



Accessibility Protection Zones Around Construction Projects

Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee – December 11, 2024

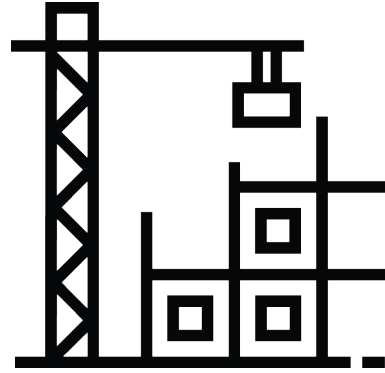
Agenda

- Background
- Accessibility around City, TTC and Metrolinx led projects
- Accessibility around Utility and Development projects
- Timelines – Setting Expectations
- Questions

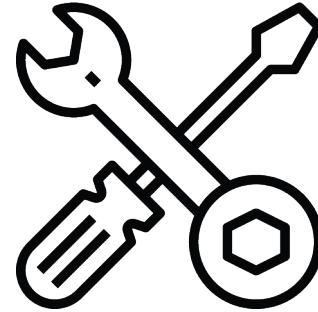
Background

City of Toronto Remains Busiest Construction City in North America

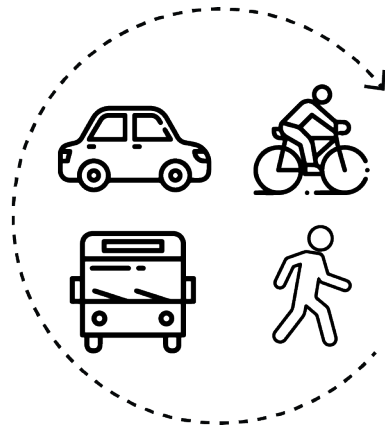
This is critical work that
absolutely must be done



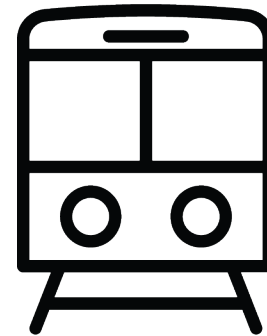
Developments
Vertical Construction



Utility Infrastructure
Linear Construction



Transportation Infrastructure
Linear Construction



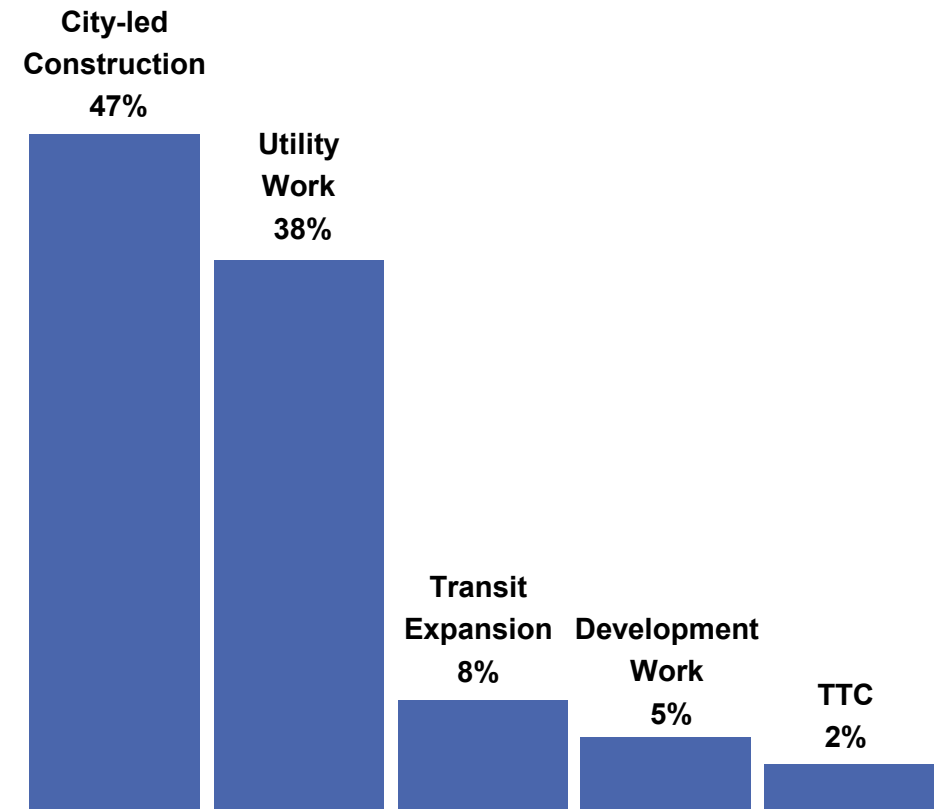
Major Transit Infrastructure
Linear Construction

CONSTRUCTION IN TORONTO

Toronto is the busiest city in North America for construction (250+ cranes in the sky)

- Construction-related road closures are the biggest contributor to Toronto's congestion.
- Unprecedented growth and development with a high volume of construction related to:
 - City-led (growth & state of good repair) – **47%**
 - Utility work (upgrading and replacing aging infrastructure) – **38%**
 - Transit expansion – **8%**
 - Development work (housing) – **5%**
 - TTC (Easier Access Program) – **2%**

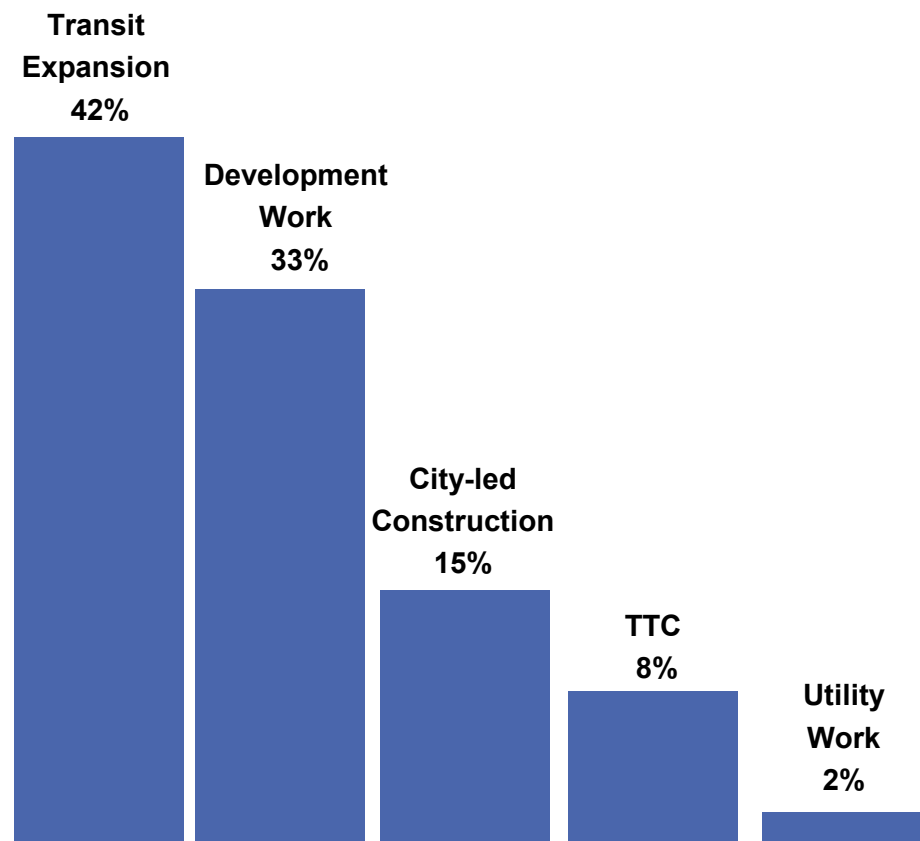
Who is on the right-of-way proportionately?

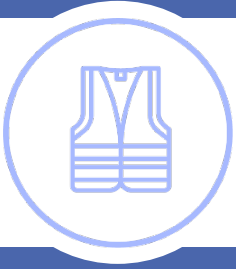


CONSTRUCTION IN TORONTO [2]

- Important to note the duration of projects on the right-of-way
- The following details proportionately who is occupying the right-of-way annually in terms of time:
 - Transit expansion – **42%**
 - Development work (housing) – **33%**
 - City-led – **15%**
 - TTC (Easier Access Program) – **8%**
 - Utility work – **2%**

Who is spending the most time on the right-of-way proportionately?





ACCESSIBILITY AROUND CONSTRUCTION WORK ZONES

Accessibility around City, TTC and Metrolinx led construction projects

Updates to the City's Work Zone Standards

- This year focused on developing new standards to advise on accessibility in work zones
- Creation of new road occupation reporting system, RODARS Central
- Updated TS1.00 specification that provides more clearly defined requirements for accessibility around work zones
- Updated specification GN134SS - Pedestrian and Cyclist Safety and Accessibility considerations
- Also includes penalties for non-compliance
- New standards already going into new contracts

Enforcement Supported by New Standards

- Working with Engineering Construction Services, Toronto Water, TTC and Metrolinx to improve upon regular construction inspection and enforcement of the contract requirements to ensure accessibility at the work zones
- \$5000 fine for every 12-hour period that AODA requirements are not met.
- This will be enforced by the contract management team



ACCESSIBILITY AROUND CONSTRUCTION WORK ZONES

Accessibility around Utility and Development Work

Work Zone Inspections for Compliance

- Beginning, During and Completion
- Bringing Lived Experience Experts on board to support inspection process
- New pedestrian accessibility checklist for construction work zones
- New contract specification GN134SS

Introducing Fees for Non-Compliance

- Construction Congestion Management Fees and Levy being brought through the 2025 budget process
- Opportunity to introduce fees for non-compliance

Use of Technology for Communications and Wayfinding

- Creation of new **R**oad **O**ccupation and **D**isruption **A**ctivating **R**eporting **S**ystem called **RODARS** Central
- Integration of Improved wayfinding abilities that utilizes QR codes
- New graphical layout of pedestrian and Cyclist impacts with mitigation measures

 **TORONTO** Building a great city together

Development
Huron St at Bloor St W
Huron St 52m North of Bloor St W to Bloor St W

RODARS ID

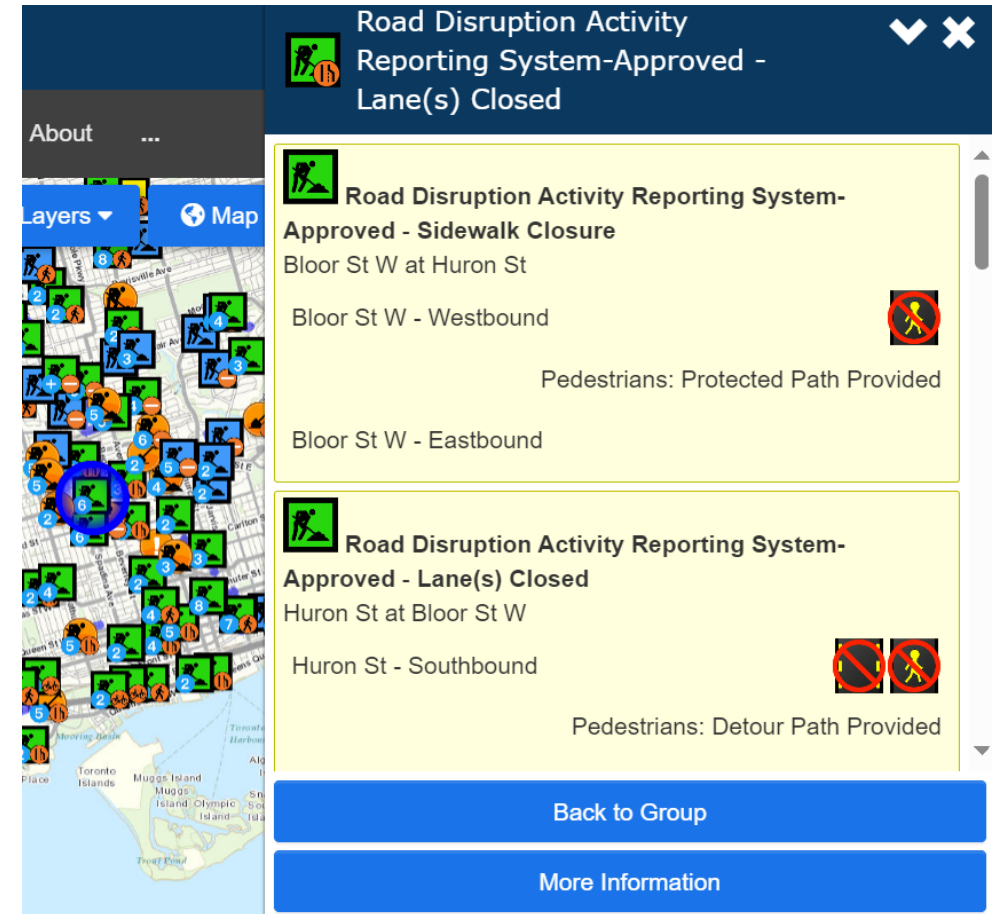
Tor-RDAR2024-2057
Start: 2024-08-26 04:00 AM End: 2024-12-31 04:00 AM

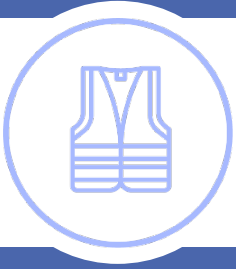


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Use of Technology for Communications and Wayfinding [2]

- Seeking technology solutions for enhanced wayfinding such as Blind Square
- Consulting assignments to seek out better use of technology to enhance pedestrian accessibility





ACCESSIBILITY AROUND CONSTRUCTION WORK ZONES

Timelines for Improvement Setting Expectations

Timelines

- Specifications going into contracts that are being tendered now for 2025 construction
- New fees for non-compliance going into 2025 budget process to take effect from the spring of 2025
- Consultant being brought on-board to support with inspection support spring of 2025 for summer construction season
- Noticeable difference anticipated in the 2025 construction season

Immediate Actions

- Working to improve ability for residents to report work zone accessibility issues through 311
- City Staff being trained on new accessibility guidelines through internal training
- Work zone team is staffing up to be able to respond to resident complaints regarding accessibility issues around private construction
- Still challenging to deal with immediate issues but, staff are striving to continually improve

QUESTIONS