



James Pasternak
Councillor | York Centre - Downsview

Toronto City Hall

City Hall, 100 Queen St. West, 2nd Floor, A22
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2

July 15, 2026

Re: Road Construction on Keele south of Sheppard

Summary:

I bring this motion to the Committee as a matter of urgency as third party construction takes place along Keele Street north and south of Sheppard Avenue. My office has fielded a wide range of calls questioning unjustified lane closures, traffic and project management and project purpose. The project is managed by nearby property owner Canada Lands Corporation and its construction partners.

The construction is related to sanitary sewer work and other infrastructure that will connect to the Black Creek Tunnel Project, slated to commence in 2027. There is no indication that a construction notice was sent to residents for this project.

Road Occupancy Permits have been issued by the City of Toronto for work South of Sheppard Avenue West, near Wycombe Road (Tor-RD1S2026) and near Maryport Avenue (Tor-RD1S2026-677).

There has been a flurry of complaints about road lane closures when there are no signs of digging, workers, debris or equipment present. My office has been sent pictures of draconian lane closures and no work taking place. This has created traffic mayhem. Keele Street is a major arterial roadway that services York University, numerous schools and businesses and access to and from the 401.

Also, as this is a third-party construction project (Canada Lands Corporation) there has been no central point of contact for residents, no construction notice and a long timeline that will go into the school year. My office has received a wide range of complaints.

This project needs an immediate course correction. This motion attempts to better manage these issues so residents understand the project objectives, the project completion time line and who to contact with concerns. Moreover, it is vital that construction flexibility be granted such that all work can be done by early September in advance of the return of the school year. We seek options for noise exemptions, evening and weekend work permissions so the project can be accelerated.

Recommendation:

That the Infrastructure and Environment Committee direct the Chief Engineer and Executive Director in consultation with the Manager of Infrastructure, the Deputy City Manager of Infrastructure Services and the General Manager, Toronto Water to report to the City Council meeting of July 29-30, 2026 with a plan to address the following operational matters related to current construction on Keele Street by Canada Lands Corporation and its construction partners:



That, in coordination with City Staff, a Canada Lands construction notice explaining the project be distributed in an agreed catchment area affected by the construction project.

That city staff work with Canada Lands to accelerate the project to finish before the school year as Keele Street is a major transit route for many public schools and York University. It is also a major transit route for Roger's Stadium, which will be hosting 10 concerts in the second half of the summer. Noise exemptions and extended work hours should be explored.

That a single point of contact (with phone number and e-mail address) at the City of Toronto and Canada Lands be designated and that such contact information be disseminated widely to ensure that intake of comments, concerns and notifications of local residents can be managed and acted upon.

That staff at 311 be trained to fully understand the nature of this project, its timelines and everything the city is doing to reduce hardship, gridlock and disruption in the area.

That lane closures not be allowed when there is no work taking place in such lanes and that every effort be made to open up such lanes from Friday afternoon to Monday morning.

Sincerely,



Councillor James Pasternak

Toronto - Ward 6, York Centre - Downsview