

REPORT FOR ACTION

Gardiner Expressway Rehabilitation Project Update - Presentation

Date: April 10, 2025
To: The Board of Governors of Exhibition Place
From: Don Boyle, Chief Executive Officer
Wards: Ward 10 - Spadina - Fort York

SUMMARY

The F.G. Gardiner Expressway Strategic Rehabilitation Plan was developed by the City of Toronto in 2014 and sets the framework for lifecycle renewal of the expressway from Highway 427 to the Don Valley Parkway (DVP). Section 1 of the Rehabilitation Project from Jarvis Street to Cherry Street was completed in 2021. Section 2 of the Rehabilitation Plan from Dufferin Street to Strachan Avenue commenced in late 2023 and is under construction.

The Ontario-Toronto New Deal, approved on December 13, 2023, included a provincial commitment to upload the Gardiner Expressway and the Don Valley Parkway to the Government of Ontario subject to due diligence by the province, unlocking approximately \$1.9 billion over the next decade for investment into priorities such as transit and housing.

Section 2 includes replacement of the superstructure (girders and deck) and rehabilitation of the substructure (bents). Construction was originally expected to be completed in 2027. In July 2024, the City and Province announced plans to accelerate the construction work to move the construction completion date from April 2027 to at least April 2026.

Staff from Parsons, the City's Contract Administrator for this project, and the City of Toronto will attend the Board meeting of April 28, 2025, to provide an update on the progress of the Gardiner Rehabilitation Project Section 2, which spans from Dufferin Street to Strachan Avenue and is adjacent to Exhibition Place.

Exhibition Place staff will report back to the Board to provide updates on the status of the Gardiner Expressway Rehabilitation project as warranted.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Chief Executive Officer recommends that:

1. The Board receive this report for information.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

DECISION HISTORY

The Exhibition Place 2022-2026 Strategic Plan has a goal to Solidify Position as a Leading Convention and Event Space and having updated infrastructure, such as the Gardiner Expressway in place to ensure Exhibition Place has the Transportation network in place to support this goal is important.

At its meeting of October 29, 2021, the City of Toronto provided an update to the Board on this project.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2021.EP20.6>

At its meeting of December 9, 2022, the City of Toronto provided an update to the Board on this project.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2023.EP1.14>

At its meeting of December 9, 2022, the City of Toronto provided an update to the Board on this project.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2023.EP7.11>

COMMENTS

Section 2 of the Gardiner Expressway, from Dufferin Street to Strachan Avenue, runs parallel to the Exhibition Place lands, Exhibition GO Station, TTC Exhibition Streetcar Loop, and over the Exhibition Place parking lots located beneath the expressway.

Rehabilitation of the Gardiner Expressway includes ground-related construction activities for rehabilitation of the bents and access under the Gardiner at existing parking lots and storage areas, at Exhibition GO Station, and the TTC Exhibition Streetcar Loop. Parking lots 857 and 858, and portions of lot 854 are being utilized during construction activities.

<https://www.toronto.ca/services-payments/streets-parking-transportation/roadmaintenance/bridges-and-expressways/expressways/gardiner->

[expressway/gardinerexpressway-rehabilitation-strategy/section-2-dufferin-street-to-strachan-avenue/](https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2023.GG7.13)

Access requirements to the staging lots were identified by the City and Parsons during planning stages for the project in coordination with Exhibition Place, and in consideration of major events such as the Honda Indy, Canadian National Exhibition, Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, and others. The objective for the Gardiner Rehabilitation Project is to minimize impacts to these special events to the greatest extent possible during construction.

A Design-Build contract was awarded by the City to Grascan Construction Limited as outlined at the City's General Government Committee meeting on October 30, 2023. <https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2023.GG7.13>

Construction of the project started in November 2023 and is progressing well.

Exhibition Place staff will report back to the Board to provide updates on the status of the Gardiner Expressway Rehabilitation project as warranted.

Parsons Inc. (Parsons) is the City of Toronto's Owner's Engineer and Technical Advisor (OE/TA) for this section of the Rehabilitation. Parsons is a global consulting firm which delivers complex roads, bridges, tunnels, highways, and transit solutions including consulting and planning services, program and construction management, and alternative delivery methods.

Staff from Parsons and the City of Toronto will be attending the Board meeting of April 28, 2025 to provide a project update.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Don Boyle
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