

# **Ensuring Safe and Accessible Pedestrian Routes in Construction Zones**

**Toronto Accessibility and Advisory Committee**

**February 5, 2024  
City of Toronto  
Stuart McGhie**

# Stakeholder Advisory Workshops

**Two Stakeholder Advisory Groups**, drawn from organizations and advocacy groups, were engaged in developing the workshops for two types of users

- Pedestrians facing accessibility barriers
- Cyclists

**Four broader stakeholder workshops** held (two with each of the user groups)

- Discussion themes included: Communication, Safe Path of Travel, Training Staff, and Enforcement

## **Key Recommendations:**

- Centralized communication platform with clear information on closures and disruptions
- Identification and mitigation of construction related barriers
- Comprehensive training on AODA standards
- Making AODA standards mandatory for all types of construction sites

# Current work



# New Policies, Standards and Specifications

- **Pedestrian Accessibility in Construction Zones Checklist**
  - A clear list of expectations now used in staff training and job aids, site audits, and development of contracts and specifications
  - Agreed on through inter-divisional process for consistent application across all project types
- **Special specification on Pedestrian and Cyclist Safety and Accessibility Considerations (GN134SS)**
  - Released April 2023 for inclusion on Request for Tender on construction projects
  - Reinforces that safety of pedestrians and cyclists, especially those with disabilities, shall be addressed in construction zones
  - Specifies ramp locations and widths, maximum slopes, acceptable materials

# Updated Policies, Standards and Specifications

- **Contractor Performance Evaluation (CPE) & Professional Services Performance Evaluation (PSPE)**
  - Tools for City staff in evaluating Suppliers performing work on City projects. Poor results can lead to a Supplier being temporarily suspended from bidding on future work
  - CPE updated in May 2023. Edits include explicitly including “pedestrians and those with disabilities” in reference to the public and stakeholders
  - Updates to PSPE updates are underway
- **Comprehensive update of Construction Specification for Maintenance of Traffic TS1.00**
  - Construction Specification for Maintenance of Traffic TS1.00
  - Review and revision of specification TS1.00 started fall 2023
  - Will incorporate the content of GN134SS, construction zone checklist and reinforce prioritization order described earlier in this presentation

# Industry-Focused Education & Outreach

Discussions with industry groups are in early stages, via presentations at standing meetings of established committees and industry associations active in constructing in the right-of-way, and content in annual training for utility contractors.

Further outreach is planned for Fall 2023-2024 including:

- Webinar presentations to outside agencies that perform work in the City roads, such as Utility companies, Developers, City Contractors, and public agencies that perform work within the road (e.g. TTC, Metrolinx).
- Meetings with various Construction Associations to educate and promote the City's approach to, and requirements for, accessibility.
- Provide Lunch & Learn seminars to reinforce staff comprehension of AODA requirements.
- Program of detailed articles, interviews and briefs in industry publications and local media.

# New QR Code System of Construction Work Zone Information

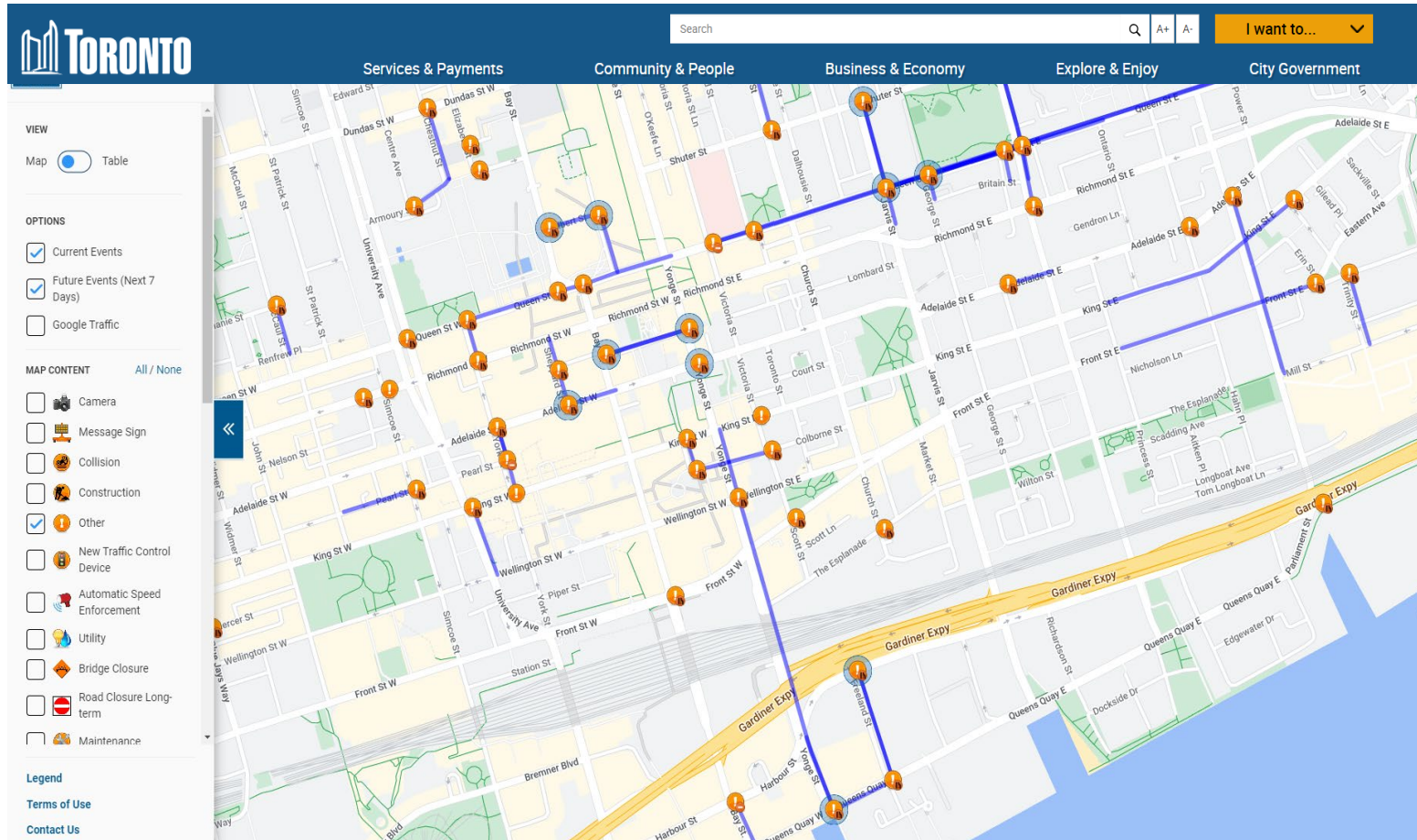


New Construction QR Code



In Q1 2024, it will be **mandatory** for all construction work zones to prominently display QR Codes with information on:

- Name of the applicant
- Duration and nature of the construction
- 24/7 emergency contact information



# New Toronto Road Restriction Web Site

In Q1 2024, a new Road Restriction Web Site will be launched with more detailed information on:

- Name of the applicant
- Duration and nature of the construction
- 24/7 emergency contact information
- **impacts to both pedestrian and cycling infrastructure**
- Ability to provide open data to other Wayfinding Apps