

Welcome and Introductions – Don Boyle, Chief Executive Officer, Exhibition Place

Don welcomed the participants to the Community Liaison Meeting this evening, both in person and online. The purpose of these meetings is to liaise regularly with members of the communities surrounding Exhibition Place, present new Board directions, address major Exhibition Place events and projects, and listen to and respond to issues and feedback raised by the surrounding community. Don mentioned this year we will have an e-sports event in our building, which is a multi-million-dollar industry and incredible event to watch, and in 2028 the Hotel will be moving to the next stage.

Don introduced the Board of Governors Members and the Exhibition Place staff in attendance.

- Board of Governors Members – Deputy Mayor Ausma Malik, Malcolm Bromley
- Exhibition Place Staff – Don Boyle, Kelvin Seow, Catherine de Nobriga, Fiona Crawford, LongFei Chen, and Debbie Sanderson

This evening, we will provide updates on the Gardiner Expressway Rehabilitation Project, Ontario Line and Exhibition Station Project, FIFA World Cup 2026 Update, Ontario Honda Dealers Indy Event Update, Canadian National Exhibition Event Update, Toronto Caribbean Carnival Event Update, Community Events Update, Exhibition Place Meeting and Event Update, and the Capital Projects Update.

Exhibition Place continually strive to be a good neighbour by maintaining the lines of communication with the surrounding community, and ensuring you have up-to-date information on what is happening across our campus that may affect the community. We continue to improve access to, within, and around Exhibition Place, and your input can help us to achieve this goal.

Although a lot of information will be communicated this evening, feel free to ask any questions or offer your suggestions throughout the meeting.

Gardiner Expressway Rehabilitation Project – Michael Popik, Director (acting), Design and Construction, Bridges and Expressways Engineering and Construction Services, City of Toronto

- The implementation approach for the Strategic Rehabilitation Plan consists of six complex projects, adopted by City Council in 2016. Section 2 rehabilitation from Dufferin Street to Strachan Avenue commenced in the Spring of 2024. Section 2 includes replacement of the Superstructure (girders and deck) and rehabilitation of the sub-structure (bents), 700 metres of concrete deck and girders.
- In July 2024, the City and Province announced plans to accelerate the construction work to move the construction completion date to the Spring of 2026 before the FIFA World Cup, and the project is on pace to meet the accelerated target completion.
- The project team has taken the Exhibition Place events into consideration throughout the construction, and the Exhibition GO Station has been maintained, providing access routes through the work zone.
- Next steps will be to complete Phase 3 works: maintain regular notification process for stakeholders, business owners, and the public prior to main construction activities, continue to provide updates to Exhibition Place staff during final states of construction, and continued coordination will occur with Metrolinx for the integration of work.

Ontario Line and Exhibition Station Project – Daniel Cicero, Senior Manager, Third-Party Coordination, Ontario Line

- Early Works construction is near the completion. The work has significantly progressed over the past year and is effectively complete, with only minor works pending completion.
- Major milestones include: new station entrance successfully opened, temporary pedestrian completed and opened last summer for special events, and relocating and extending the GO Station south platform to accommodate a 12-car GO Train, and removal of the existing north platform.
- Foundational works, structural support and grading activities are underway in support of the new Exhibition Station north main entrance; excavation and the installation of steel struts (structural support beams) are underway; utilities works are ongoing throughout the area to support the future station build, the first of three tower cranes are on site with another to be installed this summer to support excavation and construction over the railway.
- To the east of the new north main entrance and beneath the pedestrian bridge, grading, excavation, piling and tieback works are occurring to support the future Traction Power Sub-Station (TPSS). Once constructed and complete, it will exist below-grade, out of view, under the Ontario Line infrastructure. The TPSS is an electrical facility which converts high-voltage electricity from the utility grid to power electric Ontario Line trains, ensuring a reliable and efficient power supply for railway systems.
- The Ontario Transit Group construction has significantly advanced all downtown Toronto works, with station mining and excavation starting at nearly all six stations.
- 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. As of June, the TBMs have arrived in Canada.

FIFA World Cup 2026 Update – Sharon Bollenbach, Executive Director, FIFA World Cup 2026, Toronto Secretariat, and Michael Brewer, Project Manager – City Services, Community Outreach & Legacy

- Commencing June 11 to July 19, 2026, the eyes of the world will be on Toronto and the FIFA World Cup 2026, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Toronto to elevate its profile locally and globally, celebrating the strength of our diversity.
- World Cup opening match on June 11 in Mexico City.
- Toronto will stage six matches at Toronto Stadium (BMO Field), kicking off the opening match on June 12, 2026, with Canada's Men's National Team, and the remaining Group Stage matches are scheduled on June 17, 20, 23, and 26, with the round of 32 knockout matches on July 2.
- The final match of the World Cup will be on July 19 in New Jersey, USA.
- The FIFA Fan Festival is an invaluable opportunity to celebrate and promote the unmatched diversity, limitless talent, and cultural vibrancy that make Toronto the 'World in a City'.
- A Community Activation Toolkit is being created to include resources, information and guidance to support businesses and organizations in creating FWC26 excitement in their communities. Major programs of the toolkit are under development. The Toolkit will align with FIFA criteria and guidelines and content of the toolkit will focus on criteria for the Community Celebration Support Fund and 'Here to Cheer' designation, the do's and don'ts for adhering to FIFA community event and brand guidelines, how to access FIFA approved pageantry elements to dress-up main streets and neighbourhoods, and tips and tools for promoting FWC26 and activating community pride.
- Community Activation Programs – Community Celebration Support Fund (CCSF) will provide small value grants to local BIAs and community organizations to create community celebrations over the FWC26 tournament period of June 11 to July 19, 2026, approximately 50 grants with median grant value of \$20,000. The Application Launch will commence in the Fall of 2025 and grants will be issued year end 2025.
- Construction will still be happening in the City; however, workarounds and work will happen from summer to fall in preparation for 2026.
- A Traffic Management map was displayed showing accessibility to the site and local area road closures surrounding the site.
- Photos of the renovated stadium seating and suites were displayed.
- We will continue to share information about the upcoming FWC26 as it becomes available.

Questions

1. When will the toolkit be implemented? Elements of the toolkit should be ready in the summer of 2025.
2. When will the grant program be posted? Some grants may start before the toolkit is posted and both will be posted on our website.

Ontario Honda Dealers Indy Toronto – Nethu Srikanthan, Director, Partnership Development

- The 3-Day Honda Indy will take place at Exhibition Place – July 18-20, 2025; Friday 9-5, Saturday 9-5, and Sunday 8:30-4:30
- 160,000 attendees over the 3-day event
- Free Fan Friday where attendees support Indy's fundraising for the Make A Wish Foundation – over \$1 million raised since 2010
- This year the Indy will hold 2 support series races following the INDYCAR race
- Live broadcast partner for INDYCAR is FOX/TSN in addition to TSN Sports
- Race Lineup includes – INDYCAR, USF200, USF Pro, Radical Cup Canada, Miata Cup Canada
- Community Initiatives
 - Friday Evening - Rev & Run (5K/1K) @ 6:15 pm, \$38,000 raised for Parkdale Community Food Bank since 2023
 - Saturday Evening - The Children's Breakfast Clubs ride the Indy Track, 5-8 pm, presented by Exhibition Place and Green Savoree
 - 12 and under free general admission access to the event & paddock when accompanied by a ticketed adult, which allows us to introduce motorsports to youth
- A site map was displayed of all event road closures dates and times and reopening of the grounds and roadways

Canadian National Exhibition – Andrew Sihelnik, Director, Admissions, Security & Event Services

- August 15, 2025 – September 1, 2025, www.theex.com
- 146 years of history
- Attendance for 2024 – 1.5 million
- 1,000 youth employed each season
- Annual Economic Impact for the Province of Ontario - \$143,000,000 / Annual Economic Impact for the Greater Toronto area - \$112,800,000
- \$36.7 million Operating Budget for recent CNE's
- 3.8 billion Media Impressions for 2024
- CNE Job Fair for 2025 is scheduled in July in the Enercare Centre
- This year we will have: Elevated VIP Experience, Food Truck Frenzy which returns to Princes' Boulevard, Agricultural Experience at the CNE Farm Super Dogs, Skating Show, the International Air Show, International Stage Acts, and 150 rides and games
- Tickets on sale right now and will be your highlight of the summer

Question

1. Are you having the drone show again this year? We will be pausing the drone show for 2025.

Toronto Caribbean Carnival – Mischka Crichton, Chief Executive Officer

- After a few difficult years, we are incredibly grateful for our partners and their incredible support of the annual Toronto Caribbean Carnival.
- The festival continues to thrive through heart, grit, and community support, and is now building something extraordinary.
- The Carnival matters as it a Cultural Beacon, Platform for Representation, Economic Driver, and a Community Cornerstone.
- This event is an amazing way not to have to get on a plane to be exposed to our culture, food, music, and dance.
- The Theme for 2025 is 'Take Me Home'
- Returning for 2025 – The King and Queen Showcase, The Grand Parade, and Cultural Performances.
- New experiences added to the platform in 2025 - Yonge Street Revival, Sankofa Square Carnival Village, Coronation Park Carnival Village, and the Grand Parade Enhanced, Carnival meets Couture at the luxurious Hotel X, an all-white waterfront affair at Victoria Park and Belleville Yacht Club – indulge in Caribbean cuisine and dance under the stars, VIP premium viewing experiences and amenities for those seeking an elevated Carnival experience
- Safety first, Fun always – enhanced security measures, community cooperation, accessible information, and official participation channels - join through proper channels, by a costume, join a band, or purchase tickets for the stands
- Participate by buying a costume, get tickets, visit the villages, or visit us at torontocarnival.ca for the full schedule and participation options

Community Events Update – Catherine de Nobriga, Tenant and Community Relations Coordinator, Exhibition Place & Fiona Crawford, Records and Archives Supervisor, Exhibition Place

Community Event Recap

- Community Skate @ Coca Cola Coliseum in collaboration with the Exhibition Place Chair of the Board of Governors, Deputy Mayor Ausma Malik and the City of Toronto on March 7 – 403 participants
- Earth Day Clean Up on April 22 – 50 staff and community members
- Battle of York Anniversary Tour on April 26 – 30 participants
- Cherry Blossom Photo Walks with West Toronto Photography Group from April 26 to May 3 – 50 participants
- Jane's Walks with the CNE Archives on May 3 – 19 participants
- Exploring Exhibition Place through the Eyes of the Community with Bruce Van Dieten on May 18 – 13 participants
- Intraurban Reflections with West Toronto Photography Group (photo display in the Centennial Park gazebo as part of the Contact Photography Festival) from May 1 - 31
- Give Me Liberty – sponsor of the Liberty BIA Street Festival, June 19, 4-11 pm, we will promote our community and Exhibition Place events

Your Yard Series

- Yoga in the Park in partnership with 10XTO, Music in the Park in partnership with the Parkdale Residence Association, Beekeeping Workshops with Toronto Bee Rescue, and a Community BBQ with the date to be determined
- Children's Breakfast Clubs fundraising to Ride the Indy Track, July 19, 5-8 pm, 2nd year running, 300 participants - proceeds will go to the Children's Breakfast Clubs who provide hot meals to Children across Toronto and the GTA

Walking Tours & Workshops

- Photography workshop with West Toronto Photography Group in the Bandshell on July 3
- Exploring Exhibition Place Through the Eyes of the Community with Bruce Van Dieten on September 20
- Hidden Gems - Exhibition Art Walk with Steve Collie on September 21
- Sport History at Exhibition Place with Heritage Toronto on September 27 and October 5
- Urban Sketching Sessions with Toronto Urban Sketchers (dates TBC)
- Ghost Walks with Steve Collie on Fridays in October

Meeting and Event Update – Hughena Walsh, Director, Marketing and Communications, Exhibition Place

Enercare Centre & Automotive Building

- Our venue will remain busy with a diverse range of consumer shows, trade shows, corporate meetings, association conferences, exams, and gala events, continuing to be a hub of activity and engagement for professionals across multiple industries.
- For more information, please visit: <http://www.explace.on.ca/event/>
- As of January 26th, the Automotive Building rebranding has been completed

Better Living Centre

- Respite Site wrapped up in April helping provide a safe and supportive environment for those in need.

Capital Projects Update – Don Boyle, Chief Executive Officer, Exhibition Place

We are on track to complete 100% of our projects this year. With the upcoming tariffs and costs, we are moving some of our projects up this year.

Enercare Centre – Main Roof Rehabilitation (in progress)

- Existing Roof is more than 27 years old / Rehabilitation vs. Replacement – Rehabilitation was significant cost savings (\$10M) and waste diversion from landfill, minimal disruption to events / Largest liquid applied roofing project in GTA (500,000+ square feet) / Localized replacement of saturated roofing material and application of high-performance liquid applied membrane over the entire roof with a 25 year warranty, with a new heat-tracing system

Lighting Upgrade across Exhibition Place Grounds (complete)

- Exterior LED lighting upgrades to the Horse Palace, Food Building, Queen Elizabeth Building, TTC Canopy, walkway between Horse Palace and the Coca-Cola Coliseum, and walkway south of Lot 852 / Tree up-lighting in front of Enercare Centre on Princes' Boulevard / Retrofitting pole mounted lights with LED

Modernization of existing freight elevator in the Automotive Building (contract award in progress)

- more than 40 years old and non-operational / machine room is in deteriorated condition, exhibiting signs of delaminated and spalled concrete / temporarily shoring installed as recommended by the engineer / structural rehabilitation of the elevator machine room, and modernization of the existing elevator

Horse Palace Riding Ring Upgrade (pre-construction in progress)

- renovations of the Riding Ring after nearly 20 years of continuous operation / replacement of existing wooden boards and gates / localized structural steel reinforcement / removal and replacement of existing footing material with new granular base and high quality "TravelRight" topping

Underground High Voltage Cables West (construction in progress)

- Underground high voltage cables on the grounds are over 70 years old / Over 12.5 km of HV cables / 80% of Cable replacement complete after this phase

Security Control Room Upgrade (complete)

- Has not had any upgrades for 20 years / upgrades of interior space, security community system, electrical and fire suppression systems / new HVAC system for the control room, and upgrade the existing system in the adjacent office spaces / new furniture and screen monitors

Questions:

1. Inquiring about the flag on the dome of the Toronto Event Centre, is anything being done about this? We are currently working with the Fire Department to come and cut down the lock and take it down.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Don thanked all guests for attending and their active participation in the Community Liaison Meeting, along with their support for Exhibition Place to be Canada's Premier Destination for Conventions, Exhibitions, Events, and Entertainment. Don reminded the attendees we will have a meeting in November and will reach out to the community once the date has been solidified.