

2007 Dundas Streetcar Track Reconstruction Project FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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Is this work needed?

Yes. The reconstruction of the streetcar track on Dundas Street is being done as part of the Toronto Transit Commission's "State of Good Repair/Safety" program that will see the majority of the TTC's streetcar network reconstructed over the next few years. The design and construction techniques presently used in new track replacement will improve the comfort, and quality of the streetcar service for transit users, and reduce the current noise and vibration from tracks for local residents and businesses.

Where will track reconstruction occur?

The streetcar tracks on Dundas Street from Broadview Avenue (and on the DVP Bridge) to Howard Park Avenue (and on Sorauren Bridge) will be reconstructed.

I take the Dundas 505 streetcar between Broadview Avenue and Howard Park Avenue. What will happen to streetcar service during construction?

We are not able to operate replacement bus service during much of this track reconstruction project. There will only be one lane open in one direction on Dundas Street during most of the construction, and that lane will be too narrow to safely operate a bus service. The 505 Dundas cars will be diverted to operate along Carlton Avenue, College Street, and Queen Street, as necessary, and they will be returned to Dundas Street as soon as the track construction permits. The 505 Dundas cars themselves will provide additional north-south service at the point where they divert from Dundas Street.

The TTC will publicize and post updated service changes along the affected sections and at various subway stations. In addition, the TTC will hand out information to customers riding transit service in the area and post information on transit stops along the route, in addition to including transit change information on the advance construction notices that will be distributed/mailed to the community. Streetcars will be diverted around the active construction zones, generally via: College, Carlton and Gerrard Streets. For details on TTC service, maps scheduled and streetcar diversions, contact the TTC Information Line at (416) 393-INFO (4636) or visit www.ttc.ca.

How will traffic be affected in the construction zones?

Traffic will be restricted to the westbound curb lane from Yonge Street to Howard Park and restricted to the eastbound curb lane from River Street to Broadview Avenue. At times, left turn restrictions and north to south restrictions will be imposed on traffic. For construction staging purposes, eastbound traffic will not be permitted through the construction zones.

From River Street to Broadview Avenue, from April 9th until the end of July, the DVP Bridge will be fully closed. Only local traffic will be allowed to travel between River Street and the DVP Bridge and between Broadview Avenue and the DVP Bridge, but there will be no access across the bridge. The only access across the DVP Bridge during this phase of construction will be one westbound lane from Broadview Avenue to the DVP North ramp.

Although the streetcars will continue to operate until June 25 and the Sorauren Bridge will be open, there will be some construction on the Sorauren Bridge restricting one lane to get some preliminary work completed. The bridge would still be open to two way traffic, two lanes moving in one direction and one lane moving in the other. One sidewalk would also be open.

Some **one way streets** that intersect Dundas Street from the south will be temporarily converted into two-way streets during times when no access is available **via** Dundas Street.

Will the entire stretch of streetcar tracks on Dundas Street be under construction at the same time?

No. The construction will take place in phases: In each phase, track will be excavated 300 meters at a time.

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Phases</u>
• March 26 – late May31, 2007	Bathurst Street to Ossington Avenue.
• April 2 - late June 2007	Victoria Street (just east of Yonge Street) to Bathurst Street.
• April 9 - early October 2007	DVP Bridge reconstruction, includes River Street to Broadview Avenue.
• June 11 - early Sept. 2007	Lansdowne Avenue to Brock Avenue; Ossington Avenue to Brock Avenue.
• June 25 - early Sept. 2007	Victoria Street to River Street.
• June 25 - late November 2007	Sorauren Bridge reconstruction, includes Howard Park Ave. to Sterling Rd.

*****These timelines are subject to change depending on weather conditions or any other unforeseen events.**

Specific timelines will be provided in the mail prior to each individual project. In addition, you can find scheduling information on this website (http://toronto.ca/involved/projects/dundas_street_track_2007/index.htm) and at phone number 416-392-6182, where messages left will be picked up and answered regularly.

How long will the new tracks last?

Reconstruction of the TTC's streetcar track network is based on a new design standard and a lifecycle approach to replacement. The new tracks will require far less track maintenance over the years to come and will last about 30 years.

How will Parking on Dundas Street be affected during construction?

Parking on Dundas Street will generally **not** be available in the construction zones. Potential temporary parking locations are being studied in an effort to provide some additional spots.

What is rail welding?

Before we start each phase of the streetcar track reconstruction, the TTC welds and stores the rails for the new streetcar tracks. Rail welding involves welding pieces of rail into longer "strings" up to 300 feet, which allows for much faster track construction and reduces disruption to the community. ***No through traffic, left turns, or parking, is permitted within the welding sites. The City and TTC will make efforts to find temporary parking on side streets.

Where are the streetcar tracks being welded and stored?

In advance of this project, preliminary work beginning February 19th is required by the TTC. A rail welding crew will occupy various locations on Dundas Street. The crew will weld new standard lengths of rail into longer strings and store them nearby where they will remain until rail replacement in the staged areas is completed. This preliminary welding work will allow for faster track installation, thereby reducing the length of construction disruption to the community, and will provide a smooth and durable streetcar operation through the communities.

- 1) (Parliament Street to Sackville Street - February 19th to March 2nd) – Rail welding will be conducted on Dundas Street East within the streetcar track allowance between Parliament Street and Sackville Street. The welded rail lengths will be stored on the streetcar track allowance between Sumach Street and River Street, and some between Sumach Street and Sackville Street. Left turns to and from Whiteside Place and Belshaw Place will be restricted. Two TTC crew trailers will be temporarily parked on Parliament Street north of Dundas Street East.
- 2) (Bathurst Street to Casimir Street- March 2nd to March 15th) – Rail welding will be conducted on Dundas Street West within the eastbound curb lane between Bathurst Street and Casimir Street. The welded rail lengths will be stored in the eastbound curb lane between Casimir Street and Denison Avenue, and some between Denison Avenue and Augusta Avenue. Two TTC crew trailers will be temporarily parked on Carlyle Street north of Dundas Street West.
- 3) (Lansdowne Avenue to Brock Avenue - March 16th to 28th) – Rail welding will be conducted on Dundas Street West within the track allowance between Lansdowne Avenue and Brock Avenue. The welded rail lengths will be stored in the eastbound curb lane between Lansdowne Avenue and College Street, and some in the northbound curb lane on Sterling Road just north of Dundas Street West. Left turns will be restricted to and/or from St. Clarens Avenue Street and Margueretta Street during rail welding operations. Two TTC crew trailers will be temporarily parked on St. Helen's Avenue north of Dundas Street West.
- 4) (Shaw Street to Montrose Avenue - March 28th to April 9th) – Rail welding will be conducted on Dundas Street West within the eastbound curb lane between Shaw Street and Montrose Avenue. The welded rail lengths will be stored in the streetcar track allowance between Ossington Avenue and Grove Avenue. During rail welding operations Crawford Street will be closed at Dundas Street West and will be temporarily converted to a two-way street between Dundas Street West and Lobb Avenue in order to maintain access for local residents. Two TTC crew trailers will be temporarily parked on Crawford Street south of Dundas Street West.

What other work is being done?

Some road re-surfacing and some sidewalks will be repaired where necessary along Dundas Street, but this work will be done separately after the completion of the Dundas Track Reconstruction work. The exception to this is at Dundas Street East at George Street, where realignment construction will be done. George Street will be narrowed on the school board property to create green space. Pavement Cut repairs will also be done where Enbridge completes gas main and gas services replacement on the section from Casimir Street to Ossington Avenue.

Will the construction be noisy?

Yes. As with any major construction project, noise can be expected. Track construction work is a 24-hour operation, with the heavy excavation work occurring between 7a.m. and 7 p.m. Overnight work involves TTC rail installation work consisting of pulling strings of rail to the excavated area, rail installation and some rail welding/grinding. This work is required to support the daytime construction activities. In general, the work will be 5 days a week with the exception of weekend work at some signalized intersections. While noise associated with welding and track installation activities should be expected at all times, efforts will be made to minimize this noise at night.

Why are you working through the night?

Working during the night is necessary to allow us to finish the work and restore normal traffic operations as quickly as possible. During the overnight hours the TTC will be carrying out the quieter activities related to rail installation. However, at times the TTC workers may need to drag rails, weld and continue the installation of the streetcar tracks in preparation for the following day's work. Without overnight work the time to complete the construction and return streetcar service would double.

What will happen to my recycling and garbage pick-up?

Please follow your normal schedule, recycling and garbage pick-up will not change.

How will I keep informed about the project?

Prior to all individual phases of the streetcar track reconstruction project, the City of Toronto and the TTC will provide detailed information by mail or hand delivery. Information will also be provided on the website www.toronto.ca/involved and at the project information phone line: 416-392-6182, and at www.ttc.ca