

Temporary Traffic Control Signals - Finch Avenue East and Baylawn Drive

Date: March 18, 2025

To: Scarborough Community Council

From: Deputy General Manager, Transportation Services

Wards: Ward 22 - Scarborough-Agincourt

SUMMARY

As the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) operates a transit service on Finch Avenue East, City Council approval of this report is required for the proposed installation of temporary Traffic Control Signals at Finch Avenue East and Baylawn Drive.

These signals are essential to support the construction of a rail-over-road grade separation at the Stouffville Rail Corridor, a key infrastructure project under Metrolinx's GO Expansion Program. The project aims to improve traffic flow and safety along Finch Avenue East, between Milliken Boulevard and Midland Avenue.

To facilitate construction, Metrolinx's contractor will temporarily realign a section of Finch Avenue East. Given the altered roadway configuration and the anticipated increase in construction-related traffic, maintaining the existing stop-control at Baylawn Drive and Finch Avenue East would be insufficient. The installation of the temporary Traffic Control Signals is recommended to provide a controlled crossing for pedestrians and ensure safer vehicle movements for both the general and construction-related traffic.

The temporary signals will remain operational until the completion of the grade separation, expected by the end of 2031.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Deputy General Manager, Transportation Services recommends that:

1. City Council authorize the installation of temporary Traffic Control Signals at the intersection of Finch Avenue East and Baylawn Drive, to be in effect from May 1, 2025 to December 31, 2031, inclusive.

2. City Council authorize the appropriate City officials to submit directly to Council at the appropriate time any necessary bills to amend the appropriate City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapters, and any Schedules to the Chapters, to reinstate the traffic and parking regulations to what they were implemented prior to the by-law amendments made in connection with the report (March 18, 2025) from the Deputy General Manager, Transportation Services.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Metrolinx will be responsible for all upfront costs associated with the installation of the temporary Traffic Control Signals at Finch Avenue East and Baylawn Drive.

The overall cost of the grade separation will be shared between the City and Metrolinx, with the City covering 15% and Metrolinx covering 85%, as outlined in Schedule D of the GO Expansion Master Agreement. These cost-sharing allocation were approved in Attachment 1 of Executive Committee Item 2016. EX19.1.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2016.EX19.1>

DECISION HISTORY

This report addresses a new initiative.

COMMENTS

GO Expansion Program

As part of the GO Expansion Program, Metrolinx is advancing infrastructure upgrades along the Stouffville Corridor to increase capacity, improve resiliency, and enhance train service frequency. Among these upgrades, Metrolinx will construct a rail-over-road grade separation ("Grade Separation") at Finch Avenue East, between Milliken Boulevard and Midland Avenue. This Grade Separation will improve traffic flow and enhance safety by eliminating the existing at-grade crossing.

It should be noted that the Grade Separation is a separate initiative from the Finch-Kennedy SmartTrack Station, which was deferred following City Council's decision on December 17 and 18, 2024 ([Council Item 2024.CC24.3](#)).

Road-Rail Grade Separation

The Grade Separation involves major construction activities, including the installation of a new rail bridge to carry the rail corridor over Finch Avenue East. To facilitate this work, Finch Avenue East will be temporarily realigned within the existing road right-of-way to maintain two-way traffic flow during construction. Additionally, the Grade Separation construction will restrict vehicular access to properties located at 4120 to 4168 Finch

Avenue East. A temporary access road will be constructed to provide direct access to these properties from Finch Avenue East. Figure 1 shows the temporary realignment of Finch Avenue and the temporary access road.

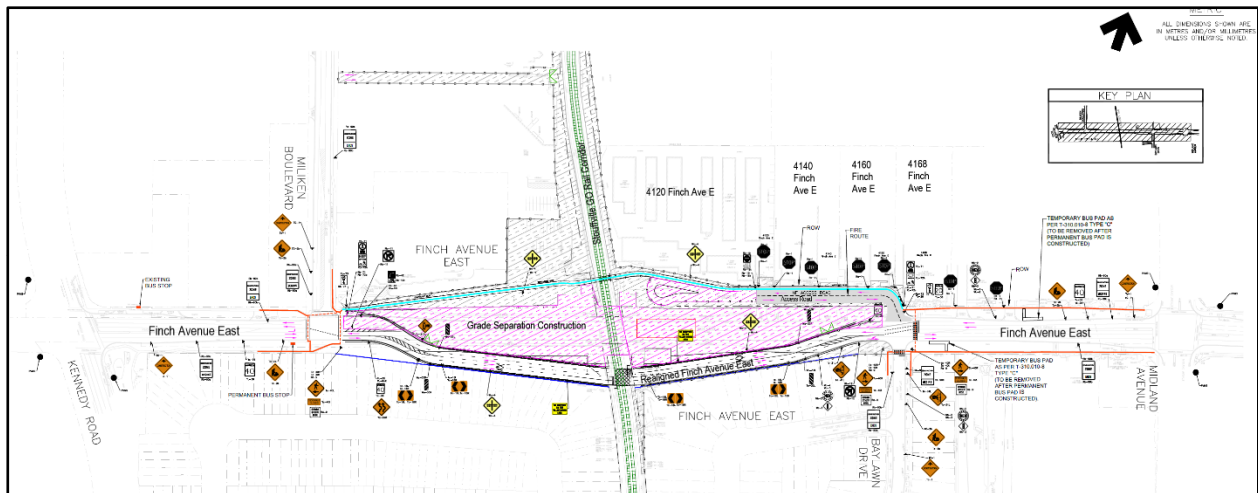


Figure 1 – Finch Avenue East Grade Separation Construction

Source: Metrolinx

Temporary Traffic Control Signals - Finch Avenue East and Baylawn Drive

To effectively manage the increased flow of construction-related vehicles and ensure road safety during the Grade Separation construction, temporary Traffic Control Signals will be installed at the intersection of Finch Avenue East and Baylawn Drive/Temporary Access Road. Following a comprehensive review of Metrolinx's Traffic Management Plan, Transportation Services staff determined that the existing stop-control at this intersection is inadequate to address the anticipated traffic impacts from construction activities and the realigned Finch Avenue East.

The realignment of travel lanes on Finch Avenue East will reduce sightlines, increasing the risk of collisions if the intersection remains stop-controlled. Reduced visibility could create challenges for motorists on Baylawn Drive, making it difficult to safely navigate conflicting traffic, particularly in a high-volume construction environment.

To mitigate these risks and ensure the safe movement of vehicles and pedestrians, temporary Traffic Control Signals are recommended. These signals will

- Facilitate safe pedestrian crossings
- Enhance ingress and egress to properties located on the north side of Finch Avenue East
- Improve intersection safety and minimize collision risks for motorists on Baylawn Drive.

Upon completion of the Grade Separation, the temporary access road will be replaced with a terminus cul-de-sac. The temporary Traffic Control Signals will be replaced by a permanent traffic control signals at the intersection of Finch Avenue East at Baylawn Drive. City Council approvals for the permanent infrastructure will be obtained at a later stage.

The local Councillor has been advised of the recommendation of this staff report.

CONTACT

Navi Tathgar
Manager, Transit Infrastructure Projects
Transportation Services
Tel: 416-397-4588
Email: navi.tathgar@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Ashley Curtis
Deputy General Manager, Transportation Services