metrolinx has released maps showing more details of these four new Ontario Line stations planned for downtown Toronto which you can view here.

We also had a virtual open house where we presented this information and answered your top questions. If you weren't able to join us, you can view a replay here.

Investigative Drilling and Rail Corridor Surveying

Geotechnical drilling and surveying continues at several points along the Ontario Line route to gather information on ground conditions.

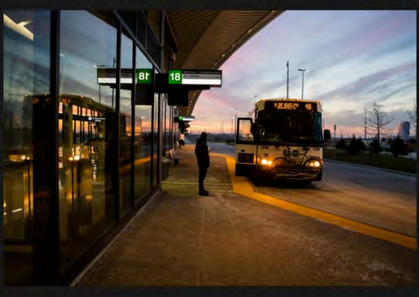
A recent notice informed residents of work taking place on:

Hydrogeology work in the west segment – starting as early as June 22

Investigative drilling work within the Metrolinx rail corridor from Queen Street East to Gerrard Street East – starting as early as June 24

You can find all current community notices on our website.

Our Transit Safety Division wants to Hear from You



Our Transit Safety Division is committed to ensuring the security and well-being of every customer while fostering an environment of diversity, inclusion, accountability and trust. We are building and delivering a plan to transform the ways our dedicated Transit Safety and Fare Enforcement Officers engage with customers and communities. Your feedback will help us understand what guardianship means to our communities, as well as concerns and priorities with regards to feeling safe on our systems. We hope you will join us for a virtual Town Hall, hosted by our Chief Operating Officer, Ian Smith, and Director of Security, Rod Jones. Together, we can work towards a shared vision of safety and security for all. Register now using the link below!

When? June 30, 6:30 – 7:30 PM
Where? This will be a virtual event. To register, click here

Recent Metrolinx News

Locations for Ontario Line station buildings finalized from Osgoode to Corktown
June 17, 2021

PRESTO partners with Aecon to help provide access to transit for Urban Indigenous Peoples
June 17, 2021

How a love connection was made on a GO train
June 17, 2021

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Ontario Line June 25, 2021

Metrolinx announces more park space for Ontario Line east

Metrolinx is releasing updated details for the eastern stretch of the Ontario Line, with refined plans that reveal the opportunity to create even more green space alongside existing community parks. As plans progress for the Ontario Line, it's clear that almost all of the above-ground section through Riverside and Leslieville will fit inside the property boundaries of the existing rail corridor, owned by Metrolinx – and in some places, sections of the existing rail corridor will be released to make parks larger.

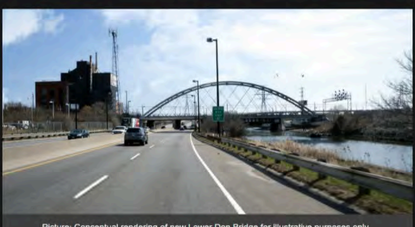
Jimmie Simpson Park, Bruce Mackey Park, McCleary Playground and the Gerrard-Carlaw Parkette and dog park will be larger when the Ontario Line opens because of new green space the project will unlock.

Get all the details for each of these parks here.

To learn more about the east segment update, click here. Last night, we hosted a virtual open house with east end residents that you can replay here.

Our next virtual open house on June 30 will move the discussion up to the north segment. You can sign up here.

Draft Lower Don Bridge & Don Yard Early Works open for public feedback



Picture: Conceptual rendering of new Lower Don Bridge for illustrative purposes only.

To cross the Don River, a new Ontario Line bridge will be added on the north side of the existing rail bridge, with space for tracks going in both directions. These upgrades will be done as part of an early works construction project for the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard.

The work includes:

- building a new bridge north of the existing Lower Don Bridge over the Don Valley Parkway and the Don River to accommodate Ontario Line trains;
- shifting GO tracks in the rail yard west of the bridge to accommodate Ontario Line infrastructure;
- modifying the existing bridge to accommodate future GO track shifts and new Ontario Line infrastructure; and
- relocating and protecting utilities and rail signals in the area.

We are continuing our multi-phased environmental assessment process with the release of a draft Early Works Report for the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard. We encourage you to review the report and summaries and provide your feedback by July 22, 2021.

Investigative Drilling and Rail Corridor Surveying

Geotechnical drilling and surveying continues at several points along the Ontario Line route to gather information on ground conditions.

A few recent notices informed residents of work taking place on:

Investigative drilling work within the Metrolinx rail corridor from Queen Street East to Gerrard Street East – starting as early as June 24

You can find all current community notices on our website.

Recent Metrolinx News

Special edition Pride GO Bus hits the streets this week
June 24, 2021

Breaking ground on the Scarborough Subway Extension
June 23, 2021

Metrolinx offers free GO and UP service for Vaccine Day
June 23, 2021

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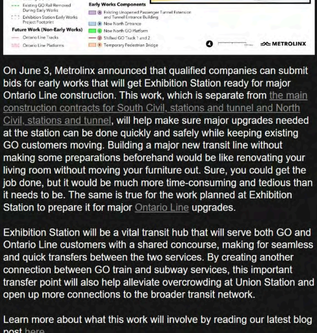
Ontario Line June 4, 2021

Bidding opens on Ontario Line contract for Exhibition Station Early Works



On June 3, Metrolinx announced that qualified companies can submit bids for early works that will get Exhibition Station ready for major Ontario Line construction. This work, which is separate from the main construction contracts for South Civil, stations and tunnel and North Civil, stations and tunnel, will help make sure major upgrades needed at the station can be done quickly and safely while keeping existing GO customers moving. Building a major new transit line without making some preparations beforehand would be like renovating your living room without moving your furniture out. Sure, you could get the job done, but it would be much more time-consuming and tedious than it needs to be. The same is true for the work planned at Exhibition Station to prepare it for major Ontario Line upgrades.

Exhibition Station will be a vital transit hub that will serve both GO and Ontario Line customers with a shared concourse, making for seamless and quick transfers between the two services. By creating another connection between GO train and subway services, this important transfer point will also help alleviate overcrowding at Union Station and open up more connections to the broader transit network.

Learn more about what this work will involve by reading our latest blog post here.

Investigative Drilling and Rail Corridor Surveying

Geotechnical drilling and surveying continues at several points along the Ontario Line route to gather information on ground conditions.

A few recent notices informed residents of work taking place on:

Overnight investigative hydrovac work along Queen and James Streets, near Yonge Street - starting as early as June 7

Investigative drilling work with the rail corridor near 375 Eastern Avenue - starting as early as May 31

You can find all current community notices on our website.

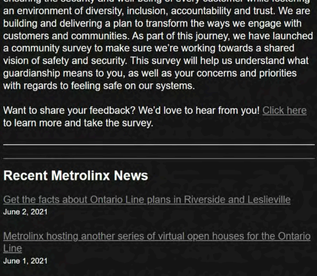
Community profile - 'Queen East Eats' by the Leslieville BIA and Riverside BIA

Queen Street East will see a touch of life to its main street, as the Leslieville and Riverside BIAs partner to host and promote 'Queen East Eats' as part of the City's CafeTO program. This partnership, the first of its kind, is aimed at increasing foot traffic and drumming up support for the hospitality industry, one of the hardest hit by the pandemic.

Through a series of exciting activations such as patio tours, contests, and public art over summer and fall 2021, the program aims to attract tourism to the east end neighbourhoods of Riverside and Leslieville. The BIAs intend to use the appeal of their many famous eating and drinking establishments to draw patrons to the street to support other businesses and help in the local pandemic economic recovery efforts. A map featuring all patios from both BIAs will be published and promoted, and patrons are invited to support the over 50 participating restaurants from Davies Avenue to Vancouver Avenue.

The future Ontario Line station on Queen Street East will offer an easy connection with the Queen Streetcar to make it faster and easier to dine at the restaurants in Riverside & Leslieville. Learn more about both these neighbourhoods by visiting the Riverside BIA's website here and the Leslieville BIA's website here.

Our Transit Safety Division wants to Hear from You



At Metrolinx – every day, every train, every bus, every trip, everyone – safety never stops. Our Transit Safety Division is dedicated to ensuring the security and well-being of every customer while fostering an environment of diversity, inclusion, accountability and trust. We are building and delivering a plan to transform the ways we engage with customers and communities. As part of this journey, we have launched a community survey to make sure we're working towards a shared vision of safety and security. This survey will help us understand what guardianship means to you, as well as your concerns and priorities with regards to feeling safe on our systems.

Want to share your feedback? We'd love to hear from you! Click here to learn more and take the survey.

Recent Metrolinx News

Get the facts about Ontario Line plans in Riverside and Leslieville
June 2, 2021

Metrolinx hosting another series of virtual open houses for the Ontario Line
June 1, 2021

Metrolinx and Infrastructure Ontario appeal recent Crosstown LRT court decision
June 2, 2021

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Ontario Line

MARCH 12, 2021

From tapping into seismic energy to mapping Toronto's urban terrain - What's next down the line for Ontario Line?

With the recent completion of one in a series of environmental reports, Metrolinx is another step closer to starting construction for the Ontario Line. Read more about the progress that's in store – including one surprising tactic - as teams continue to flesh out plans for this critical project. Continue Reading.

Investigative Drilling and Rail Corridor Surveying

Geotechnical drilling and surveying continues at several points along the Ontario Line route to gather information on ground conditions.

You can find all current community notices on our website.

Concerned about the environmental impact new transit will have on your community?

Environmental responsibility is a top priority with the Ontario Line and we're doing extensive studies across the route on things like the natural environment, heritage, noise, and vibration. Environmental assessments will be completed before shovels go in the ground. We understand that this is a big project, and we have been working from the beginning to ensure the impact on your community is minimal.

- We will not start construction work until the required environmental reports are completed and public comments have been received and addressed.
- The Ontario Line will contribute to healthier communities by reducing our reliance on cars and curbing greenhouse gas emissions. The new route will have emission-free electric vehicles that will help get cars off the road, and cut fuel consumption by 7.2 million litres each year – or 120,000 fill ups at the pump!
- Noise and vibration control technology will be installed across the route where needed to help keep the sound away from your neighbourhood.
- We're committed to working with our City partners to find ways to maintain or enhance tree canopies in the neighbourhoods our trains will run.
- We know that your neighbourhood is important to you - it is important to us, too. Please check out our website and provide your feedback to help move the project forward in the best way possible.

Contact us online, through our social media channels, by email, or give us a call.

Recent Metrolinx News

Find out how Metrolinx is bringing more rapid transit to Durham Region
Mar 10, 2021

So you've been away from GO Transit during a year of fighting COVID-19 – Counting some of the changes since many riders last got on board
Mar 10, 2021

Kitchener Line safety improvements one more step towards all-day two-way GO Train service
Mar 9, 2021

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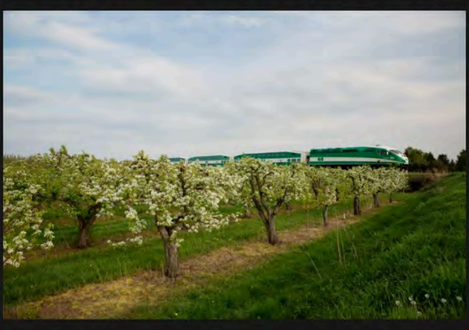
Ontario Line

March 22, 2021

Environmental assessment for the Ontario Line – A thorough review



Metrolinx renews agreement with Toronto and Region Conservation Authority – See how that will keep things growing

Investigative Drilling and Rail Corridor Surveying

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A few recent notices informed residents of work taking place about: Hydrogeology work on Tecumseth Street near Niagara Street – Resuming as early as March 18.

You can find all current community notices on our website.

Book a Meeting with Community Relations

Book time to chat with one of our Community Relations team members who can answer your general questions or help you find more information

Recent Metrolinx News

Crosstown stations see important touches – Including a tapestry for Keelesdale's station name
March 17, 2021

Digital preservation – Permanent record to be kept of temporary murals along Finch
March 15, 2021

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Ontario Line

March 26, 2021

From Copenhagen to Toronto – Looking at a world-class transit example before Ontario Line construction begins

Transit agencies are always learning from each other, so Metrolinx News reached out to Copenhagen's Metroselskabet transit agency to uncover learnings from their recent subway project. Much like the planned Ontario Line, the Copenhagen subway system uses autonomous driverless technology running over a mix of above and below-ground sections. Continue reading

Investigative Drilling and Rail Corridor Surveying

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You can find all current community notices on our website.

Follow along on Facebook and Twitter!

If you haven't already, make sure to follow us on Facebook and Twitter! We value each and every comment and question, and welcome the opportunity to share information and continue conversations about the plans and designs for the Ontario Line. Whether you have compliments or concerns to share about the Ontario Line, we want to hear what you have to say, and answer any questions you may have.

We look forward to continue hearing from you.

How one woman's trip into Toronto may give assurance to others who haven't been on a bus or train in many months

It started with a letter in the post, rather than in an inbox. Retired nurse Barbara Cochrane wanted to recount her recent first journey using GO Transit. We thought it could encourage not only the transit staff who helped her along that winter day, but also give assurance to customers who are making plans to soon return to regular rides. Continue reading

Latest Updates: How Metrolinx is responding to COVID-19 pandemic

Click here to read the most current information for customers and communities, as the transit agency continues to respond to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Recent Metrolinx News

Finch West LRT project sees ongoing excavation and drilling for Finch West Station
March 19, 2021

Updated plans for Toronto's Yonge North Subway Extension released
March 18, 2021

PRESTO contactless payment pilot launches on UP Express, allowing customers to 'tap-on' with credit cards and mobile wallets
March 11, 2021

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Ontario Line

May 12, 2021

Corktown Station Early Works Report brings Ontario Line another step closer to reality

Metrolinx is looking for community feedback on a new environmental assessment, released today, for the early works required at Ontario Line's future Corktown Station.

The Corktown Station Early Works Report will guide important environmental and archaeological work that's needed before construction begins at the site, and is an important step in keeping the project on track.

Ontario Line's Corktown Station will provide convenient transit connections east of the downtown core, integrated with a vibrant mix of housing, commercial, retail and community space, all while commemorating the important history and culture connected to the First Parliament site.

Read more about the report, check out the Draft Corktown Station Early Works Report and provide your feedback by June 11, 2021.

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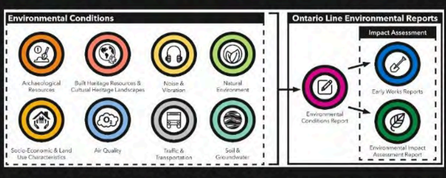
Ontario Line

May 14, 2021

Ontario Line Early Works



In advance of major construction that will break ground on the Ontario Line in 2023, we will also break ground on various 'early works' construction activities. Early works are happening along certain parts of the line to reduce delays to the major contracts, supporting a faster and more efficient delivery of this new line.

But what exactly do we mean when we say 'early works'? Think of early works as the minor work you would complete to get your house prepared for major home renovations – these initial activities would allow a contractor to come in and complete the major work more quickly and efficiently.

There will be early works contracts for areas and stations along the line such as Exhibition Station, the site of the future Corktown Station, the Lower Don bridges, Don Yard and Lakeshore East Joint Corridor.

Early works construction begins this fall at Exhibition Station, while further early works at other areas will begin following the completion of early works environmental assessments, including public review and feedback of those draft reports.

We've released two Early Works Reports to date for Exhibition Station and Corktown Station. The Final Exhibition Early Works Report was released in February of this year, and we recently released the Draft Corktown Station Early Works Report on May 12. The Draft Corktown Station Early Works Report is open for public feedback until June 11. Learn more about early works.

Investigative Drilling and Rail Corridor Surveying

Geotechnical drilling and surveying continues at several points along the Ontario Line route to gather information on ground conditions.

A few recent notices informed residents of work taking place on:

North Segment:
Investigative drilling work and environmental sampling on Minton Place and Hopedale Avenue - Starting as early as May 10

Downtown Segment:
Investigative drilling work on Jarvis Street at Queen Street East – Starting as early as May 10

You can find all current community notices on our website.

Learn about five W's of tree planting as Metrolinx works to lay groundwork for GO Expansion

Take a behind the scenes look at how Toronto and Region Conservation Authority manages tree planting and how their expertise has helped Metrolinx start rolling out the GO Expansion tree compensation program. Let's branch out on this one. Continue reading on Metrolinx News.

Recent Metrolinx News

A GO Transit wildlife rescue that will give you goose bumps
May 6, 2021

Toronto's Union Station slated for new shared platform
May 6, 2021

Historic Toronto bridges ready for transit expansion
May 11, 2021

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Ontario Line

May 21, 2021

Not just scratching the surface - How investigative drilling is helping Metrolinx plan and design the Ontario Line

If you live close to the proposed Ontario Line route, you may have received a community notice about work happening or noticed teams at work and wondered what exactly they were doing. Let's take a closer look at investigative drilling work and why it is so important for delivering the best possible subway service.

Anyone considering a home renovation project knows to "call before you dig" and similarly the complexity of subway construction requires a sophisticated information gathering process before plans can be finalized. A thorough knowledge of the geology along the new route is critical for making decisions about how best to build tunnels.

Work crews contracted on behalf of Metrolinx are using a variety of investigative drilling techniques to collect vital information about the soil, groundwater, bedrock, utility lines, property conditions and boundary limits. Learn more.

Investigative Drilling and Rail Corridor Surveying

Geotechnical drilling and surveying continues at several points along the Ontario Line route to gather information on ground conditions.

A recent notice informed residents of work taking place:

Investigative drilling work on Saulter and Strange Street – starting as early as May 25

You can find all current community notices on our website.

Community: Queen Street West

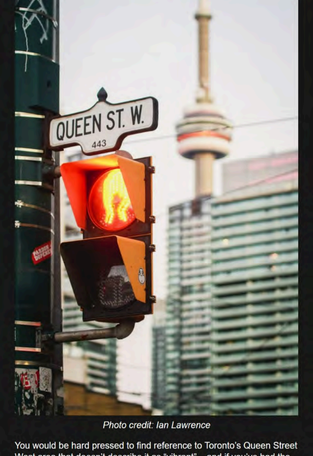


Photo credit: Ian Lawrence

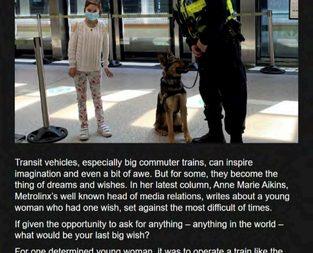
You would be hard pressed to find reference to Toronto's Queen Street West area that doesn't describe it as "vibrant" – and if you've had the pleasure of walking down this main street, you know why! Queen Street West is home to many local shops, restaurants, historic buildings, venues and galleries, including the well-known Graffiti Alley.

Queen Street West is exactly the type of neighbourhood where art, creativity and innovation are not only supported, but encouraged to flourish. In fact, the Queen Street West BIA recently teamed up with its counterpart in Toronto's east-end, the Riverside BIA, to promote local public art along all of Queen Street across the city.

Aside from the evident commitment to supporting local artists, Queen Street West also strongly supports its local businesses. Established in 2008, the Queen Street West BIA encompasses the area along Queen Street West from Simcoe Street to Bathurst Street. The BIA is also incredibly active in the community, spearheading local initiatives like their #LoveOnQueen campaign in February, another collaboration with the Riverside BIA in support of over 400 local businesses.

With the Ontario Line, we are making it faster and easier to reach this vibrant neighbourhood and take advantage of all it has to offer. When built, Torontonians can hop on the Ontario Line and hop off at the future Queen-Spadina station. Learn more about this neighbourhood by visiting the Queen Street West BIA's website here.

Metrolinx staff make a young woman's final wish to operate a train come true



Transit vehicles, especially big commuter trains, can inspire imagination and even a bit of awe. But for some, they become the thing of dreams and wishes. In her latest column, Anne Marie Aikins, Metrolinx's well known head of media relations, writes about a young woman who had one wish, set against the most difficult of times.

If given the opportunity to ask for anything – anything in the world – what would be your last big wish?

For one determined young woman, it was to operate a train like the GO trains she often took rides in with her parents. It was always her dream, but now seemed like an impossible feat for someone on her last journey in palliative care. Continue reading on Metrolinx News.

Recent Metrolinx News

Learn about five W's of tree planting as Metrolinx works to lay groundwork for GO Expansion
May 11, 2021

Drone video footage from Crosstown LRT project flies over Science Centre Station
May 12, 2021

Frontline public transit workers lining up to get COVID-19 vaccine
May 14, 2021

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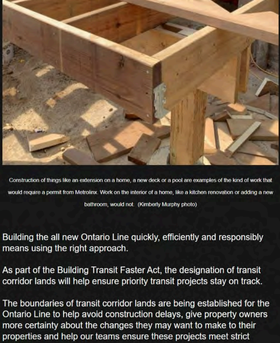
Ontario Line

May 28, 2021

More information about the Building Transit Faster Act coming in June



Construction of things like an extension on a home, a new deck or a pool are examples of the kind of work that would require a permit from Metrolinx. Work on the interior of a home, like a kitchen renovation or adding a new bathroom, would not. (Kimberly Murphy photo)

Building the all new Ontario Line quickly, efficiently and responsibly means using the right approach.

As part of the Building Transit Faster Act, the designation of transit corridor lands will help ensure priority transit projects stay on track.

The boundaries of transit corridor lands are being established for the Ontario Line to help avoid construction delays, give property owners more certainty about the changes they may want to make to their properties and help our teams ensure these projects meet strict timelines.

Transit corridor lands are determined by looking at the existing infrastructure in the area, the route, the design of the Ontario Line, and how the project is to be built. An additional 30-metre buffer area around the transit corridor lands will be identified and set to allow for other needs that come up through further design and construction work. We want to make sure we're accounting for all our planning and construction needs without impacting more people than we need to.

Many people who own or occupy residences or buildings that fall within transit corridor lands will likely experience little to no impacts. For others, it may mean a small change to business as usual. In early June, people who own or occupy property within the transit corridor lands and the 30-metre buffer areas will receive written notification of this designation, which will provide further details about what the transit corridor land designation means for them. Receiving a transit corridor land notification letter does not necessarily mean that your property is needed in any way – it is only to inform you of the designation.

More information and opportunities for people to participate in a virtual Q&A session will be shared via this newsletter soon.

Learn more about transit corridor lands here.

Investigative Drilling and Rail Corridor Surveying

Geotechnical drilling and surveying continues at several points along the Ontario Line route to gather information on ground conditions.

A recent notice informed residents of work taking place on:

Investigative drilling work on Bathurst Street near King Street West - starting as early as May 31.

You can find all current community notices on our website.

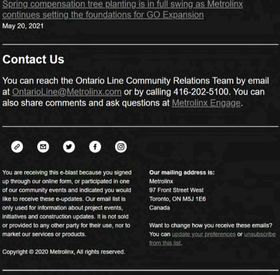
Community profile - Riverside Business Improvement Area

Have you heard of CafeTO? It's the outdoor dining program that was launched by the City of Toronto in 2020 to help local restaurants, bars and cafes get through the pandemic, while indoor dining restrictions remain in place. The program created hundreds of new outdoor dining spaces on sidewalks and in curb lanes throughout Toronto.

It's back for 2021 and the Riverside Business Improvement Area - located along Queen Street East from Davies Ave to just past De Grassi Street - is working with 20+ local businesses, the City of Toronto CafeTO team, and Councillor Paula Fletcher to launch its biggest CafeTO program yet! The first round of CafeTO curb lane closures for licensed patios and public parklets have already been installed along Queen St, Boulton Ave, and De Grassi St. Next, the BIA will be adding greenery to 100 planters, as well as other exciting and eye-catching elements, as the area prepares for the opening of the outdoor dining season. These outdoor patios will remain in place until early November 2021 and are a key program in local economic recovery by inviting people out for dining while also supporting overall foot traffic and shopping at local retailers and other businesses.

With the Ontario Line, we are making it faster and easier to reach Riverside and take advantage of what local businesses in the area have to offer. When built, Torontonians can hop on the Ontario Line and hop off at the future station on Queen Street East serving Riverside & Leslieville. Learn more about this neighbourhood by visiting the Riverside BIA's website here and follow @Riverside_BIA on Instagram.

First batch of Eglinton Crosstown LRT vehicles begin their testing journey



This week marks the first batch of Crosstown vehicle deliveries from the maintenance and storage facility on the west end of the LRT route to Toronto's east end for testing. Once all six of the vehicles arrive by next week, they will start undergoing clearance and static testing, which ensures that the vehicle and systems work as intended and properly with each other. Later this summer, more substantial vehicles testing will take place. Read more here.

Recent Metrolinx News

Bay Street pedestrian walkway at Union Station reopens
May 26, 2021

Tunnel contract finalized for Scarborough Subway Extension
May 25, 2021

Spring compensation tree planting is in full swing as Metrolinx continues setting the foundations for GO Expansion
May 20, 2021

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METROLINX

Ontario Line

May 7, 2021

We're here to answer your questions

Every day, our community relations team is here for you to respond to your questions, comments and feedback via phone, email, social media and our Metrolinx Engage platform, with the help of the many different teams here at Metrolinx who make transit projects like the Ontario Line possible.

Aside from the traditional communications channels, did you know that you can also book a meeting with a community relations team member? Simply visit our Metrolinx Engage Book a Meeting page, and chose the date, time and platform (phone or Microsoft Teams) that works best for you. Once we receive your meeting request, a member of our community relations team will email you to confirm your appointment and get you the information you need.

Investigative Drilling and Rail Corridor Surveying

Geotechnical drilling and surveying continues at several points along the Ontario Line route to gather information on ground conditions.

A few recent notices informed residents of work taking place on:

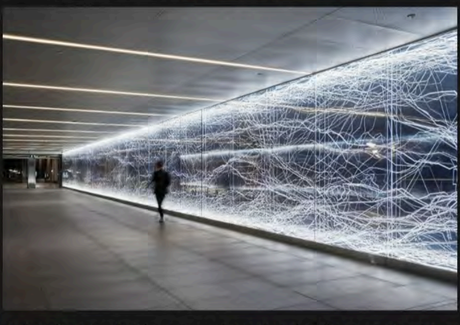
North Segment:
Investigative drilling work on Beth Nealson Drive - Starting as early as May 4

Investigative drilling work and environmental sampling on Minton Place and Hopedale Avenue - Starting as early as May 10

Downtown Segment:
Investigative drilling work on Jarvis Street at Queen Street East – Starting as early as May 10

You can find all current community notices on our website.

Toronto's Bay Street North pedestrian bridge is gallery for unique glass art project



As transit and pedestrians connects continue to advance and progress around Union Station, Canada's largest city is also seeing elements that take that progress to a world class level. It includes an art piece across a popular Bay Street pedestrian bridge.

Talk about art that moves people. Toronto's highly anticipated CIBC SQUARE is launching later this year and the innovative office development has tapped award-winning Montreal native Nicolas Baier to curate a large-scale contemporary art project, the Mycelium. Continue reading on Metrolinx News.

Recent Metrolinx News

Soar above and below Eglinton Station in the latest Crosstown video
April 28, 2021

Metrolinx continues to guard against the spread of COVID-19
April 30, 2021

Metrolinx deploys Morse code in strategy to protect birds as part of the electrification program
May 4, 2021

Contact Us

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IT'S HAPPENING.
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Ontario Line

November 12, 2021

Register now: Year end Ontario Line Virtual Open Houses Later this Month

As we approach the end of the year, Metrolinx is excited to host the next round of Ontario Line virtual open houses on **November 23** and **November 25** at 6:30 p.m.

These engagements will be slightly different as we will look at the project as a whole from Exhibition to the Science Centre. We will briefly recap past project milestones while detailing what communities can expect in 2022.

Both the November 23 and November 25 virtual open houses will have similar presentation materials so feel free to participate in which ever one works best for your schedule. Each virtual open house will also feature an question and answer period so you can better connect with the Ontario Line project team.

You can register and start submitting questions in advance by clicking here.

Investigative Drilling and Rail Corridor Surveying

Geotechnical drilling and surveying continues at several points along the Ontario Line route to gather information on ground conditions.

A few recent notices informed residents of work such as:

Investigative drilling work and monitoring well installation on Ordnance Street near Strachan Avenue - starting as early as November 15

You can find all current community notices on our website.

Recent Metrolinx News

Metrolinx provides update on fall reforestation work in advance of GO Expansion construction
November 12, 2021

Metrolinx recognizes Remembrance Day with ceremony and honours Canadian Armed Forces members and veterans with free travel
November 10, 2021

Most asked questions about Metrolinx staff vaccination and how they impact customers
November 10, 2021

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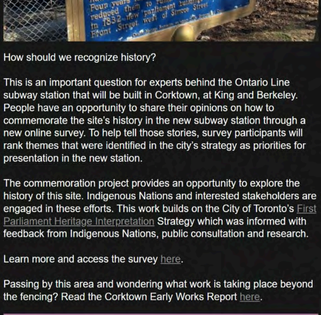
Ontario Line

November 19, 2021

Have your say on how the history of First Parliament Site is recognized



How should we recognize history?

This is an important question for experts behind the Ontario Line subway station that will be built in Corktown, at King and Berkeley. People have an opportunity to share their opinions on how to commemorate the site's history in the new subway station through a new online survey. To help tell those stories, survey participants will rank themes that were identified in the city's strategy as priorities for presentation in the new station.

The commemoration project provides an opportunity to explore the history of this site. Indigenous Nations and interested stakeholders are engaged in these efforts. This work builds on the City of Toronto's First Parliament Heritage Interpretation Strategy which was informed with feedback from Indigenous Nations, public consultation and research.

Learn more and access the survey here.

Passing by this area and wondering what work is taking place beyond the fencing? Read the Corktown Early Works Report here.

Reminder: Year end Ontario Line Virtual Open Houses next week

As we approach the end of the year, Metrolinx is excited to host the next round of Ontario Line virtual open houses on **November 23** and **November 25** at 6:30 p.m.

These engagements will be slightly different as we will look at the project as a whole from Exhibition to the Science Centre. We will briefly recap past project milestones while detailing what communities can expect in 2022.

Both the November 23 and November 25 virtual open houses will have similar presentation materials so feel free to participate in which ever one works best for your schedule. Each virtual open house will also feature an question and answer period so you can better connect with the Ontario Line project team.

You can register and start submitting questions in advance by clicking here.

New Ontario Line video details park plans for east end of Toronto

Ontario Line and GO Expansion will unlock additional greenspace in some of the most well-used parks in Toronto's Riverside and Leslieville neighbourhoods including McCleary Playground, Bruce Mackey Park, Jimmie Simpson Park, and Gerrard – Carlaw Parkette.

The overall park space in the community will actually increase once the Ontario Line and GO Expansion projects are completed.

Join Malcolm MacKay, Metrolinx's Ontario Line program sponsor, and Daryl Gonsalves, Metrolinx's community relations specialist, as they tour these parks and talk about Ontario Line plans in this stretch of the route.

Watch the video by clicking here.

Ontario Line in the Community

Last week, the Ontario Line community relations team was in the King/Bathurst area engaging residents on the future station that will serve this community.

Tomorrow, we will be engaging Moss Park residents next to the Moss Park Market organized by Building Roots. Come out to meet our staff, ask questions and provide feedback.

Recent Metrolinx News

Survey asks how best to mark history of First Parliament site at the Ontario Line subway station in Corktown
November 18, 2021

New Ontario Line video details park plans for east end of Toronto
November 15, 2021

How GO Expansion will create a network effect and give transit riders more options
November 15, 2021

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Ontario Line November 26, 2021

Metrolinx concludes final round of Ontario Line open houses in 2021

This week, we took over 950 people on a 15.6km journey across Toronto.

For the last two open houses of the year, we decided to bring all the Ontario Line segments together to look at the transit project as a whole. At each of our 15 stops along the way, we heard valuable feedback from different communities. Thank you to everyone who participated and asked questions. We look forward to continuing the conversation in 2022.

If you missed any of the open houses, you can watch the recordings on our Live Meetings page by clicking each recording from the 'past events' tab.

Investigative Drilling and Rail Corridor Surveying

Geotechnical drilling and surveying continues at several points along the Ontario Line route to gather information on ground conditions.

A few recent notices informed residents of work such as:

Surveying on Carlaw Avenue, Riverdale Avenue,and Langley Avenue - starting as early as November 22

Overnight hydrovac test pits in the Don Yard Rail Corridor - starting as early as November 29 (to be uploaded soon)

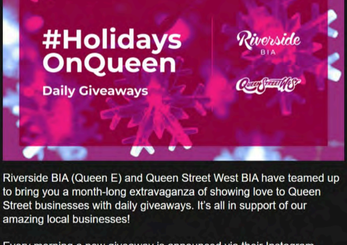
You can find all current community notices on our website.

Ontario Line in the Community - Moss Park

Last week, we had a chance to engage residents in Moss Park and get their thoughts about the new Ontario Line station that will serve them. A big thank you to Building Roots for hosting us at their weekly Moss Park Market.

This Saturday, you can catch the Ontario Line Community Relations team at David Crombie Park. We will talk to residents about the new station serving Corktown and our current work at the First Parliament Site.

Community profile - Riverside BIA & Queen West BIA



Riverside BIA (Queen E) and Queen Street West BIA have teamed up to bring you a month-long extravaganza of showing love to Queen Street businesses with daily giveaways. It's all in support of our amazing local businesses!

Every morning a new giveaway is announced via their Instagram Stories, Facebook & Twitter! Earn entries to win by performing small acts of support like following on Instagram or leaving a supportive comment on Facebook. Each daily raffle ends at 11:59pm and the winner isannounced by noon the next day.

Follow them:

Instagram: @lovequeenwest and riverside_bia

Twitter: @QueenStreetWest and @riversideBIA

Facebook: @QueenStreetWestBIA and /RiversideTO

Recent Metrolinx News

"This man is going to live" – GO Train Customer Service Ambassador rushes to help revive passenger
November 23, 2021

Progress continues on the Lakeshore East Line to help bring faster and more frequent service from Union Station to Bowmanville
November 23, 2021

Improved transit in Toronto with GO Expansion means new lines and new stations
November 22, 2021

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Ontario Line

November 5, 2021

Save the Date: Year end Ontario Line Virtual Open Houses Later this Month

As we approach the end of the year, Metrolinx is excited to host the next round of Ontario Line virtual open houses on **November 23** and **November 25** at 6:30 p.m.

These engagements will be slightly different as we will look at the project as a whole from Exhibition to the Science Centre. We will briefly recap past project milestones while detailing what communities can expect in 2022.

Both the November 23 and November 25 virtual open houses will have similar presentation materials so feel free to participate in which ever one works best for your schedule. Each virtual open house will also feature an question and answer period so you can better connect with the Ontario Line project team.

Our team is working to get the registration page up and you will find it in the Live Meetings section of our Metrolinx Engage website next week.

Investigative Drilling and Rail Corridor Surveying

Geotechnical drilling and surveying continues at several points along the Ontario Line route to gather information on ground conditions.

A few recent notices informed residents of work such as:

Surveying on Carlaw Avenue, Riverdale Avenue,and Langley Avenue - starting as early as November 3

Overnight investigative drilling in the Lakeshore East rail corridor between Eastern to Logan Avenue - starting as early as November 8 (notice to be uploaded soon)

You can find all current community notices on our website.

Recent Metrolinx News

Mapping Indigenous history along Metrolinx network
November 3, 2021

New artwork aims to further transform Union Station Bus Terminal in Toronto
October 27, 2021

Metrolinx gives away firewood as part of vegetation management program
October 22, 2021

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Ontario Line October 15, 2021

Opportunity to have your say extended!

We want to ensure we build a transit line to serve your community's transit needs - this is why we we're looking for every opportunity to consult with you on the Ontario Line project.

Currently, we have four open consultations where you can have your say:

- Lakeshore East Joint Corridor Draft Early Works Report - open until October 24
- East Harbour Station Draft Early Works Report - open until October 24
- East Segment Design Survey - **extended** until October 24
- North Segment Design Survey - **extended** until November 1

Don't see your community represented above? Don't worry - we always welcome questions, ideas and feedback via email at OntarioLine@Metrolinx.com, by phone at 416-202-5100 or through our online platform MetrolinxEngage.com/OntarioLine. At Metrolinx Engage, you can also book a meeting with a community relations team member and stay up-to-date on any upcoming virtual open houses.

We recently completed a round of virtual open houses in September and October, and we look forward to coming back soon with more dates and new opportunities to connect about the Ontario Line. Stay tuned!

Investigative Drilling and Rail Corridor Surveying

Geotechnical drilling and surveying continues at several points along the Ontario Line route to gather information on ground conditions.

A few recent notices informed residents of work taking place on:

Overnight investigative hydrovac work on York Street between Queen Street West and Adelaide Street West - starting as early as October 18

Early Works for southern section of Moss Park - starting as early as October 15

You can find all current community notices on our website.

Recent Metrolinx News

New video shows media getting firsthand look at progress on Eglinton Crosstown LRT
October 15, 2021

Why lengthy partial road closure has kept everyone moving during Bloor bridge reconstruction
October 15, 2021

Why a baffled beaver is better for rail safety than a busy beaver
October 14, 2021

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Ontario Line

October 22, 2021

Have your say this weekend!

Have your say this weekend on our four open consultations:

- Lakeshore East Joint Corridor Draft Early Works Report - open until this Sunday, October 24
- East Harbour Station Draft Early Works Report - open until this Sunday, October 24
- East Segment Design Survey - **extended** until this Sunday, October 24
- North Segment Design Survey - **extended** until Monday, November 1

There will be many more opportunities to share feedback on the Ontario Line project, and we always welcome questions, ideas and feedback via email at OntarioLine@Metrolinx.com, by phone at 416-202-5100, or through our online platform.

You can also book a meeting with a community relations team member and stay up-to-date on the latest project information through recordings of past virtual open houses. Future open houses will be announced in this e-newsletter.

Investigative Drilling and Surveying Work

Geotechnical drilling and surveying continues at several points along the Ontario Line route to gather information on ground conditions, and to prepare public materials about the project.

A few recent notices informed residents of the following work:

HydroVac Daylighting & Bridge Drainage Investigation between Eastern Avenue and Pape Avenue – starting as early as October 22

Capturing ambient sound and video information at Minton Place - starting as early as October 22

Capturing ambient sound and video information at 1 Leaside Park Dr, 20 Overlea Blvd, and 10-14 William Morgan Dr - starting as early as October 22

Capturing ambient sound and video information at and near the Ontario Science Centre - starting as early as October 26

You can find all current community notices on our website.

Recent Metrolinx News

Metrolinx teams up with Toronto and Region Conservation Authority to plant trees around Eglinton Crosstown West Extension route
October 21, 2021

A first in Canada as transit customers can tap on with debit as part of PRESTO contactless payment pilot on UP Express
October 21, 2021

Metrolinx launches naming contests for Eglinton Crosstown West Extension and Scarborough Subway Extension tunnel boring machines
October 19, 2021

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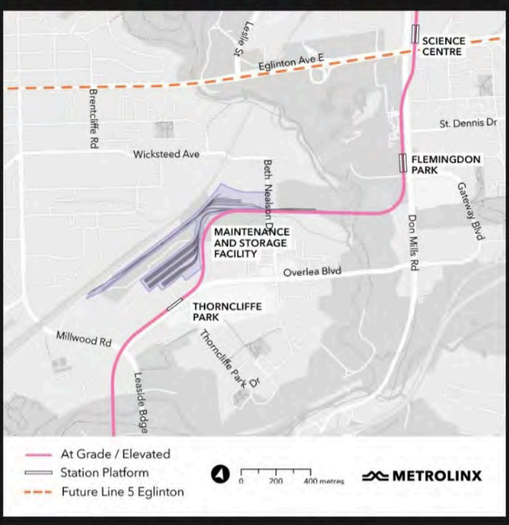
Ontario Line October 29, 2021

Last call to share your feedback to the Ontario Line North Segment Design Questionnaire



This survey focuses on the Ontario Line in Thorncliffe Park and Flemingdon Park. You can watch a recording of the September 16, 2021 virtual meeting on the event page.

This survey will ask for your thoughts about potential design options for the public-facing perimeter walls, fences and landscaping around the Ontario Line maintenance and storage facility site, as well as the public spaces below the elevated guideways where the trains will run.

This survey is one step in a longer design and engagement process, during which the community will have more opportunities to provide input and guidance as plans come together.

This survey will be open until **November 1, 2021.**

Investigative Drilling and Rail Corridor Surveying

Geotechnical drilling and surveying continues at several points along the Ontario Line route to gather information on ground conditions.

A few recent notices informed residents of work such as:

Capturing ambient sound and video information at and near the Ontario Science Centre - starting as early as October 26

Overnight temporary crossing installation work in the rail corridor from Eastern Avenue to Logan Avenue - starting as early as October 25

Weekend archaeological work at the First Parliament Site - starting as early as October 23

GO Expansion: Vegetation and tree clearing within the rail corridor from Gerrard Street East to Pape Avenue

You can find all current community notices on our website.

Recent Metrolinx News

Metrolinx gives away firewood as part of vegetation management program
October 29, 2021

Metrolinx teams up with Toronto and Region Conservation Authority to plant trees around Eglinton Crosstown West Extension route
October 21, 2021

GO VAXX mobile vaccine clinics administer more than 10K COVID jabs
October 18, 2021

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Ontario Line | October 5, 2021

Ontario Line virtual open houses continue this week

Ontario Line virtual open houses are continuing this week ahead of the Thanksgiving weekend. Join us to learn about Ontario Line updates for your community, ask questions and provide feedback to our expert panel.

Visit Metrolinx Engage to sign up for our final two open houses this week focusing on the East and Downtown segments of the Ontario Line.

An additional East segment virtual open house will take place tonight at 6:30pm. It will focus on the Lakeshore East Joint Corridor and East Harbour early works reports. You can sign up here.

The Downtown segment virtual open house will take place on October 7 at 6:30pm. You can sign up here.

Investigative Drilling and Rail Corridor Surveying

Geotechnical drilling and surveying continues at several points along the Ontario Line route to gather information on ground conditions.

A few recent notices informed residents of work such as:

Investigative drilling work on Berti Street near Queen Street East - starting as early as October 1

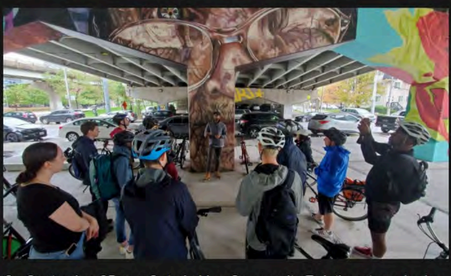
Archaeology, geotechnical and demolition work at the First Parliament Site - starting as early as October 1

Investigative hydrovac work on Berkeley Street between Adelaide Street East and King Street East - starting as early as October 1

Overnight Investigative drilling work near the Logan Avenue Bridge – starting as early as October 4

You can find all current community notices on our website.

Ontario Line in the community



On September 25, our Ontario Line Community Relations team had a chance to speak to urban and regional planning students during a bike tour.

We spoke about the benefits of the Ontario Line and how important community engagement is as we deliver this important project.

Thank you to all the students for their great questions and commitment to the ride, despite the rain.

Interested in having a Metrolinx representative speak at your community event? Email OntarioLine@Metrolinx.com with details about the opportunity.

Recent Metrolinx News

Metrolinx video shows customers why it is safer than ever to take transit
October 4, 2021

Metrolinx takes measures to make transit more equitable
October 4, 2021

Frontline Metrolinx transit staff wear orange emblems as part of National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
September 30, 2021

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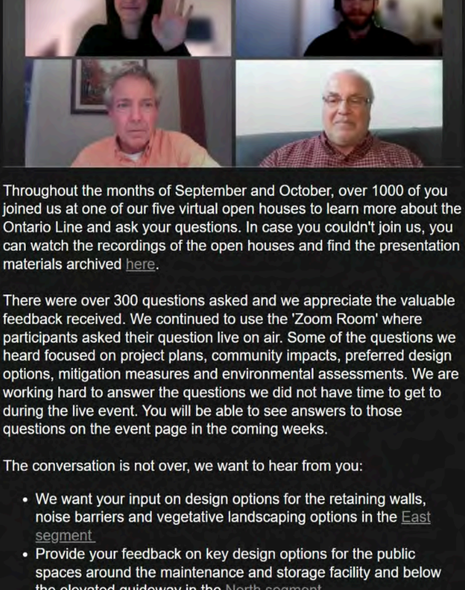
Ontario Line

October 8, 2021

Thank you for your feedback at our recent virtual open houses



Throughout the months of September and October, over 1000 of you joined us at one of our five virtual open houses to learn more about the Ontario Line and ask your questions. In case you couldn't join us, you can watch the recordings of the open houses and find the presentation materials archived here.

There were over 300 questions asked and we appreciate the valuable feedback received. We continued to use the 'Zoom Room' where participants asked their question live on air. Some of the questions we heard focused on project plans, community impacts, preferred design options, mitigation measures and environmental assessments. We are working hard to answer the questions we did not have time to get to during the live event. You will be able to see answers to those questions on the event page in the coming weeks.

The conversation is not over, we want to hear from you:

- We want your input on design options for the retaining walls, noise barriers and vegetative landscaping options in the East segment
- Provide your feedback on key design options for the public spaces around the maintenance and storage facility and below the elevated guideway in the North segment
- Online sound demo where you can hear Ontario Line and GO trains in Riverside and Leslieville - with the future noise walls
- Review the latest construction sequencing video for Riverside and Leslieville
- Review and provide comments to the Draft Lakeshore East Joint Corridor Early Works Report and the Draft East Harbour Station Early Works Report

Here's how you can continue to reach us with your feedback and questions:

- By email: ontarioline@metrolinx.com
- By phone: 416-202-5100
- Book a meeting with a member of our team here

Through our public forum on Metrolinx Engage

Investigative Drilling and Rail Corridor Surveying

Geotechnical drilling and surveying continues at several points along the Ontario Line route to gather information on ground conditions.

A few recent notices informed residents of work such as:

Surveying on Graffiti Alley and Spadina Avenue - starting as early as October 8

Overnight investigative subsurface work along Pape Avenue and Danforth Avenue - October 6 and 7

Investigative drilling work at 1 Thorncliffe Park Dr - starting as early as October 4

You can find all current community notices on our website.

Recent Metrolinx News

Metrolinx announces improvements to GO train Service Guarantee
October 7, 2021

Digging deep on the new Scarborough Subway Extension
October 7, 2021

Metrolinx pilot study finds no virus on tested transit surfaces and in air samples
October 6, 2021

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IT'S HAPPENING.
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Ontario Line September 13, 2021

Metrolinx releases Ontario Line design principles

Toronto residents can see a great example of a subway station that fits with the surrounding architecture at the corner of Queen and Yonge. (Mike Winterburn photo)

At last week's virtual open house for the west segment, the Ontario Line project team presented the core design principles for the Ontario Line stations.

The five key principles can be summed up as:

- passenger-focused design;
- system reliability, efficiency and safety;
- public realm benefits and place making;
- context and integration; and
- intuitive wayfinding.

To view a replay of the virtual open house, please click here.

To learn more about these design principles, read more here.

Investigative Drilling and Rail Corridor Surveying

Geotechnical drilling and surveying continues at several points along the Ontario Line route to gather information on ground conditions.

A few recent notices informed residents of work such as:

Overnight investigative drilling work on Bathurst Street near King Street West - starting as early as September 14

Investigative drilling work on 250 Front Street East (Staples) - starting as early as September 13

Investigative drilling work at 40 Beth Nealson Dr - starting as early as September 13

Surveying on Strachan Avenue near Fleet Street and Douro Street - starting as early as September 13

You can find all current community notices on our website.

Ontario Line open houses continue

Join us at an upcoming virtual open houses to learn more about how the Ontario Line will serve your neighbourhood and provide your feedback:

West segment (Exhibition, King-Bathurst and Queen Spadina) - September 9 at 6:30pm - click here to view the replay

North segment (Pape, Cosburn, Thorncliffe Park, Flemingdon Park, Science Centre) - September 16 at 6:30pm - click here!

East segment (East Harbour, Leslieville/Riverside, Gerrard) - September 23 at 6:30pm - click here!

Downtown segment (Osgoode, Queen, Moss Park and Corktown) - September 30 at 6:30pm - click here!

Recent Metrolinx News

Anne Marie Aikins on why vaccination is a key part of Metrolinx six point safety checklist for returning customers
September 9, 2021

You have to see this LEGO GO bus terminal and hear the emotional story behind it
September 8, 2021

Metrolinx announces fall series of virtual open houses for Ontario Line
September 8, 2021

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Ontario Line

September 17, 2021

Thorncliffe Park & Flemingdon Park - we want to hear from you

Draft concept of possible design for the Ontario Line maintenance and storage facility building. (Metrolinx image)

Metrolinx has launched a survey for the community to have their say on the look and feel of the future Ontario Line maintenance and storage facility.

Residents can provide their input on the walls, fences and landscaping around the maintenance and storage facility and the public spaces below the elevated tracks that will connect to the stations in Thorncliffe Park and Flemingdon Park.

To learn more about the design objectives in the area, view the recorded stream of the virtual open house held on September 16 here.

Residents can provide their feedback via the survey located here until October 16, 2021.

Investigative Drilling and Rail Corridor Surveying

Geotechnical drilling and surveying continues at several points along the Ontario Line route to gather information on ground conditions.

A recent notice informed residents of:

Overnight investigative drilling work in Corktown Common Park - starting as early as September 19

You can find all current community notices on our website.

Recent Metrolinx News

Search begins for teams interested in building Scarborough Subway Extension stations
September 17, 2021

Night work starting on the Lakeshore East Rail Corridor between Jones Avenue and Coxwell Avenue
September 15, 2021

Night work resumes on Lakeshore East Rail Corridor between Woodbine Avenue to Warden Avenue
September 14, 2021

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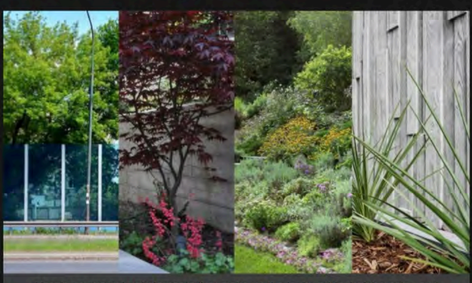
Ontario Line

September 24, 2021

Metrolinx launches consultation on design elements for Ontario Line east segment



Here's an example of elements that make up the look and feel of the noise and retaining walls that the public will be asked for feedback on. (Photos from SvN)

Last night, Metrolinx held a virtual open house for the Ontario Line East segment to share updates and answer questions directly from the community.

Metrolinx panelists detailed the environmental assessment process, announced an online sound demo, noted the planned construction sequencing and described the design elements that are possible for the new walls of the rail corridor where Ontario Line trains will run alongside GO trains.

To help gather feedback on the plans, Metrolinx has launched a design questionnaire for the new walls. Not only will residents be able to provide feedback on the noise and retaining walls, they can also weigh in on the trees, shrubs, vines and other plants which would enhance the appearance of the space beside the walls. This questionnaire is open until October 14, 2021.

- To provide your feedback to the East segment design questionnaire, click here.
- To view a replay of last night's open house, click here.
- To hear what Ontario Line and GO trains will sound like in Riverside and Leslieville, click here.

Draft Lakeshore East Joint Corridor and East Harbour Early Works Reports Released

Yesterday, Metrolinx took another step in the Ontario Line environmental process with the release of two new environmental reports.

The draft Lakeshore East Joint Corridor early works and the East Harbour Station early works will set the groundwork for other major construction on the Ontario Line and GO Expansion projects.

The public is encouraged to review both of these draft environmental reports and submit their feedback by October 24, 2021.

Investigative Drilling and Rail Corridor Surveying

Geotechnical drilling and surveying continues at several points along the Ontario Line route to gather information on ground conditions.

A recent notice informed residents of a:

Utility survey between Eastern Avenue and Pape Avenue – starting as early as September 22

You can find all current community notices on our website.

Recent Metrolinx News

GO Transit vaccination bus making stop at Union Station on Friday
September 23, 2021

Ontario Line design consultations start in the East Segment following release of latest report
September 23, 2021

Simulating sound from Ontario Line and GO trains in Riverside and Leslieville
September 23, 2021

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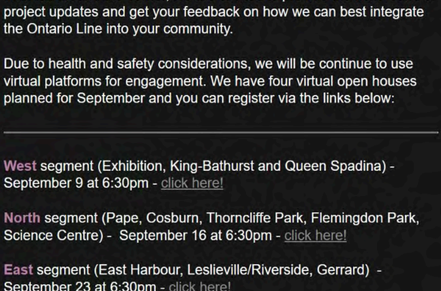
Ontario Line

September 3, 2021

Metrolinx announces next round of Ontario Line virtual open houses



With fall around the corner, we are excited to provide the next round of project updates and get your feedback on how we can best integrate the Ontario Line into your community.

Due to health and safety considerations, we will be continue to use virtual platforms for engagement. We have four virtual open houses planned for September and you can register via the links below:

West segment (Exhibition, King-Bathurst and Queen Spadina) - September 9 at 6:30pm - click here!

North segment (Pape, Cosburn, Thorncliffe Park, Flemingdon Park, Science Centre) - September 16 at 6:30pm - click here!

East segment (East Harbour, Leslieville/Riverside, Gerrard) - September 23 at 6:30pm - click here!

Downtown segment (Osgoode, Queen, Moss Park and Corktown) - September 30 at 6:30pm - click here!

Investigative Drilling and Rail Corridor Surveying

Geotechnical drilling and surveying continues at several points along the Ontario Line route to gather information on ground conditions.

A few recent notices informed residents of upcoming work such as:

Environmental Site Assessment at 1 Atlantic Avenue - starting as early as September 1

Overnight Investigative drilling work near the Logan Avenue Bridge - starting as early as September 7 (notice will be uploaded soon)

Preview Inspections between Exhibition and Osgoode Stations - starting as early as September 24

You can find all current community notices on our website.

Ontario Line in the community

We're eager to start having conversations with you in person and have been exploring opportunities to offer in-person engagement. We held two pop-ups in Riverside and Leslieville over the past week and spoke to over 80 people.

Next week, we'll be popping up in front of the Thorncliffe Park Library on September 7, from 5-7pm.

Be on the look out for us in your community in the near future.

Recent Metrolinx News

GO Expansion progress along the Barrie Line well on its way
September 3, 2021

New buses added to the GO Transit fleet this September to include seatbelts
September 2, 2021

GO Transit takes you to wine country with new Wine Rack partnership
August 31, 2021

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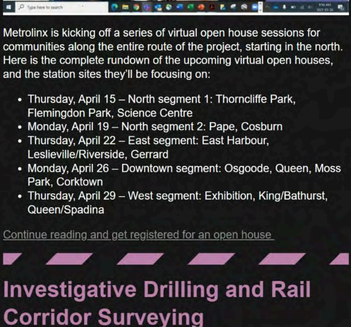
Ontario Line

April 14, 2021

Have your voice heard: Metrolinx hosting another series of virtual open houses for Ontario Line



Metrolinx is kicking off a series of virtual open house sessions for communities along the entire route of the project, starting in the north. Here is the complete rundown of the upcoming virtual open houses, and the station sites they'll be focusing on:

- Thursday, April 15 – North segment 1: Thorncliffe Park, Flemingdon Park, Science Centre
- Monday, April 19 – North segment 2: Pape, Cosburn
- Thursday, April 22 – East segment: East Harbour, Leslieville/Riverside, Gerrard
- Monday, April 26 – Downtown segment: Osgoode, Queen, Moss Park, Corktown
- Thursday, April 29 – West segment: Exhibition, King/Bathurst, Queen/Spadina

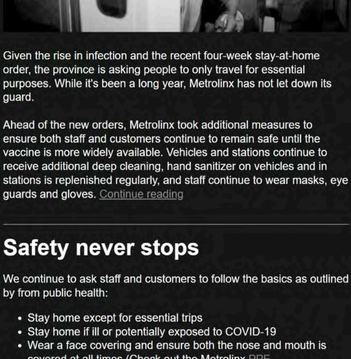
Continue reading and get registered for an open house

Investigative Drilling and Rail Corridor Surveying

Geotechnical drilling and surveying continues at several points along the Ontario Line route to gather information on ground conditions.

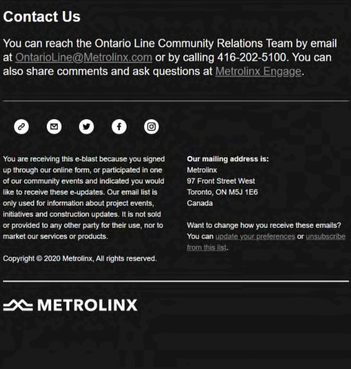
You can find all current community notices on our website.

A Message from the Ontario Line Program Sponsor



Malcolm MacKay (Program Sponsor for the Ontario Line) and his team are excited to bring more transit to more underserved communities sooner than previously planned through the Ontario Line. In case you're wondering, the role of the Sponsor is to advance the project throughout its lifecycle, from planning and design all the way to operations, and to ensure the project benefits are realized.

Metrolinx focuses on safety during stay-at-home order



Given the rise in infection and the recent four-week stay-at-home order, the province is asking people to only travel for essential purposes. While it's been a long year, Metrolinx has not let down its guard.

Ahead of the new orders, Metrolinx took additional measures to ensure both staff and customers continue to remain safe until the vaccine is more widely available. Vehicles and stations continue to receive additional deep cleaning, hand sanitizer on vehicles and in stations is replenished regularly, and staff continue to wear masks, eye guards and gloves. Continue reading

Safety never stops

We continue to ask staff and customers to follow the basics as outlined by from public health:

- Stay home except for essential trips
- Stay home if ill or potentially exposed to COVID-19
- Wear a face covering and ensure both the nose and mouth is covered at all times (Check out the Metrolinx PPE dispensers and branded masks)
- Wash your hands regularly and use hand sanitizer
- Download the COVID Alert App so you can alert others if you test positive.

Recent Metrolinx News

How Metrolinx is protecting a 100-year-old creek while building the Hurontario LRT
April 8, 2021

How virtual tour of Union Station by youngest transit fans became a lesson in tough realities but also assurance things will get better
April 7, 2021

Windows into Toronto neighbourhoods – New local social enterprise helps Eglinton businesses shine
April 6, 2021

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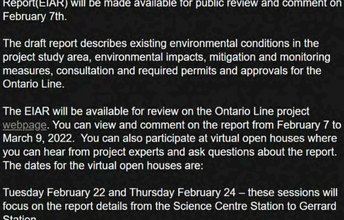
Ontario Line

February 4, 2022

Metrolinx to Release Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report



The Ontario Line draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report(EIAR) will be made available for public review and comment on February 7th.

The draft report describes existing environmental conditions in the project study area, environmental impacts, mitigation and monitoring measures, consultation and required permits and approvals for the Ontario Line.

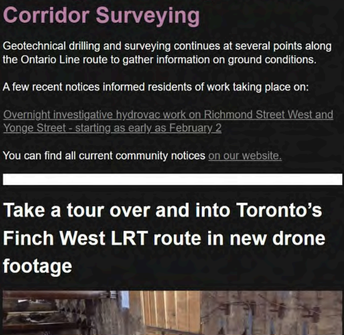
The EIAR will be available for review on the Ontario Line project webpage. You can view and comment on the report from February 7 to March 9, 2022. You can also participate at virtual open houses where you can hear from project experts and ask questions about the report. The dates for the virtual open houses are:

Tuesday February 22 and Thursday February 24 – these sessions will focus on the report details from the Science Centre Station to Gerrard Station.

Tuesday March 1 and Thursday March 3 – these sessions will focus on the report details from Gerrard Station to Exhibition Station.

For more information and updates on the EIAR, please check out the following link.

Design Working Group- Joint Corridor



A new working group has been established with community groups, elected officials, City of Toronto planning staff, Metrolinx design and project staff, as well as technical advisors, to develop the best possible solutions for the retaining walls, noise barriers, parks, landscaping and adjacent urban realm.

These features will add to the unique qualities of the Riverside-Leslieville communities, along the joint corridor, that will be enjoyed for generations to come.

Metrolinx is committed to keeping you informed of the working group discussions and we welcome your input, ideas and suggestions. We will be sharing updates and plans with you at future community sessions.

You can follow along by visiting the Lakeshore East Joint Corridor neighbourhood page. You can provide your input to us at, OntarioLine@metrolinx.com or here.

Investigative Drilling and Rail Corridor Surveying

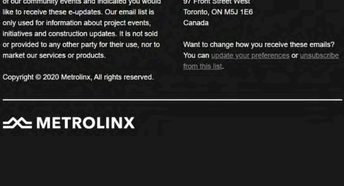
Geotechnical drilling and surveying continues at several points along the Ontario Line route to gather information on ground conditions.

A few recent notices informed residents of work taking place on:

Overnight investigative hydrovac work on Richmond Street West and Yonge Street - starting as early as February 2

You can find all current community notices on our website.

Take a tour over and into Toronto's Finch West LRT route in new drone footage



New video from the Finch West light rail transit (LRT) route starts out inside the cavern created for the centrepiece Finch West Station. The drone was able to move through supports and among beams as the hub is being carved out.

From there, the tour takes in every major intersection along the 11 km. line.

Finch West LRT will run along Finch Avenue West from Keele Street to Highway 27, where it will turn, then travel south to the Humber College north campus. It will connect with Toronto as well as Peel and York Regions local transit.

The video is a timely look at how far work has come, especially for locals and business owners who have been patient in contending with work on the important transit route.

Recent Metrolinx News

Hurontario LRT sees advance 'pre-push' work for one of most technical parts of route
February 2, 2022

See video of Rutherford GO's old station building demolished
February 1, 2022

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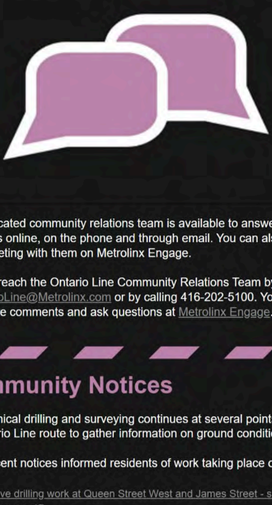
Ontario Line

January 15, 2022

We Are Here For You



Our dedicated community relations team is available to answer your questions online, on the phone and through email. You can also book a 1:1 meeting with them on Metrolinx Engage.

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Community Notices

Geotechnical drilling and surveying continues at several points along the Ontario Line route to gather information on ground conditions.

A few recent notices informed residents of work taking place on:

Investigative drilling work at Queen Street West and James Street - starting as early as January 17

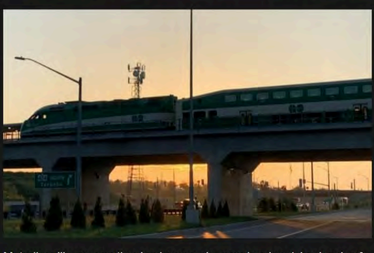
Overnight investigative hydrovac work on Simcoe Street near Queen Street West - starting as early as January 12

You can find all current community notices on our website.

Safety Moment

At Metrolinx safety is a key commitment to the communities we operate and build in. Metrolinx already has a committed responsibility backed by the highest standards for our customers, neighbors and employees. Please be careful around work sites to keep yourself and crews on site safe from injury.

Metrolinx adjusts GO Transit schedules due to COVID staff impacts – Allocating resources to provide consistent service across the network



Metrolinx, like many other businesses, is experiencing rising levels of staff absenteeism due to the Omicron variant.

Given the rapid transmission of this variant, the absenteeism level at Metrolinx is expected to increase over the next few weeks, so proactive mitigation measures are necessary to protect critical transit services.

To make the best use of resources and provide a consistent level of service customers can depend on, Metrolinx is adjusting GO schedules and reducing rail service.

Metrolinx will be decreasing service across the network by approximately 15 per cent. Whenever possible, hourly frequency or better service will be maintained.

Metrolinx staff are being very strategic to spread out the cancellations across the system and will do their best to protect new services and maintain GO bus routes as much as possible. There are no changes to 30-minute UP Express service.

However, cancelled trains will not always be able to be replaced by buses as every part of the business is affected by high absenteeism.

New schedules are available at gotransit.com/fullschedules. Customers can stay in the know about schedule changes, cancellations and trip adjustments by signing up for On The GO Alerts or checking their bus or train line's Twitter handle. Customers should check ahead before leaving home.

If interested in reading the full article please click here!

Recent Metrolinx News

Hurontario light rail transit project's Cooksville section sees huge delivery of rail
January 11, 2022

New Rutherford Road underpass now open to westbound Vaughan traffic
January 11, 2022

Heritage platform at Toronto's Union Station reopens following restoration work
January 10, 2022

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