

Metrolinx's Scarborough Subway Extension – Q4 2025 Semi-Annual Update

Date: November 10, 2025

To: Scarborough Community Council

From: Executive Director, Transit Expansion

Wards: 20, 21, 23, 24

SUMMARY

City Council, in December 2024, through item SC18.12, directed the Transit Expansion Division to report to Scarborough Community Council (SCC) with regular status updates on Metrolinx's Scarborough Subway Extension (SSE) project. City staff will provide the next semi-annual report to SCC by Q3 2026.

The purpose of this report is to provide updates on the status of construction activities for the SSE project. This report includes updates on:

- Construction Progress;
- TTC Scarborough Busway;
- Community Benefits and Supports; and
- Public Engagement.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive Director, Transit Expansion 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.

DECISION HISTORY

On April 23, 2025, City Council adopted SC21.10 Scarborough Busway - On-Street Measures to Support Busway Operations, which requested approval, on behalf of the TTC, to implement changes to various roadways between Kennedy Station and Ellesmere Station and in proximity to the proposed Scarborough Busway.

Link: <https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2025.SC21.10>

On February 5, 2025, Scarborough Community Council adopted SC21.9 Metrolinx's Scarborough Subway Extension - Second Quarter 2025 Semi-Annual Update, which provided updates on the status of construction, public engagement activities, and station specific updates including related plans for integrations with the existing TTC services and future transit within Scarborough.

Link: <https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2025.SC21.9>

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 Scarborough Subway Extension (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 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 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 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). The project scope extends the Toronto Transit Commission's (TTC's) existing Line 2 – Bloor-Danforth subway by 7.8 kilometres. The SSE will consist of three stations that will run below grade from the existing Kennedy Station to a new station at Lawrence Ave, terminating at the new Sheppard Avenue East and McCowan Road Station. The location of the three new stations, their connection to the existing Kennedy Station on Line 2 and other planned higher-order transit lines is shown in Figure 1 below.



Figure 1: Scarborough Subway Extension Alignment (Source: Metrolinx)

Construction Progress

Tunnelling

Metrolinx awarded Strabag Inc. the Advanced Tunnel Project Contract, to deliver 6.9 kilometers of tunnelling for the SSE project, from Kennedy Station to McCowan Road and Sheppard Avenue, as well as associated activities necessary to construct the tunnel. Tunnelling began in January 2023 at Sheppard Avenue East and McCowan Road (the future location of Sheppard and McCowan Station). The Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) is currently traveling south, generally under McCowan Road, towards the extraction shaft located at Eglinton Avenue East and Midland Avenue that was completed in June 2025. As of October 31, 2025, the TBM had tunnelled nearly 2.9 kilometers out of the total 6.9 kilometers that it will tunnel, and was near Brimorton Drive and McCowan Road.

Stations, Rail and Systems (SRS) Contract

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. In January 2025, following a two-year development phase, the SRS portion of the SSE entered the implementation phase of the project.

Sheppard and McCowan Station

Early works and preparation for major construction continues at the Sheppard and McCowan Station site, where watermain work and related infrastructure improvements to accommodate the future station are in progress. From July to September 2025, crews performed roadway and sidewalk construction to prepare for future road diversions that will facilitate utility relocations as part of SSE construction¹.

Scarborough Centre Station (Scarborough Town Centre)

Major construction is ongoing at Scarborough Centre Station where piling work to support excavation of the station site began in September 2025, in addition to storm, sanitary and watermain utility work underway. Piling is expected to continue for 18 months.

Transit Expansion (TE) staff in coordination with the TTC have been working with Metrolinx to ensure the bus terminal at this station will be adequately sized to support TTC's future transit network plan. As reported in TTC's report to the Board on November 3, 2025, the current station design is suboptimal for TTC operations and do not meet TTC requirements². The TTC is seeking 17 dedicated bus bays at the new station and Metrolinx has only designed for 11 bus bays. TE is continuing to coordinate with the TTC to engage Metrolinx to find a viable solution before the opening of the station.

Lawrence and McCowan Station

Preparation work for major construction is ongoing at Lawrence and McCowan Station. Crews recently completed excavating and constructing a micro tunnel to house utilities for the project. Jet grouting work to stabilize soil prior to tunneling began in July 2025 on the north and south sides of the Lawrence and McCowan Station site.

Kennedy Station

The existing Kennedy Station is being upgraded to allow for the extension of Line 2. The station site has been reoriented for a temporary bus loop and work is ongoing to expand the station's existing service rooms, safety and security systems, and integrate the new power system.

¹https://assets.metrolinx.com/image/upload/v1752671933/Documents/Metrolinx/Road_Widening_and_Fire_Hydrant_Relocation_EN.pdf

² <https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2025.TTC10.4>

In September 2025, piling began to prepare for the construction of the Kennedy Box Structure - an underground structure that will connect the existing TTC Line 2 - Kennedy Station to the SSE's TBM extraction shaft at Eglinton Avenue East and Midland Avenue³. The piling work is taking place in the area of the old Don Montgomery Community Recreation Centre (DMCRC) north parking lot. A 10-metre noise barrier wall has been constructed along the southeast perimeter of the work zone, immediately north of the DMCRC, to minimize impacts.

Scarborough Busway

The TTC is converting a portion of the decommissioned Line 3 SRT corridor from Kennedy Station to the former Ellesmere Station into a busway for use by TTC vehicles. To replace the SRT Line 3 service in the meantime, an on-street bus replacement service is now operating southbound via Midland Avenue and northbound via Kennedy Road between Scarborough Centre and Kennedy stations. The contract to convert the SRT ROW to a busway was awarded to Clearway Construction Inc. by the TTC Board on May 14, 2025 for \$28.7 million.

TTC and City staff have been working together to accelerate the construction of the SRT Busway to be in-service by the end of 2026. TTC staff are expected to report to the TTC Board with details on the acceleration plan by the end of the year.

Metrolinx's Community Benefits and Supports Program

Metrolinx is implementing their Community Benefits and Supports 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 Supports⁴.

As part of Pillar 1 Employment Opportunities, Metrolinx hosted a job fair in partnership with MPP Smith at the Ontario's First Skilled Trades Week & Skilled Trades Fair in Scarborough Town Centre (STC) for the SSE, on November 4, 2025.

As part of Pillar 2 Local Business Supports, Metrolinx provides funding to the Sheppard East Village BIA, the only BIA along the SSE alignment. To promote local businesses in the community, Metrolinx has had features and profiles of local restaurants and shops in newsletter editions and social media features. In addition, Metrolinx recently supported the 2025 Ramadan Iftar with the Islamic Foundation of Toronto, which benefited 1250+ community members, by sourcing 100% of ingredients from local suppliers near the SSE corridor.

Metrolinx released the first annual report on their Community Benefits and Supports Program on September 9, 2024 to report on the program's implementation and progress. Additional information and details on what community benefits and supports

³https://assets.metrolinx.com/image/upload/v1756400094/Images/Metrolinx/SSE/Noise_wall_construction_and_excavation_works_near_Don_Montgomery_Community_Recreation_Centre.pdf

⁴ <https://www.metrolinx.com/en/projects-and-programs/community-benefits>

have specifically been distributed for the SSE in Scarborough will be incorporated into the 2025 Annual Report, scheduled for release by the end of the year.

The City's Transit Expansion and Social Development and Administration divisions meet 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.

Public Engagement

Metrolinx engages the community on the SSE project primarily through targeted engagements, which includes meeting people at their homes and businesses, as well as through outreach events along the alignment at locations, including but not limited to libraries and community recreation centres, cultural community centres such as the Islamic Foundation of Toronto and the Oriental Centre, and major retailers.

Metrolinx has been consulting with the community to determine designs for feature walls inside SSE stations. In January 2024, the community was able to provide input through an online survey, and in June 2025, Metrolinx held three in-person open houses to consult on feedback received from the initial consultation. Two themes were presented in the open house, which were "Bustling Scarborough Surrounded by Nature" and "Vibrant and Diverse Scarborough".⁵ Each theme had colours and motifs that the community could provide feedback on, along with tiling options. Metrolinx will use the feedback received to further refine station designs, and updates will be shared with SCC through the next report back in Q4 2026.

In 2022, Metrolinx initiated four individual Construction Liaison Committees (CLC) for each SSE station site. 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.

In December 2024 through [SC18.12](#), City Council requested that Metrolinx reinstate monthly CLC meetings in Scarborough to facilitate regular updates and engagement with the community on the SSE project. City Staff have continually requested an update from Metrolinx staff on a date for when the consolidated CLC will launch and further details on the engagement plan. In response to City staff, Metrolinx indicated their intention to engage Councillors on the consolidated CLC in the fall.

Next Steps

City staff, led by Transit Expansion Division, 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

⁵https://assets.metrolinx.com/image/upload/v1750447138/Images/Metrolinx/SSE_station_design_feature_wall_open_house_JUNE19_FNL.pdf

the project progresses. City staff are guided by existing agreements between the City and Metrolinx, as well as Council directives.

City staff will provide further updates on the SSE to Scarborough Community Council by Q3 2026.

CONTACT

Frank Panacci, Director, Capital Implementation, Transit Expansion Division,
Frank.Panacci@toronto.ca, 437.237.4698

SIGNATURE

Derrick Toigo
Executive Director
Transit Expansion Division