



St. Clair Avenue West Transit Improvement Project Phase 1: Yonge Street to Tweedsmuir Avenue

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Why is the TTC reconstructing the St. Clair Ave West Streetcar Tracks?

The quality, speed, and reliability of transit service on St. Clair Avenue West is compromised because of recurring obstruction and delay caused by other vehicular traffic. Due to forecasted increases in population and employment in and around the City over the next 20-30 years, traffic volumes and congestion are expected to increase. As a result of the anticipated growth in traffic volumes, reliable streetcar service along St. Clair Avenue West will be further compromised.

2. What is the overall street design strategy for Phase 1?

Streetcars will operate on two tracks located on a raised, but mountable, streetcar-way. The streetcar-way will be raised from adjacent vehicle lanes by six inches and reserved for exclusive use by streetcars and emergency vehicles. Two general purpose traffic lanes will operate in each direction on either side of the streetcar-way, and a new left turn/u-turn lane will be provided at signalized intersections. The streetcar tracks will be level with the street at signalized intersections.

Other design features include:

- A unique pattern, stamped into the concrete on the streetcar-way
- Custom-designed power poles located in the centre of the street
- 13 new platforms located on the far side of intersections, including accessible ramps, high quality pavement material and railings, and a landscaping planter
- Custom designed shelters located on each platform, integrating Public Art, seating, weather protection, TTC route map, community information and interpretive plaques
- New sidewalks on both sides of the street, including unique pavement pattern
- New 3.0 metre wide crosswalks with special pavement material
- On-street parking on both sides of the street during off peak periods and weekends
- Upgrades to Amsterdam Square, including boulevard landscaping, new trees and public art
- Decorative street lighting

3. Will the design approach in Phase 1 be used for the entire streetcar-way?

A consistent design approach will be used for:

- streetcar-way pattern
- platform access ramp, pavement material, railings and a landscaping planter
- power poles
- TTC shelters
- crosswalk pavement pattern

The following elements may be modified:

- streetscape design, including street trees and furniture
- Public Art
- community information and interpretative plaques
- urban design for special locations

4. What will happen to transit service and traffic during construction?

One lane of traffic will be maintained in each direction during construction between Yonge Street and Tweedsmuir Avenue. North/south traffic and turning may be restricted or re-routed in active construction zones. Some one-way streets may be temporarily changed to two-way. There will also be intermittent traffic disruption at major intersections for short periods of time. Signs will be posted to notify pedestrians and drivers of temporary traffic and parking changes.

The 512 St. Clair streetcar route will be replaced with buses between St. Clair Station and St. Clair West Station during Phase 1 construction.

5. Will on-street parking be provided?

During construction, parking *will not be* available in the active work zones. However, once the project is complete, parking *will be* available on both sides of St. Clair Avenue during off-peak hours and weekends. The Toronto Parking Authority has also increased funding for new projects along St. Clair and will add three additional off-street public parking lots.

6. How wide will the sidewalks be?

To accommodate wider streetcar platforms and a new left turn/u-turn traffic lane, sidewalk width at some intersections will be reduced. The reduction will vary at each location but new sidewalks will be at least 2.0 metres wide.

7. Will all sidewalks be replaced?

In Phase 1, sidewalks on both sides of the street will be replaced. New sidewalks will be at least 2.0 metres wide and include a decorative pattern located against the curb. The extent of sidewalk replacement in Phase 2 of the project has not been determined.

8. How will pedestrians access businesses along St. Clair Avenue West while sidewalk construction is taking place?

Temporary walkways will be set up for each affected address along St. Clair Avenue West, allowing pedestrian access during sidewalk construction.

9. How will construction impacts be managed?

The TTC and City will work closely with the successful contractors to speed up all aspects of the construction process. A Construction Liaison Committee with community and business representation will be established to ensure the impact of construction on area residents and businesses is kept to a minimum.

10. How many trees will you remove or replace?

The majority of trees located in Phase 1 are situated behind the sidewalk on private property. A summary of tree removal and replacement follows:

- Existing street trees: 64 trees
- Trees removed: 18 trees

Removal of trees is necessary because of new curb locations. Existing trees that will be removed are either infringing on the new street line or obstruct the new sidewalk path.

- New trees: 37 platform trees + 5 trees at Amsterdam Square
- Total street trees: 88 trees
- Net gain: 24 trees

11. How many streetcar stops will there be?

Phase 1 will have seven stops and 13 platforms located between Yonge Street and Tweedsmuir Avenue. Stop locations are determined by the road geometry, the distance between adjacent stops, on-street parking and transit running time.

12. How will emergency vehicles move along or across the street?

The streetcar-way design provides access for all emergency vehicles. They can mount the streetcar-way curb and drive along it during emergencies.

13. What are the construction hours?

Track construction is a 24-hour operation. All heavy construction work will take place between 7 a.m. and 11 p.m., Monday to Friday, with weekend work as required. Overnight work typically involves delivery of rail, rail installation and welding. This work is required to complete the project as quickly as possible.

14. How long will the new tracks last?

Reconstruction of the TTC streetcar track network is based on a new design standard and a life cycle approach to replacement. The new tracks will require far less track maintenance over the years and will last approximately 30 years.

15. Will the dedicated streetcar-way interfere with street festivals?

No. The streetcar-way is raised by only six inches and pedestrians will be able to cross it without difficulty when streetcar service is suspended and the road is closed to traffic during festivals.

16. Will there be designated bicycle lanes?

Bike lanes and “bicycle friendly lanes” were considered. However, it was determined that bicycle lanes are not feasible because there is inadequate road width.

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

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

18. How can 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 is also available via:

- the Web site www.toronto.ca/involved (see St. Clair Transit Today)
- an information phone line: **416-338-2003**

For transit information, including TTC routes, schedules, service changes and multi-lingual services, visit the TTC Web site www.ttc.ca or call **416-393-INFO (4636)**