

Ontario Line Update - Metrolinx Presentation

Date: April 10, 2025
To: The Board of Governors of Exhibition Place
From: Don Boyle, Chief Executive Officer
Wards: All Wards

SUMMARY

Announced by the Province of Ontario in 2019, the Ontario Line is one of four priority transit projects being led by Metrolinx in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). It represents the largest single expansion in Toronto's subway history, aimed at reducing congestion on existing transit lines and extending service to underserved neighbourhoods across the city.

The Ontario Line will add 15.6 kilometres of new subway service to Toronto, improving the speed, convenience, and connectivity of transit across the city. Stretching from Exhibition Place in the west to the future Eglinton Crosstown LRT at Don Mills Road and Eglinton Avenue East, the line will include 15 stations—six of which will serve as interchange stations—and provide more than 40 new connections to GO trains, existing subway lines, streetcars, and bus services.

Early works for the Ontario Line Exhibition Station have significantly progressed over the past year and are now approximately 95% complete. Substantial progress has also been made on the station design, with design submissions received in late 2024 and further development continuing into early 2025.

Construction at Exhibition Station, led by Metrolinx's contractor Ontario Transit Group, is now underway. The scope of work includes the construction of the above-ground station building, escalators and elevators serving each platform, two north entrances, one south entrance, an underground traction power substation, the Ontario Line platform, and a portion of Liberty New Street.

Tunnel boring machine (TBM) operations for the Ontario Line south segment are scheduled to begin in 2026, launching from the portal located just west of Exhibition Station. The portal is currently under construction on the north side of the existing GO rail corridor, east of Exhibition Station. At-grade tail tracks west of the station will accommodate storage for Ontario Line vehicles and protect for a potential future extension of the line.

Staff from Metrolinx will be attending the Board meeting on April 28, 2025, to present the construction progress of the Ontario Line project for the benefit of the Board Members.

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 an updated new infrastructure such as the Ontario Line in place to ensure Exhibition Place has the Transportation network in place to support this goal is important.

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

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2021.EP20.7>

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

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2023.EP1.12>

At its meeting on December 4, 2023, Metrolinx provided an update to the Board on this project.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2023.EP7.12>

COMMENTS

Ontario Line Early Works were advanced in areas where the Project interfaces with other concurrently planned transit projects, such as GO Expansion, and where the alignment runs parallel to the existing Lakeshore East and Lakeshore West GO rail corridors.

Advancing work in these areas enhances planning, design, and implementation efficiencies for the interfacing projects, facilitating timely delivery of the Ontario Line project and coordination with GO Expansion plans at Exhibition Station. These Early Works have successfully laid the foundation for subsequent construction, reducing the risk of delays to the main P3 contracts.

Ontario Line Early Works at Exhibition Station includes an extension of the existing passenger tunnel, the opening of an unused tunnel and entrance building, installation of a temporary pedestrian bridge, construction of a new north platform with a corresponding shift of the northern two GO tracks, as well as utility relocation and protection.

Early Works construction at Exhibition Station commenced in March 2022. Metrolinx continues to share detailed designs with Exhibition Place staff for review and continuous to provide regular updates on timelines. Staff are working collaboratively to implement mitigation measures for any anticipated impacts, ensuring visitors can easily access events throughout the construction phase.

Early Works construction is near completion, 95% complete, with the new station building and temporary bridge effectively opened to the public in 2023.

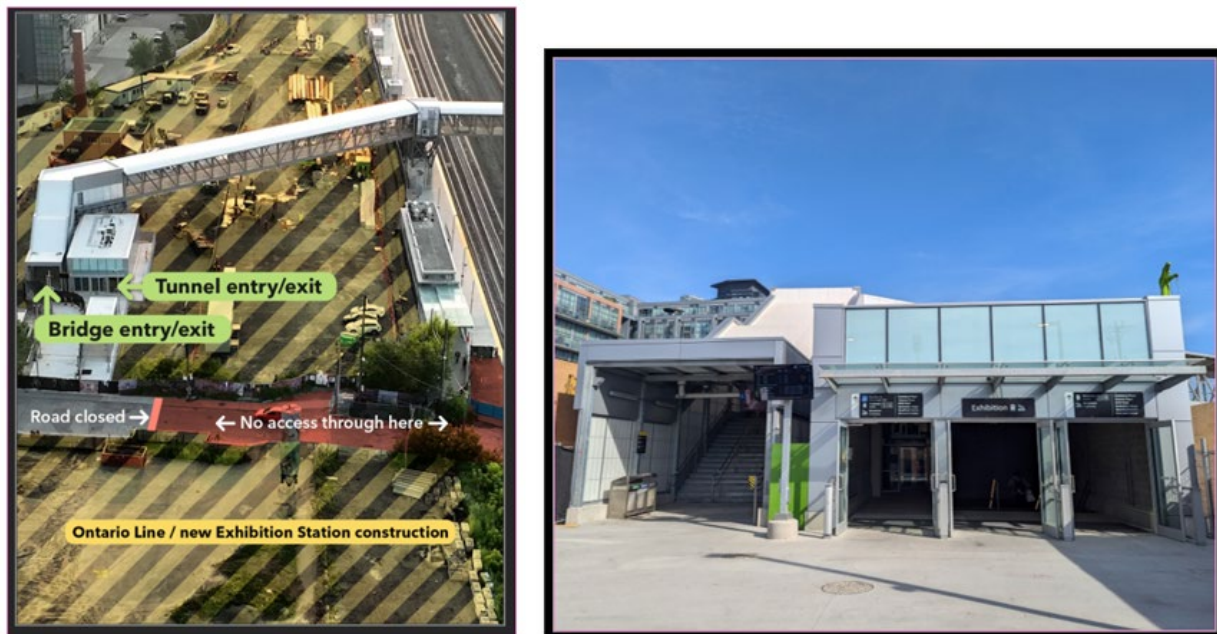


Figure 1: Early Works Overview and Completed North Station Entrance

In November 2022, Infrastructure Ontario and Metrolinx awarded the Ontario Line South Package to Ontario Transit Group (OTG) to design, build, and finance the Ontario Line Southern Civil, Stations, and Tunnel (South Civil) package.

OTG's scope of work includes the new above-ground GO Transit and Ontario Line station, as well as a six-kilometre tunnel and associated tunnelling activities launching from the Exhibition Station construction site, and concluding at the Don Yard portal,

located west of the Don River. The above ground works at Exhibition Station will be integrated with, and enhance, the existing GO Transit Exhibition Station.

As Early Works reach completion, OTG has assumed the construction sites extending from Strachan Avenue to Dufferin Street along the Lakeshore West GO Transit corridor. Construction activities now underway include support of excavation, foundation work for the north head house and island platform, construction of an access roadway, and other preparatory works for the station and Ontario Line tunnel (See: Figure 2).

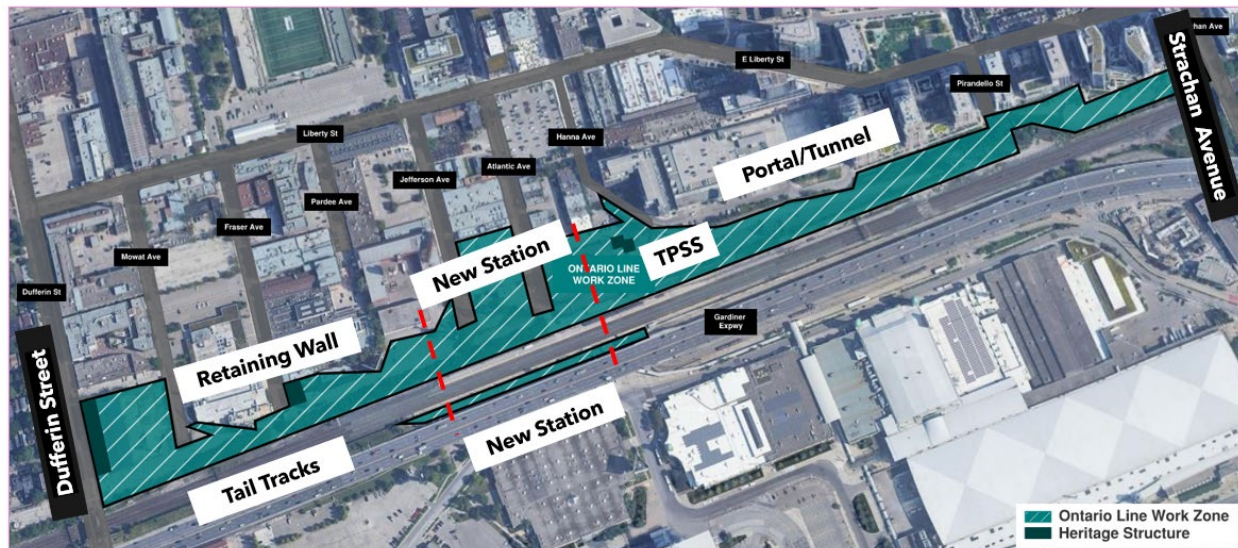


Figure 2: Overview of OTG Construction Area and Major Scope of Work

Exhibition Place staff will provide updates to the Board on the status of the Ontario Line Transit project as needed.

Metrolinx staff will attend the Board meeting on April 28, 2025, to deliver a PowerPoint presentation outlining progress on the Ontario Line to date, as well as key plans for the upcoming year, for the information of Board Members.

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SIGNATURE

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