

Metrolinx's Scarborough Subway Extension – Q2 2025 Semi-Annual Update

Date: March 19, 2025

To: Scarborough Community Council

From: Executive Director, Transit Expansion Division

Wards: 20, 21, 23, 24

SUMMARY

City Council, in December 2024, through item SC18.12¹, directed the Transit Expansion Division to report to Scarborough Community Council (SCC) with regular status updates on Metrolinx's Scarborough Subway Extension (SSE) project. The direction included a request for updates on construction milestones in order to provide transparency and timely communication on the project's progress. As directed, this semi-annual report provides a status update on the SSE and includes the following:

1. Construction Milestones;
2. Access to the Don Montgomery Community Recreation Centre;
3. Integration with the Existing TTC Service and Future Higher-Order Transit;
4. Community Benefits and Supports; and
5. Public Engagement.

City staff will provide the next semi-annual report to SCC in Q4 2025.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive Director, Transit Expansion Division recommends that:

1. Scarborough Community Council receive this report for information.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial impacts associated with this report. The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

¹ <https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2024.SC18.12>

DECISION HISTORY

On December 17, 2024, City Council adopted SC18.12 Metrolinx Scarborough Subway Extension - Long-term Temporary Road Closures and Public Highway Dedication - Kennedy Station Connection, Emergency Exit Building-1, and Lawrence East Station and requested City staff to report to Scarborough Community Council with project updates on the SSE to ensure transparency and timely communication on the project's progress within the boundaries of Scarborough.

Link: <https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2024.SC18.12>

On July 24, 2024, City Council adopted EX16.3 Subway Agreement in Principle and Update on Metrolinx Subway Program - Third Quarter 2024, which provided City Council with an update on key items related to the Subway Program including the negotiations of Subway AIP and an update on the status of the Subway Program projects including the SSE.

Link: <https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2024.EX16.3>

On June 27, 2024, City Council adopted EX15.2 Priorities in Transit Expansion and Transit-Oriented Communities Projects, which seeks to strengthen internal coordination to maximize achievement of the City priorities through interactions with the Provincial government and its agencies in the delivery of all current and future transit expansion and transit-oriented community (TOC) projects.

Link: <https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2024.EX15.2>

On December 13, 2023, City Council adopted, with amendments, CC13.2 Ontario-Toronto New Deal Agreement, which included the terms of the Ontario-Toronto New Deal in principle. The "New Deal" included several transit commitments, including agreement from the City to finalize negotiations and seek Council approval of the Subway Program Agreement in Principle (AIP) before June 2024.

Link: <https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2023.CC13.2>

On June 14, 2023, City Council adopted EX5.3 Update on Metrolinx Subway Program - Second Quarter 2023, which provided a status update on the SSE.

Link: <https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2023.EX5.3>

On June 15, 2022, City Council adopted, with amendments, EX33.1 Metrolinx Transit Expansion Projects - Second Quarter 2022, which provided an update on key milestones of the Subway Program and City Council approval for closures of roads, sidewalks and multi-use trails to support construction of the SSE.

Link: <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2022.EX33.1>

On July 6, 2021, City Council adopted EX25.5 Update on Metrolinx Transit Expansion Projects - Second Quarter 2021, which provided a status update on Metrolinx-led transit expansion projects currently underway in Toronto.

Link: <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2021.EX25.5>

In November 2020, City Council adopted, with amendments, EX18.3 Update on Metrolinx Transit Expansion Projects – Fourth Quarter 2020, and adopted directives

related to several Metrolinx transit expansion projects, including the Scarborough Subway Extension (SSE).

Link: <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2020.EX18.3>

In September 2020, City Council adopted, with amendments, EX16.5 Provincial Priority Transit Expansion Projects - Subway Program Status Update Third Quarter 2020, which provided a status update on the Province's Subway Program in Toronto, including within the boundaries of Scarborough.

Link: <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2020.EX16.5>

In October 2019, City Council adopted, with amendments, EX9.1 Toronto-Ontario Transit Update, authorizing City staff to execute the Preliminary Agreement with the Province of Ontario, which established principles and responsibilities for the implementation of major transit initiatives, including the Subway Program.

Link: <https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2019.EX9.1>

COMMENTS

The Province of Ontario, through its agency Metrolinx, is delivering the Scarborough Subway Extension (SSE), which is one of the four provincial priority subway projects. The project scope extends the Toronto Transit Commission's (TTC's) existing Line 2 – Bloor-Danforth subway by 7.8 kilometres. The SSE will run below grade from Kennedy Station to a new terminus at Sheppard Avenue East and McCowan Road. The SSE will consist of three new stations: Lawrence Station (McCowan Road and Lawrence Avenue East), Scarborough Centre Station (Scarborough Town Centre) and Sheppard Station (McCowan Road and Sheppard Avenue East). The location of the three new stations, its connection to the existing Kennedy Station on Line 2 and other planned higher-order transit lines are shown in Figures 1 to 4 of Attachment 1.

This report includes updates on:

1. Construction Milestones;
2. Access to the Don Montgomery Community Recreation Centre;
3. Integration with the Existing TTC Service and Future Higher-Order Transit;
4. Community Benefits and Supports; and
5. Public Engagement.

1. Construction Milestone Updates

Package of Work	Description & Timing
Advanced Tunnel Project	In May 2021, Infrastructure Ontario (IO) and Metrolinx awarded the contract for the Advanced Tunnel Project (ATP) to Strabag Inc. to design, build and finance the tunnel for the SSE. The scope of work includes tunnelling the 7.8-kilometre subway extension from Kennedy Station to McCowan Road and Sheppard Avenue, and the associated activities necessary to construct the tunnel.

	<p>Tunnelling for the ATP began in January 2023 at Sheppard Avenue East and McCowan Road (the future location of Sheppard-McCowan Station), where the Tunnel Boring Machine's (TBM) assembly and launch shaft was located. The TBM is currently traveling south towards the extraction shaft, located at Eglinton Avenue East and Midland Avenue. Tunnelling work has passed under Highway 401 and will continue along the established alignment, which runs generally under the City's Right-of-Way (ROW) until the TBM reaches the extraction shaft.</p> <p>Metrolinx noted in their November 28, 2024, Board of Directors Meeting that their contractor, Strabag Inc. was encountering unexpected soil conditions, which was hampering the progress of the TBM². Metrolinx and Strabag Inc. are developing a mitigation strategy, and the TBM has stopped temporarily until the strategy is finalized and intervention works are completed. Metrolinx stated that they were working with Strabag Inc. on plans to enable continued, steady operation of the TBM as construction proceeds further. City staff have been requesting details from Metrolinx about the unexpected soil conditions that has caused the TBM to stop temporarily and when operations will resume and will report back to SCC in Q4 2025 with the information provided by Metrolinx.</p> <p>As part of this project, headwalls at twelve sites are required along the new subway alignment to allow for the construction of transit stations and emergency exit buildings (EEBs)³. Headwall piling began in March 2022, and headwalls for the three stations and seven EEBs are now complete. The construction of the headwalls for the EEBs on McCowan Road near Ellesmere Road are continuing and expected to be complete in 2025⁴.</p>
Stations, Rail and Systems Contract	<p>In November 2022, Metrolinx and IO awarded the Stations, Rail and Systems (SRS) contract to Scarborough Transit Connect, led by Aecon Group Inc. The scope of work includes designing and constructing three stations and bus terminals, and installing, testing, and commissioning all systems equipment and interconnection with existing TTC systems. Design development continues between Metrolinx and Scarborough Transit Connect for the three new subway extension stations. Metrolinx is working closely with Scarborough Transit Connect, City staff and the TTC to finalize design and construction plans along the route and will share them with the community as they progress through community engagement events, construction notices, and social media. City staff, led by the Transit Expansion Division, will continue to review technical designs and plans from Metrolinx and provide feedback to minimize impacts to the</p>

² <https://www.metrolinx.com/en/about-us/the-board/board-meetings/meeting-2024-11-28>

³ <https://www.metrolinx.com/en/discover/headwall-construction-begins-for-scarborough-subway-extension>

⁴ https://assets.metrolinx.com/image/upload/v1740582400/Images/Metrolinx/SSE/Updated_Lane_reductions.pdf

	<p>local community. Transit Expansion is also monitoring adherence to all applicable City standards and guidelines.</p> <p>Early works and major construction preparation are underway for the SRS. This includes the following:</p> <p><u>Sheppard Station</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demolitions and tree removals near the Sheppard and McCowan intersection to accommodate construction of the future station that occurred in 2024⁵, and more recently due to the bird nesting season, between February-March 2025.⁶ <p><u>Scarborough Centre Station (Scarborough Town Centre)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utility relocation work and lane closures on McCowan Road and Bushby Drive occurred in November and December 2024⁷. • Metrolinx's contractors demolished the Progress Avenue Bridge, in September 2024, clearing the site for the future Scarborough Centre Station. Once the station is complete, Progress Avenue and McCowan Road will be re-opened as an at-grade intersection⁸. A date for the re-opening of Progress Avenue and McCowan Road has not been provided to the City by Metrolinx and once City staff receive this information, it will be communicated to SCC in the next update report on SSE planned for Q4 2025. <p><u>Kennedy Station</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree removals occurred at Don Montgomery Community Recreation Centre (DMCRC) in Fall 2024, and the north parking lot was closed in February 2025 to accommodate construction of the station. • Utility relocations have been ongoing since October 2024. • Piling work to support new auxiliary buildings and excavation was completed north of the station in October 2024. • Construction of the West Ventilation Fan Plant Building and Tunnel Ventilation System Electric Building will continue throughout 2025, as crews upgrade services at the station for the extension⁹ (see Figure 6 in Attachment 1 for map of the buildings). The work on these buildings is anticipated to be
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⁵ https://assets.metrolinx.com/image/upload/v1710529359/Images/Metrolinx/Demolitions_Tree_Removals_at_20_Nugget_Avenue_and_4651_Sheppard_Avenue_East.pdf

⁶ https://assets.metrolinx.com/image/upload/v1740161887/Images/Metrolinx/SSE/Sheppard_McCowan_and_Nugget_tree_removals_notice.pdf

⁷ https://assets.metrolinx.com/image/upload/v1736803032/Images/Metrolinx/SSE/McCowan_Road_diversions_at_Bushby_Drive_and_Triton_Road_UPDATE.pdf

⁸ <https://www.metrolinx.com/en/discover/how-we-removed-an-8-100-tonne-bridge-in-72-hours>
<https://youtu.be/zSQYmBB04vg>

⁹ https://assets.metrolinx.com/image/upload/v1740075833/Images/Metrolinx/SSE/Update_Construction_at_Kennedy_Station.pdf

	complete completion in December 2025.
	<u>Lawrence Station</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree removals and Toronto Hydro relocation works were completed in August 2024¹⁰. • Construction preparation and early works continue at the site including natural gas main and telecommunication relocations¹¹.

2. Don Montgomery Community Recreation Centre

Metrolinx closed the north parking lot at Don Montgomery Community Recreation Centre (DMCRC) on February 10, 2025. The closure allows Metrolinx to build the Kennedy Box Structure, which will connect the existing TTC tail tracks at Kennedy Station to the SSE extraction shaft at Midland Avenue and Eglinton Avenue East (see Figure 7 in Attachment 1 for map of this closure).¹²

Since the Kennedy Station TTC commuter parking lot closed in 2023, access to the DMCRC has been a challenge. With the additional closure of the north parking lot, City staff are implementing measures to reduce all-day parking by commuters and ensure the parking lot is available to DMCRC visitors. This includes regulating access to the parking lot when DMCRC is closed, installing signage, and exploring parking enforcement options. City staff, including from Parks and Recreation, will continue to monitor and adjust parking availability as necessary, in consultation with the local Councillor.

3. Integration with the Existing TTC Service and Future Higher-Order Transit

Scarborough Centre Station

The Scarborough Centre Station (SCS) will be located east of McCowan Avenue, one block north of Ellesmere Road. It will be approximately 500 metres further away from Scarborough Town Centre (STC) than the previous Scarborough Centre Station located on the Scarborough Rapid Transit (SRT).

The City is aware of concerns from the local community about the additional distance and lack of connectivity to Scarborough Town Centre. There will be passenger pick-up/drop off spaces and riders will be able to transfer between local buses, GO Transit and proposed bus rapid transit (BRT) networks like the Durham-Scarborough BRT and future Line 3 Busway.

City staff requested Metrolinx assess options to optimize the walking distance and accessibility for pedestrians to the Scarborough Town Centre including weather

¹⁰ https://assets.metrolinx.com/image/upload/v1710530065/Images/Metrolinx/THESL_Tree_removal_Notice_-_LES.pdf

¹¹ https://assets.metrolinx.com/image/upload/v1736805117/Images/Metrolinx/SSE/Utility_relocations_near_Lawrence_Avenue_East_and_McCowan_Road.pdf

¹² https://assets.metrolinx.com/image/upload/v1738862037/Images/Metrolinx/SSE/DMCC_North_Lot_Closure.pdf

protected access as one of their priorities. Metrolinx approached Oxford Properties, the owner of Scarborough Town Centre, about building a connection between the mall and the station. Metrolinx advanced a design with a below grade tunnel connection but was informed in November 2024 that Oxford Properties were no longer interested in proceeding due to the costs associated with the tunnel.

However, Metrolinx has included a knockout panel to enable a direct underground connection between the station and future Transit-Oriented Communities (TOC) development. The Scarborough Centre Station and bus terminal's main entrance will be at the corner of Progress Avenue and McCowan Road, with a future secondary entrance through a future TOC development at the corner of Bushby Drive and McCowan Road. The bus terminal will have walk out access from the Scarborough Centre Station. City staff continue to request Metrolinx identify opportunities for more direct connections into the Scarborough Town Centre and will provide further details once made available by Metrolinx.

Eglinton East LRT (EELRT) & Other Transit Interfaces

City staff have been working with Metrolinx and other stakeholders to identify impacts, challenges, and requirements to support the interface of the SSE and proposed EELRT at two locations, Kennedy Station and Sheppard-McCowan Station. Discussions have focused on maximizing connectivity and avoiding future constructability challenges. Details on the work to advance the two interfaces of the SSE with the EELRT are provided below.

Kennedy Station

Through EX20.9¹³, City Council approved an EELRT design solution at Kennedy Station that removes the need for the SSE project to pre-emptively construct additional structural support in the SSE tunnel box at this station. The EELRT will access Kennedy Station at-grade and will have its structural supports located away from the SSE tunnel box therefore removing dependency of the EELRT on the SSE structure. Additional details on this approach are provided in EX20.9 – Confidential Attachment 1. Kennedy Station will also be a key interchange station with connections to the Eglinton Crosstown LRT and Kennedy GO station on the Stouffville line. It will also serve as the terminal station for the future Line 3 Busway, which will operate along a 4-kilometre area of former Line 3 right-of-way.

Sheppard-McCowan Station

Sheppard-McCowan Station is planned as another key transportation node connecting the EELRT and SSE, a new bus terminal, and the potential extension of Line 4 (see Figure 5 in Attachment 1 for Sheppard Subway Extension Study Area). City staff confirmed that a knock-out panel has been included in the advanced design of the SSE which would connect SSE and EELRT stations to accommodate the necessary passenger flows. The City and Metrolinx will enter into the necessary agreements to

¹³ <https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2025.EX20.9>

enable construction of the knock-out panel. Should the proposed Line 4 Extension be connected to Sheppard-McCowan Station, the knock-out panel is also expected to enable seamless passenger transfers between the Line 4 Extension and the EELRT and SSE. Additional details about this interface are included in EX20.9.

4. Metrolinx's Community Benefits and Supports Program

Metrolinx is implementing their Community Benefits and Supports (CBS) Program on all their subway projects, including the SSE. The four pillars to this program are (1) Employment Opportunities, (2) Local Business Supports, (3) Public Realm Improvements, and (4) Community Improvement Supports¹⁴. Seeking to enhance public reporting and transparency, Metrolinx released the first annual report on their CBS program on September 9, 2024¹⁵ to report on the program's implementation and progress.

As part of Pillar 1, employment opportunities were created for women and Black, Indigenous and People of Colour (BIPOC) on the Subway Program, including the SSE. The following Metrolinx figure provides details on hiring rates across the LRT and Subways Program for women and BIPOC communities. Metrolinx has not provided numbers specifically for the SSE, although the City staff have requested this information. Should additional employment statistics become available by Metrolinx, City staff will provide this information in the next report to SCC planned for Q4 2025.



Figure 1 – Metrolinx Hiring (Source: Metrolinx)

As part of work under Pillar 2, Metrolinx and Scarborough Transit Connect hosted a Vendor Day at Centennial College on March 5, 2024, to promote local procurement on the SSE. Additionally, as construction activities continue, Metrolinx is collaborating with the local community and businesses to mitigate construction impacts. For example, to protect the air quality for the Scarborough General Hospital's building during construction, Metrolinx and Strabag Inc. adjusted and relocated the hospital's air intake shaft permanently.

As part of Pillar 3, Metrolinx launched a survey in January 2024 to inform the design of interior station feature walls, asking community members to draw inspiration from the places and things they love about their community. City staff will report back on results

¹⁴ <https://www.metrolinx.com/en/projects-and-programs/community-benefits>

¹⁵ https://assets.metrolinx.com/image/upload/Documents/Metrolinx/Making_Community_Benefits_and_Supports_Happen_2023-24.pdf

from the survey, when made available by Metrolinx. City staff have requested additional detail about efforts undertaken by Metrolinx under Pillar 3, for the SSE and are awaiting Metrolinx's response.

For Pillar 4, Metrolinx is currently identifying additional ways to support local communities and enhance community well-being. Metrolinx describes these as additional opportunities outside the defined project scope and budget, where communities, municipalities or other groups may bring forward a request or idea that could improve the surrounding community. Metrolinx views themselves as connectors in these situations to decision makers at the municipal, provincial, or federal level to help communities maximize the benefits possible from new investments and infrastructure. City staff will report back once details are provided by Metrolinx on how Pillar 4 is being implemented for the Subway Program, and specifically for the SSE.

The City's Transit Expansion and Social Development, Finance and Administration Divisions meets quarterly with Metrolinx staff through the Community Benefits & Supports Working Group to monitor and oversee how Metrolinx is implementing community benefits, and to provide feedback to Metrolinx from the City.

5. Public Engagement

Between 2021 and 2022, Metrolinx held ten open houses, both in person and virtual, to provide project updates to the community, pivoting to more targeted engagements in 2023-2024. The interim approach of targeted engagements includes meeting people at their homes and businesses, as well as through outreach events along the alignment at locations, including but not limited to community centres, the YMCA, Scarborough Town Centre, Kennedy Station, Centennial College, and cultural festivals such as Taste of Lawrence and TamilFest.

Metrolinx also conducted a consultation on the design of feature walls inside the SSE stations in January 2024, and held a community tree giveaway in June 2024. Further updates will be provided by Metrolinx to the City on the results of their consultation about the design of the feature walls and these updates will be shared with SCC through the next report back in Q4 2025. Metrolinx also held community pop-up events including, two recent pop-ups at the DMCRC in January 2025. Two pop-up events were scheduled for March 2025 at Kennedy Station and the DMCRC to discuss multi-year construction impacts, with additional events to be scheduled throughout the remainder of the year¹⁶.

In 2022, Metrolinx initiated individual Construction Liaison Committees (CLC) for all four SSE stations. Each CLC convened 2-3 times between 2022 to mid-2023, and the last CLC for an SSE station met on July 27, 2023. The City was advised by Metrolinx staff that the CLCs were going to be suspended due to low attendance from members and planned to relaunch with a consolidated CLC in the coming months for the entire SSE. City staff have repeatedly requested Metrolinx share their plans about relaunching the CLC and provide notice to local Councillors and the community. In addition, Metrolinx has been informed by City staff that as part of SC18.12¹⁷, City Council has requested

¹⁶ <https://www.metrolinx.com/en/projects-and-programs/scarborough-subway-extension/events/upcoming>

¹⁷ <https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2024.SC18.12>

Metrolinx to reinitiate monthly CLC meetings in Scarborough to facilitate regular updates and engagement with the community on the SSE project. City staff are awaiting a response. Metrolinx does not have any active CLCs for the SSE nor a community office in Scarborough at the time of this report.

Next Steps

City staff, led by Transit Expansion, will continue to advocate for and protect City interests through all stages of Metrolinx's project delivery. This includes reviewing designs, facilitating permits and approvals, and facilitating the resolution of construction and community issues that arise, and the need for additional community engagement as the project progresses. City staff are guided by existing agreements between the City and Metrolinx, as well as various Council directives. City staff will provide additional updates on the SSE to SCC in Q4 2025 as well as through the annual Subway Program Update to City Council in Q3 2025.

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ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 - Scarborough Subway Extension Appendix