



GO Expansion Program – Steeles Avenue East Grade Separation and Temporary Diversion Road

Date: June 21, 2019

To: Infrastructure and Environment Committee

From: General Manager, Transportation Services

Wards: Ward 22 – Scarborough Agincourt

SUMMARY

As part of Metrolinx's GO Expansion Program (formerly known as the Regional Express Rail Program), the existing at-grade railway crossing of the GO Transit Stouffville line at Steeles Avenue East will be replaced by a grade separated railway crossing.

In order to facilitate construction of the grade separation structure, Steeles Avenue East, between Redlea Avenue and Silver Star Boulevard, will be closed for a period of up to 24 months. Vehicular traffic on Steeles Avenue East will be temporarily shifted to a diversion road located to the north of the existing roadway and within the current jurisdiction of the City of Markham and York Region. The City of Markham and York Region have provided their consent to temporarily extend the City of Toronto's jurisdiction to the diversion road.

This report seeks Council approval to close the existing Steeles Avenue East, between Redlea Avenue and Silver Star Boulevard, for a period of 24 months (September 1, 2019 to August 31, 2021) in order to facilitate construction of the grade separation structure. Additionally, this report seeks Council approval to designate the diversion road as a public highway and implement traffic by-laws for a period of 24 months.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Manager, Transportation Services recommends that:

1. City Council temporarily close Steeles Avenue East, between Redlea Avenue and Silver Star Boulevard, to both pedestrian and vehicular traffic from September 1, 2019 to August 31, 2021, inclusive, for purposes of the grade separation construction.
2. City Council authorize public highway designation for the diversion road, between Redlea Avenue and Silver Star Boulevard, as shown in Attachments 3 to 5 of this

report, from September 1, 2019 to August 31, 2021. The diversion road will be dedicated in name as Steeles Avenue East.

3. City Council authorize the appropriate City officials to take all steps necessary to implement the proposed dedication referred to in Recommendation 2, including requesting the City Solicitor to prepare and submit the relevant bills and to pay any costs necessary to register the resultant by-laws, if required.
4. City Council authorize the General Manager, Transportation Services, to negotiate, enter into and execute any necessary agreements and documents, and take steps and measures necessary, on behalf of the City, to temporarily exercise the City's authority.
5. City Council authorize a 40 km/h speed limit from September 1, 2019 to August 31, 2021, inclusive, on the Steeles Avenue East diversion road, between Redlea Avenue and Silver Star Boulevard.
6. City Council prohibit stopping at all times from September 1, 2019 to August 31, 2021 on the north and south sides of the Steeles Avenue East diversion road, between Redlea Avenue and Silver Star Boulevard.
7. City Council authorize the General Manager, Transportation Services, in issuing any requisite permits to include additional permit terms and conditions as the General Manager of Transportation Services deems necessary and appropriate.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

All costs associated with the Grade Separation will be shared between the City at 15% and Metrolinx at 85% respectively.

Funding for the City's share is available within the 2019-2028 Capital Budget & Plan for Transportation Services.

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

DECISION HISTORY

City Council, at its meeting of May 22, 2018, delegated to the General Manager, Transportation Services, the authority to temporarily close to pedestrian and vehicular traffic highways or portions of highways for a period up to and including 365 consecutive days, until March 31, 2025 with the exception of those highways listed in section 937-4 of Chapter 937, as required for the purpose of the construction of the Metrolinx Regional Express Rail projects. The Council decision can be found at:

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2018.PW29.1>

On November 8, 2016, City Council approved a Summary Term Sheet that, in part, provided that Metrolinx and the City would share the costs (85% Metrolinx and 15% City) associated with 5 GO Regional Express Rail grade separations, including a grade separation at Steeles Avenue East. The Council decision can be found at:

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2016.EX19.1>.

COMMENTS

Metrolinx will be undertaking infrastructure upgrades on the GO Transit Stouffville line to provide a frequent electrified two-way and all-day train service. The upgrades include addition of a new train track, rail-road grade separation and expansion of existing train stations.

Train tracks on the Stouffville line will be grade separated from Steeles Avenue East by constructing an underpass for vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists passing under the train tracks. The grade separation, when completed, will improve safety, mobility and travel time of vehicular, pedestrian and cycling traffic on Steeles Avenue East. Additionally, widening of Steeles Avenue East, between Redlea Avenue and Silver Star Boulevard, will be undertaken on behalf of the City of Toronto (hereafter referred to as "the City") to accommodate a six lane road cross-section with bike lanes and sidewalks.

A temporary road closure on the current Steeles Avenue East, between Redlea Avenue and Silver Star Boulevard, will be required for a period of up to 24 months (September 1, 2019 to August 31, 2021, inclusive) to construct the grade separation. With the temporary road closure in place, east and westbound vehicular traffic on this section of Steeles Avenue East will be temporarily shifted to a diversion road (shown in Attachment 2) located to the north of the existing roadway. The diversion road will have the same number of traffic lanes (2 eastbound and 2 westbound) as the existing Steeles Avenue East. Pedestrian movements will be accommodated on the north side of the diversion road only. Access to properties located on the south side of the closed portion of Steeles Avenue East will be maintained through Redlea Avenue and Silver Star Boulevard. The proposed road alignment for the temporary diversion road is shown on Attachments 3 to 5.

The diversion road will be constructed on lands currently within the jurisdiction of the City of Markham and York Region. As Steeles Avenue is within the City's jurisdiction, consent from the City of Markham and York Region is required to extend the City's jurisdictional authority to the diversion road. A request to extend the City's jurisdiction was made by the City to the City of Markham and York Region pursuant to Section 15(2) of the City of Toronto Act, 2006 and Section 19(2) of the Municipal Act, 2001, this request has been approved by the City of Markham and by York Region.

Normally, City by-laws and resolutions only apply within the boundaries of the City. However, Section 15(2) of the City of Toronto Act, 2006 is one exception to this rule. This provision allows the City to exercise its powers to provide a municipal system for

the provision of a service or thing in an area in another municipality if one of the purposes for so acting is for its own purpose and if both the lower tier and upper tier municipalities that currently have jurisdiction consent. In this case, both the City of Markham and York Region have consented to the City exercising its authority to regulate the diversion road to ensure continued use of the public highway for vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

Subject to City Council approval, the diversion road will be temporarily designated as a public highway and traffic by-laws will be enacted and enforced by the City for a period of up to 24 months (September 1, 2019 to August 31, 2021, inclusive). The diversion road and the north side boulevard space will be maintained by Metrolinx's contractor for the grade separation work (EllisDon) except snow clearing which will be undertaken by the City.

CONTACT

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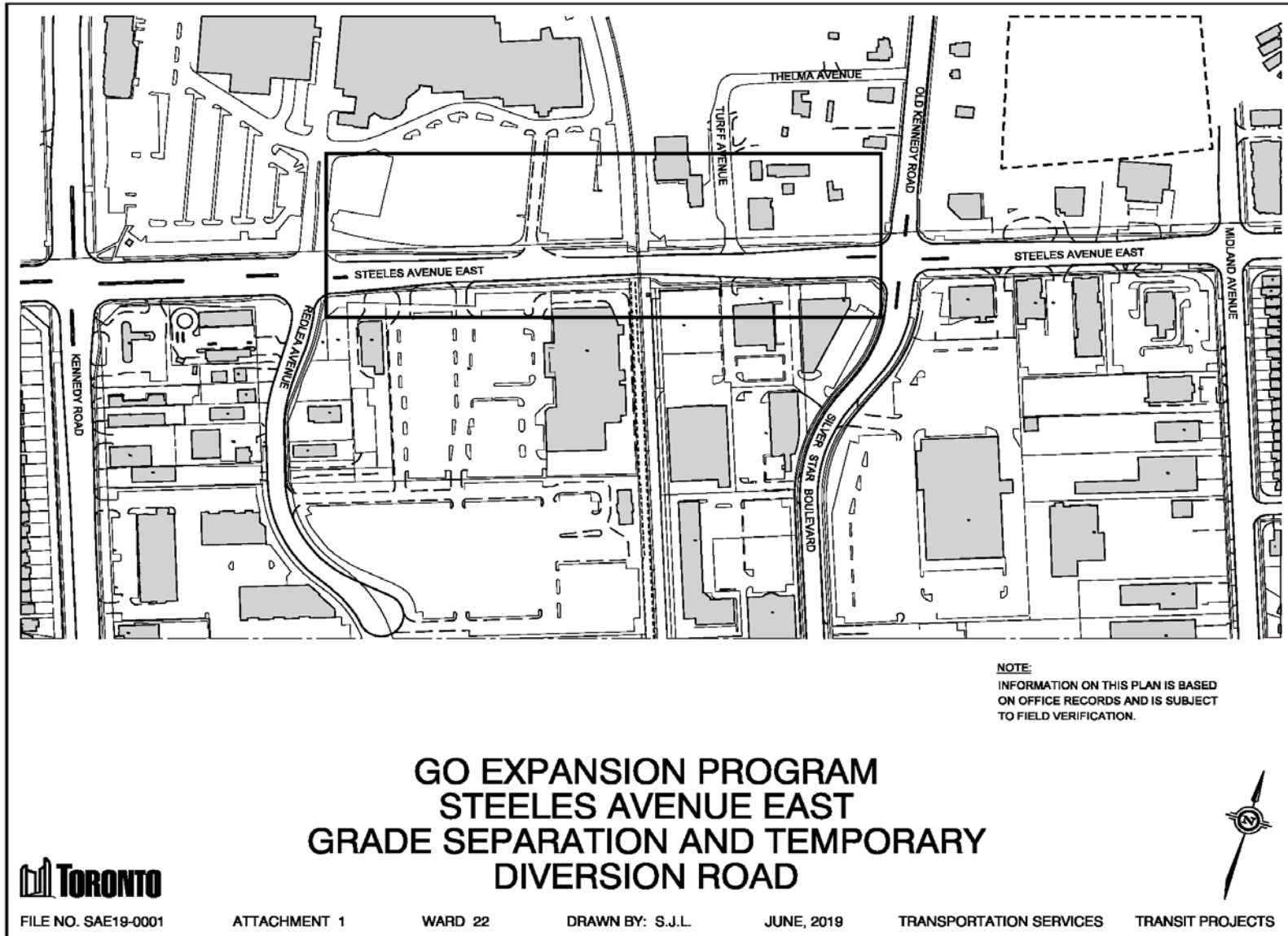
SIGNATURE

Barbara Gray
General Manager, Transportation Services

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Location Plan
Attachment 2: Steeles Ave East Diversion Road Schematic
Attachment 3: Steeles Ave Grade Separation – Temporary Diversion Road Drawing 1
Attachment 4: Steeles Ave Grade Separation – Temporary Diversion Road Drawing 2
Attachment 5: Steeles Ave Grade Separation – Temporary Diversion Road Drawing 3

Attachment 1: Location Plan

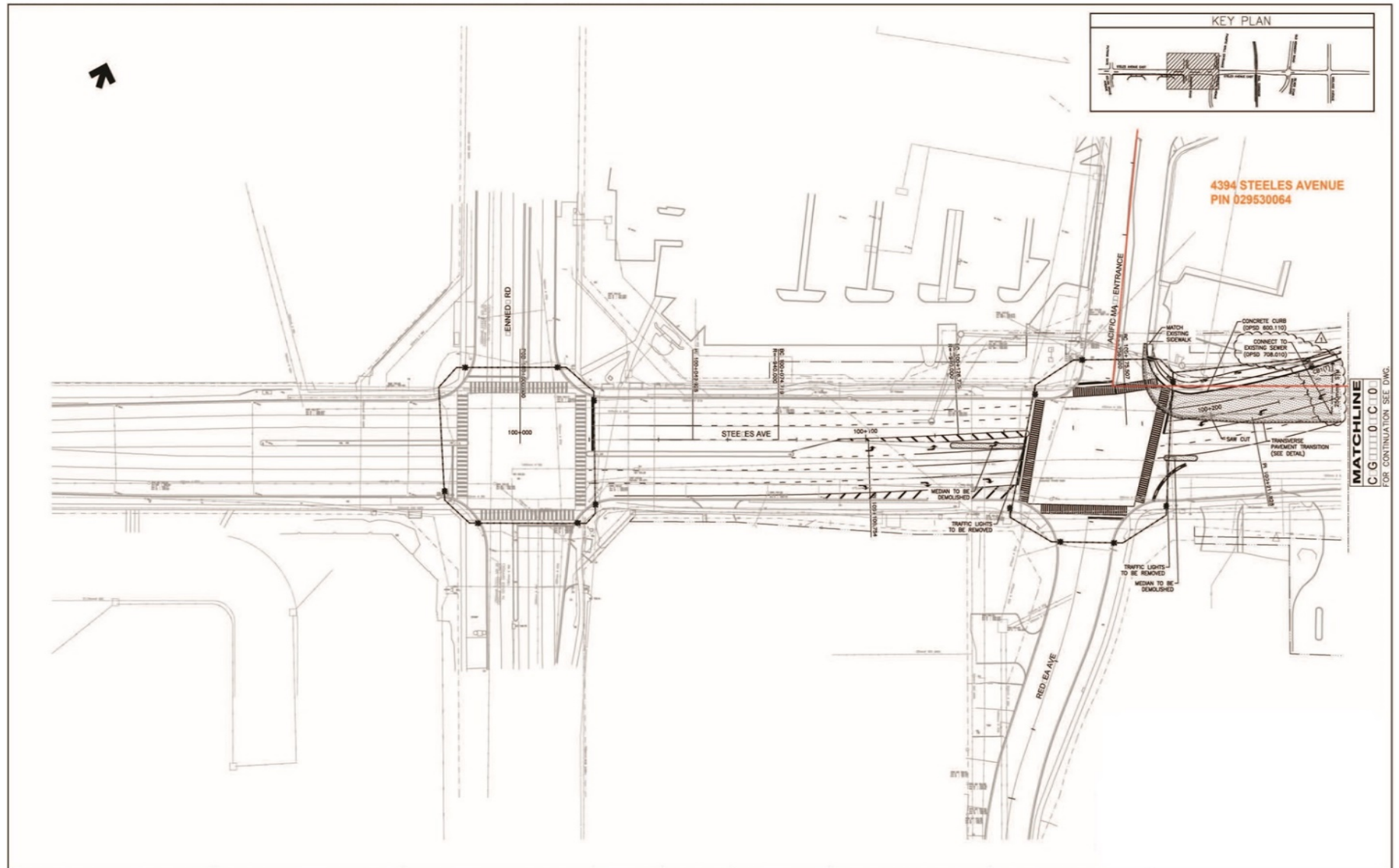


Attachment 2: Steeles Ave East Diversion Road Schematic

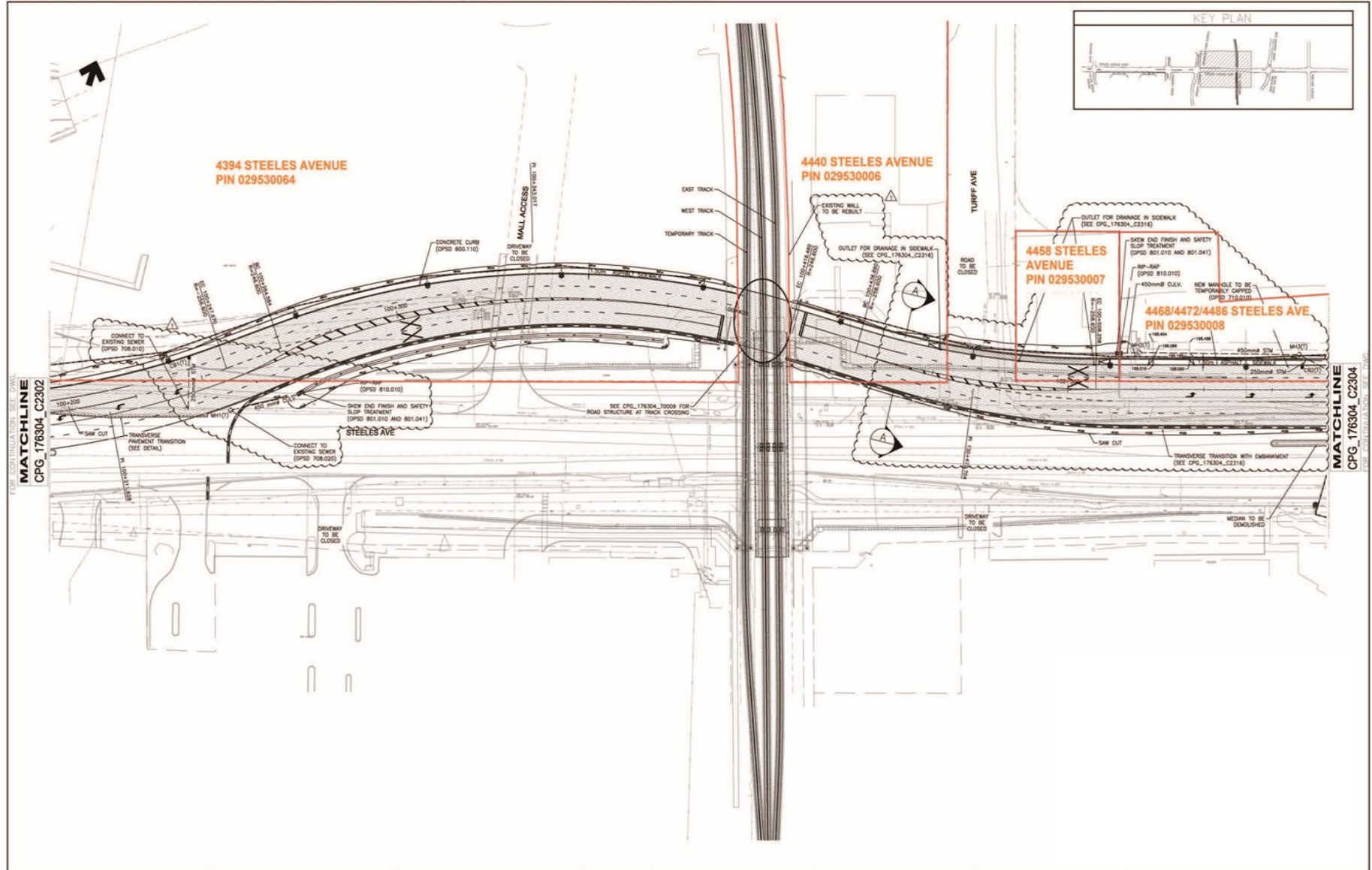


STEELES AVENUE EAST TEMPORARY ROAD DIVERSION
(BETWEEN REDLEA AVENUE AND OLD KENNEDY ROAD)

Attachment 3: Steeles Ave Grade Separation – Temporary Diversion Road Drawing 1



Attachment 4: Steeles Ave Grade Separation – Temporary Diversion Road Drawing 2



Attachment 5: Steeles Ave Grade Separation – Temporary Diversion Road Drawing 3

