

Metrolinx Scarborough Subway Extension - Time Extension of Temporary Sidewalk Closure on McCowan Road

Date: January 31, 2024

To: Scarborough Community Council

From: Deputy General Manager, Transportation Services

Wards: Ward 23 - Scarborough North

SUMMARY

As the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) operates a transit service on McCowan Road, City Council approval of this report is required.

Currently, Metrolinx's contractor, Strabag ("the Project Co.") is actively engaged in tunnel boring operations at the designated site in the north-east quadrant of Sheppard Avenue East and McCowan Road. The City Council-approved temporary closure of the east sidewalk on McCowan Road, between Sheppard Avenue East and Nugget Avenue, has been implemented to mitigate potential conflicts between pedestrians and significant flow of inbound and outbound construction vehicles. The approved sidewalk closure is set to expire on March 31, 2024.

Metrolinx has submitted a request for an extension of the temporary sidewalk closure until December 31, 2025. This extension is sought to accommodate the ongoing tunnel boring operations, which have experienced schedule adjustments due to challenges associated with the tunnel boring machine operation and maintenance. Subject to City Council approval of the requested time extension, with the east sidewalk closure in place, pedestrians will continue to utilize the west sidewalk on McCowan Road by safely crossing at the signalized intersections of McCowan Road and Sheppard Avenue East and McCowan Road and Nugget Avenue. Finally, the Project Co. will continue to monitor pedestrian safety along the north sidewalk on Sheppard Avenue East abutting the site by deploying traffic control persons at the site accesses.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Deputy General Manager, Transportation Services recommends that:

1. City Council authorize the continuation of the temporary closure of the east sidewalk

on McCowan Road, between Sheppard Avenue East and Nugget Avenue, from April 1, 2024, to December 31, 2025, inclusive, to facilitate the Scarborough Subway Extension tunnel construction work.

2. City Council direct that the east sidewalk and boulevard space on McCowan Road, between Sheppard Avenue East and Nugget Avenue, be returned to its pre-construction or better condition when the project is completed.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact to the City of Toronto associated with the recommendations in this report. Metrolinx's contractor, Strabag (the Project Co.) will be responsible for all costs related to the implementation of the sidewalk closure and associated signage, and permit fees.

DECISION HISTORY

City Council, at its meeting on March 9, 2022, adopted item 2022.SC30.12, entitled "Metrolinx Scarborough Subway Extension - Closure of Sidewalk on McCowan Road" and in so doing, authorized the temporary closure the east sidewalk on McCowan Road, between Sheppard Avenue East and Nugget Avenue from April 1, 2022, to March 31, 2024:

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2022.SC30.12>

COMMENTS

The Scarborough Subway Extension project is currently in the tunnel excavation phase. Metrolinx's Project Co. has established the tunnel boring operations at the site located in the north-east quadrant of Sheppard Avenue East and McCowan Road. The location of the site and vehicular accesses are shown in Figure 1.



Gate	Designated Use
Gate A	Haul Truck and Employee Entrance
Gate B	PCTL Delivery and Employee Exit
Gate C	Concrete Delivery Exit
Gate D	Concrete Delivery and PCTL Delivery Entrance
Gate E	Employee Entrance and Exit
Gate F	Haul Truck Exit

Figure 1 - TBM Launch Site Location and Accesses

Source: Metrolinx

The site operates on a 12-hour shift schedule, Monday to Friday, and generates a significant volume of inbound and outbound truck trips (approximately 31 per hour) for spoil removal, delivery of precast tunnel liners, concrete, and other construction materials. To minimize conflicts between pedestrians and construction vehicles at the McCowan Road site accesses, City Council approved the temporary closure of the east sidewalk on McCowan Road, between Sheppard Avenue East and Nugget Avenue, from April 1, 2022, to March 31, 2024. With the east sidewalk closure in place, pedestrians are directed to the west sidewalk by safely crossing at the signalized intersections of McCowan Road at Sheppard Avenue East and Nugget Avenue. Figure 2 below shows the pedestrian detour around the closed east sidewalk on McCowan Road.

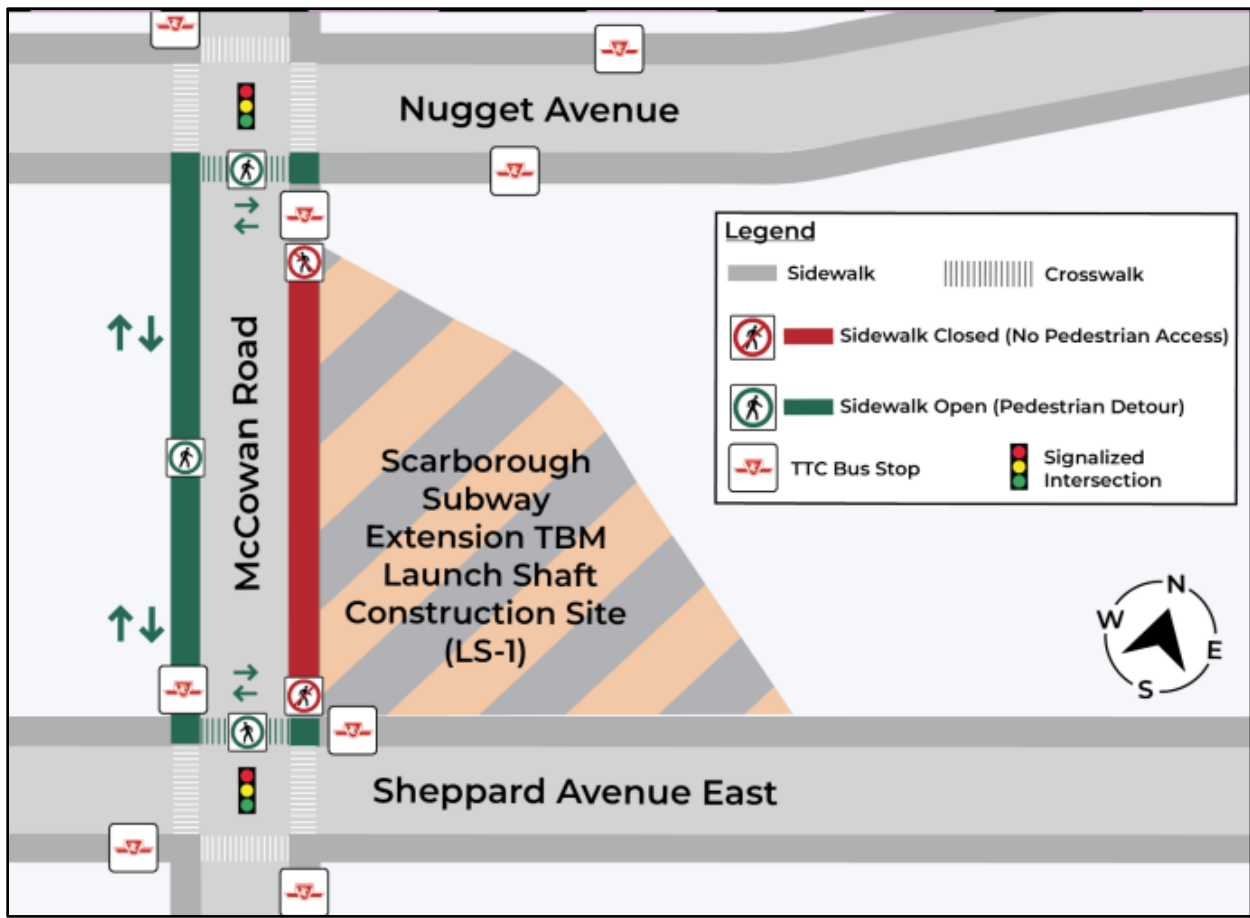


Figure 2 – Pedestrian Detour

Source: Metrolinx

Metrolinx has advised that the original tunnel boring operations schedule required adjustment due to unforeseen challenges in the tunnel boring machine operation and maintenance. Consequently, a time extension of the east sidewalk closure along McCowan Road is requested from April 1, 2024, to December 31, 2025. With the east sidewalk closure in place, pedestrians will continue to use the west sidewalk by safely crossing at the signalized intersections of McCowan Road at Sheppard Avenue East and Nugget Avenue. Additionally, the Project Co. will continue to deploy Traffic Control Persons (TCPs) at the site accesses on Sheppard Avenue East abutting the site. The TCPs will regulate the inbound and outbound truck movements by creating safe gaps in the pedestrian traffic.

Councillor Jamaal Myer's office has been advised of the recommendations of this staff report.

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SIGNATURE

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ATTACHMENTS
