

## **Metrolinx's Ontario Line Construction within the North York District – Q2 2026 Update**

**Date:** May 7, 2026

**To:** North York Community Council

**From:** Executive Director, Transit Expansion Division

**Wards:** 15, 16

### **SUMMARY**

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City Council, at its meeting in December 2025, directed the Transit Expansion Division to report to North York Community Council (NYCC) by Q2 2026 with an update on Metrolinx's Ontario Line construction within North York.

The purpose of this report is to provide updates and project details on the three Ontario Line stations and the elevated guideway located in North York, and includes updates on:

- Construction Updates and Impacts;
- Metrolinx's Community Benefits and Supports Program; and,
- Public Engagement.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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The Executive Director, Transit Expansion recommends that:

1. North York Community Council receive this report for information.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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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**

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On March 25, 2026, City Council adopted EX29.7 - Metrolinx Subway Program Update - 2026, which provided an update on the implementation of Metrolinx's Subway Program including progress of construction on the Ontario Line and the program-wide findings of the Metrolinx 2024-2025 Community Benefits and Supports Annual Report.

Link: <https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2026.EX29.7>

On February 4, 2026, City Council adopted, with amendments, TE28.27 - Ontario Line - Construction Update - Fourth Quarter 2025 which provided an update on the project-wide status of haul routes and construction mitigation approaches and progress on the Ontario Line Subcommittee recommendations.

Link: <https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2026.TE28.27>

On December 16, 2025, City Council adopted NY28.32 Metrolinx's Ontario Line Construction within the North York District - Fourth Quarter 2025 Update, which updated North York Community Council on the status and project details of the three Ontario Line stations within the boundaries of North York and the Province's Transit-Oriented Communities (TOC) project at Thorncliffe Park.

Link: <https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2025.NY28.32>

On July 23, 2025, City Council adopted, with amendments, TE24.66 Ontario Line - Construction Update - Second Quarter 2025 which provided an update on the status of Ontario Line construction within the boundaries of TEYCC.

Link: <https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2025.TE24.66>

On April 23, 2025, City Council adopted TE20.55 Ensuring Safety for the Ontario Line Construction - Ward 14. City staff responded to Toronto and East York Community Council (TEYCC) direction by providing information on current haul routes used by Metrolinx's contractors, an update on the incidents near the Pape-Sammon construction site, and an overview of policies and measures being implemented by Metrolinx and its contractors to prevent future incidents and ensure public safety on the Ontario Line.

Link: <https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2025.TE20.55>

On April 23, 2025, City Council adopted, with amendments, DM29.2 Requiring Metrolinx to Develop a Heavy Truck Safety Plan - by Councillor Paula Fletcher, seconded by Deputy Mayor Ausma Malik, which requested Metrolinx develop and publicly share a Heavy Truck Safety Plan including enforcement measures, monitoring protocols, and ways for residents to report concerns in response to residents' concerns with safety on the Ontario Line.

Link: <https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2025.DM29.2>

On October 29, 2024, NY18.30 Metrolinx Ontario Line Construction within the North York District - Fourth Quarter Update provided North York Community Council with updates on the status and progress of the Province's TOC proposal as well as construction updates on the northern segment of the Ontario Line.

Link: <https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2024.NY18.30>

On July 24, 2024, City Council adopted EX16.3 Subway Agreement in Principle and Update on Metrolinx Subway Program – Third Quarter 2024, which provided an update

on key items related to the Subway Program including the negotiations of the Subway AIP and an update on the status of the Subway Program projects, including the Ontario Line.

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 TOC projects.

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

On March 20, 2024, City Council adopted MM16.31 Request for Updates on Northern Segment of the Ontario Line, which requested City staff to report to North York Community Council with regular updates on the status and progress of the Province's TOC proposals as well as updated to the design and construction of the Northern segment of the Ontario Line that is within the boundaries of North York.

Link: <https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2024.MM16.31>

On December 13, 2023, City Council adopted PH8.22 Saving Iqbal Foods and Supporting Ontario's Halal Food Supply Chain requesting the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing enact an Enhanced MZO to permit Iqbal Foods to operate a grocery store at 100 Thorncliffe Park Drive, and for City staff to support as necessary, after the original Iqbal Foods location was expropriated for Ontario Line construction.

Link: <https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2023.PH8.22>

On June 14, 2023, City Council adopted EX5.3 Update on Metrolinx Subway Program - Second Quarter 2023, which provided a status update on Metrolinx-led subway transit expansion projects currently underway in Toronto.

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

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.

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.

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

### 1. Ontario Line Project Status and Schedule

The scope of work for the Ontario Line project, within North York, includes three stations: Thorncliffe Park, Flemingdon Park, and Don Valley stations, which will be along the elevated guideway.

In addition, the Operations, Maintenance and Storage Facility (OMSF) for the Ontario Line will be located just north of Thorncliffe Park Station on a site between Overlea Boulevard and Wicksteed Avenue. The alignment and location of the three stations, OMSF, and the crossings over the Don Valley are shown in Figure 1-3.

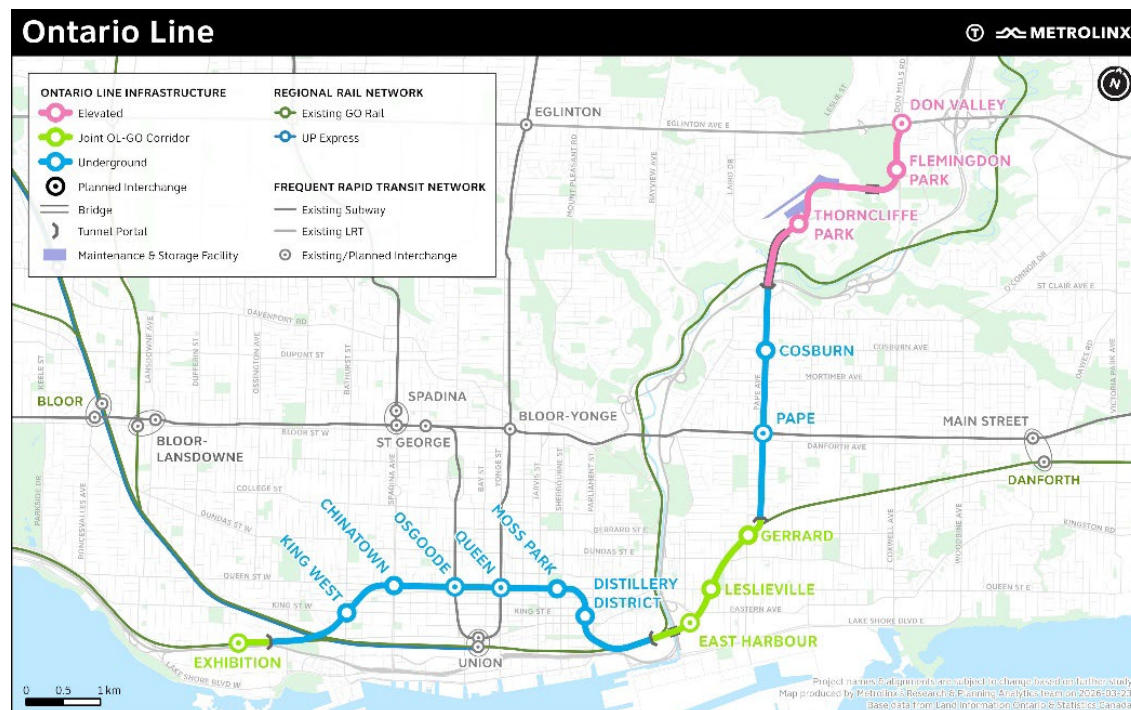


Figure 1: Ontario Line Alignment (North Segment - pink line) (Source: Metrolinx)

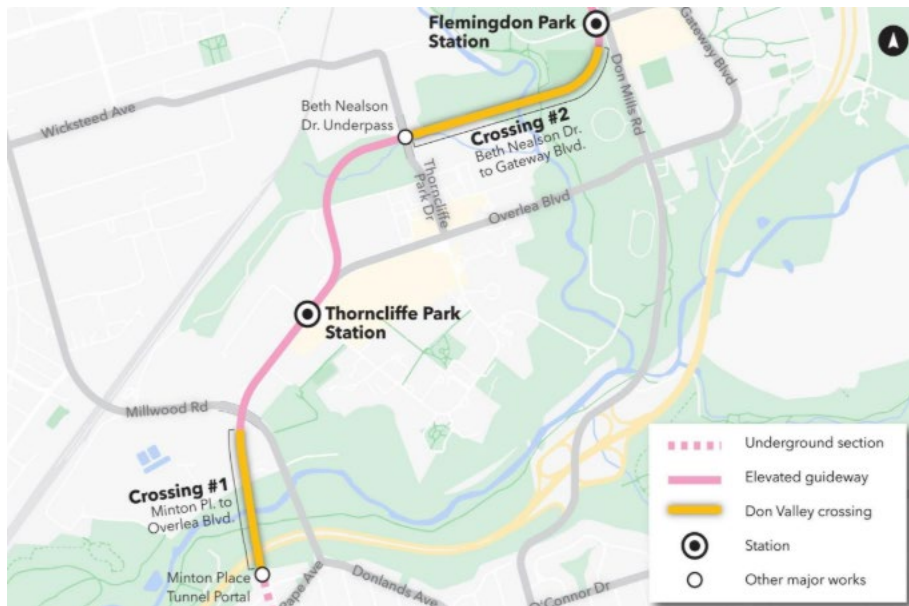


Figure 2: Map of Don Valley Crossing Bridge locations in North York (Source: Metrolinx)

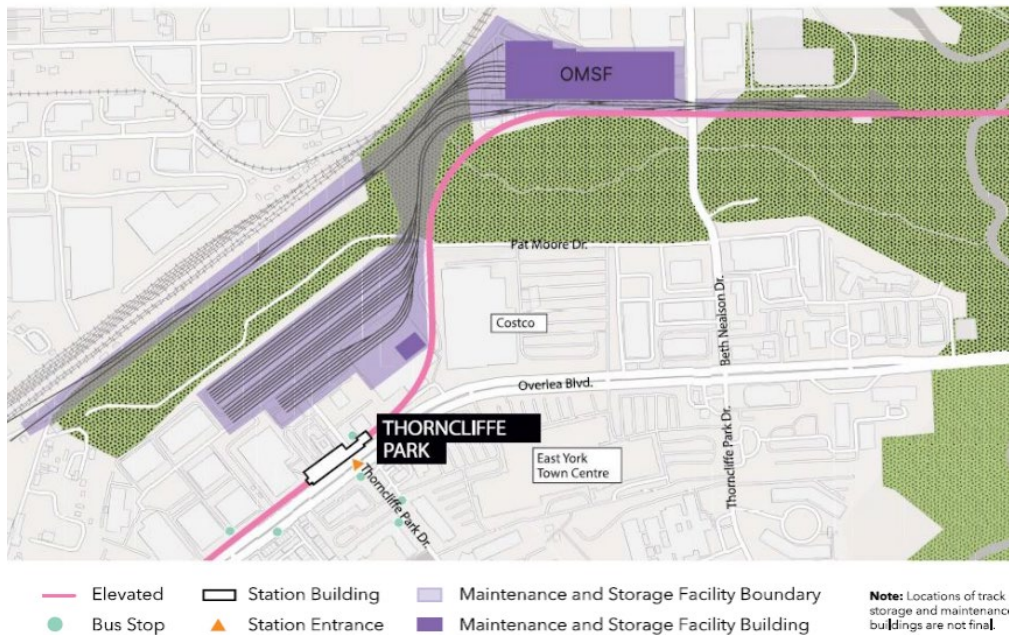


Figure 3: Map of Thorncliffe Park Station and OMSF (Source: Metrolinx)

## Construction Updates

### Thorncliffe Park Station and the OMSF

- To enable construction of the elevated guideway, Thorncliffe Park Station and the OMSF, demolitions of buildings on six properties on Banigan Drive and Thorncliffe Park Drive began in September 2025 and concluded in February 2026.
- Work is currently underway to complete the foundation and utility work for the OMSF building. The steel structure for the building will commence installation in fall 2026.

- Construction of the foundation and substructure for the elevated guideway and the station began in December 2025, and is expected to be completed in September 2026. This is being complete through piling works, that is the process of creating the concrete foundations required to support the transit infrastructure.

As reported in NY28.32 in December 2025, a revised design for a portion of the Thorncliffe Park Transit-Oriented Community is currently in development. City Planning staff will provide an update on the changes, when available.

### Don Valley Crossings

- The West Don Crossing bridge is an elevated guideway from the Minton Street Portal on the south side of the valley to the elevated guideway through Thorncliffe Park Drive. The bridge will consist of five bridge spans with an associated supporting structure, anchored in the valley.
  - Slope stabilization for one of the five piers is ongoing, while construction of the remaining four piers and pier tables is actively underway.
- The Don Valley Crossing bridge will connect the underground portions of the Ontario Line at Pape to the elevated guideway through Thorncliffe Park, and also consist of five bridge spans.
  - The bridge is at the piling stage (i.e. foundation works), with pier construction underway.

### Flemingdon Park

- Flemingdon Park Station will be located on the west side of Don Mills just north of Gateway Boulevard. Piling works commenced at the station site in May 2026 and are expected to be completed by October 2026<sup>1</sup>.
- Piling for the elevated guideway that will connect to Flemingdon Park Station is ongoing.

### Don Valley Station

- Don Valley Station contains a north and south building section, both located in the north east corner of Don Mills Road and Eglinton Avenue East and will be connected to the elevated guideway.
- Piling works for the north building section is expected to commence on May 19, 2026 and conclude in October 2026<sup>2</sup>.
- Piling works for the south building section began in March 2026 and is expected to be complete in July 2026<sup>3</sup>.

## **Construction Impacts**

### Beth Neilson Underpass

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<sup>1</sup> [https://assets.metrolinx.com/image/upload/v1776711854/Images/Metrolinx/Ontario%20Line/OL\\_EGS\\_-\\_Construction\\_Notice\\_-\\_Bored\\_Piling-\\_NFS-3\\_27\\_2026\\_Final.pdf](https://assets.metrolinx.com/image/upload/v1776711854/Images/Metrolinx/Ontario%20Line/OL_EGS_-_Construction_Notice_-_Bored_Piling-_NFS-3_27_2026_Final.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [https://assets.metrolinx.com/image/upload/v1776715528/Images/Metrolinx/Ontario%20Line/OL\\_EGS\\_-\\_Construction\\_Notice\\_-\\_Bored\\_Piling-\\_DVS-4\\_7\\_2026\\_final.pdf](https://assets.metrolinx.com/image/upload/v1776715528/Images/Metrolinx/Ontario%20Line/OL_EGS_-_Construction_Notice_-_Bored_Piling-_DVS-4_7_2026_final.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [https://assets.metrolinx.com/image/upload/v1769616688/Images/Metrolinx/Ontario%20Line/OL\\_EGS\\_-\\_Construction\\_Notice\\_-\\_Don\\_Valley\\_Station-\\_Piling\\_for\\_basement-\\_1\\_14\\_2026\\_JR\\_Final.pdf](https://assets.metrolinx.com/image/upload/v1769616688/Images/Metrolinx/Ontario%20Line/OL_EGS_-_Construction_Notice_-_Don_Valley_Station-_Piling_for_basement-_1_14_2026_JR_Final.pdf)

On March 23, 2026, Beth Neilson Drive was closed in both directions between Wicksteed Avenue and Pat Moore Drive to vehicles and pedestrians. This road closure is expected to last for approximately two years to facilitate construction of the Beth Neilson underpass. The underpass will lower the existing roadway, enabling Ontario Line trains to travel at grade, while cars, cyclists and pedestrians travel along the lowered roadway.

To facilitate the closure, a new bus pad was constructed on the south side of Wicksteed Avenue in March 2026 to enable transit service and pedestrian traffic<sup>4</sup>. Due to the road closure, the 88 South Leaside TTC bus route has been rerouted, and a new temporary 156 Millwood bus route began service on March 15, 2026<sup>5</sup>. A new sidewalk on the south side of Wicksteed Avenue will also be constructed by May 2026 as part of other roadwork in the area.

In advance of the road closure, Metrolinx met with City staff and emergency responders, including Transportation Services, Toronto Fire and Paramedic Services, to discuss the closure and develop emergency access plans, per City Council direction through NY28.32 that City staff to work with Metrolinx to develop a plan to ensure emergency vehicle access to Thorncliffe Park. Emergency access routes impacted by the closure have been replaced by alternate routes within the affected areas.

Additional congestion management measures have been implemented, as recommended by Council through NY28.32. Traffic signal timing has been adjusted to accommodate increased traffic volumes resulting from diversion, with a focus on the Millwood and Overlea intersection, as well as use of a traffic agent at the intersection. City staff have also requested that Metrolinx schedule all Ontario Line works that require lane closures to be overnight or during off-peak hours to manage congestion on Overlea Boulevard throughout the duration of the Beth Neilson closure. To minimize construction impacts, Metrolinx will implement dust control measures such as watering soil and wet sweeping nearby streets. Metrolinx will also monitor noise and vibration to ensure adherence with guidelines and make adjustments as needed.

To inform the community of the closure, Metrolinx installed over 20 advance signage notices at key intersections within approximately a one km radius of Beth Neilson Drive to inform road users, distributed mail-outs to local residents within 1.2 km of the project area, geo-targeted social media advertisements, sent out notices in their Ontario Line newsletter, and worked with elected officials to communicate the notice through their mailing lists. Businesses in the area and Thorncliffe Park Community Gardens will remain open and accessible during construction. City staff will continue to work closely with Metrolinx to monitor local traffic impacts and mitigate impacts to residents, including conducting updated traffic counts to assess whether further signal timing adjustments are required.

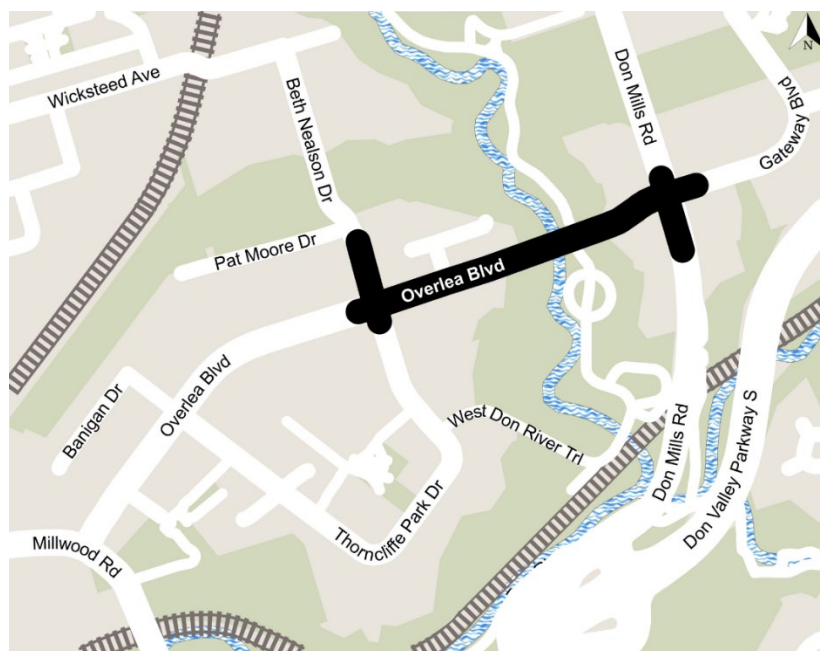
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<sup>4</sup>[https://assets.metrolinx.com/image/upload/v1772130446/Images/Metrolinx/Ontario%20Line/Beth\\_Nealson\\_Full\\_Closure\\_FINAL.pdf](https://assets.metrolinx.com/image/upload/v1772130446/Images/Metrolinx/Ontario%20Line/Beth_Nealson_Full_Closure_FINAL.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.ttc.ca/service-advisories/Service-Changes/88-Route-change-due-to-Ontario-Line-construction>

## Overlea Boulevard Works

Major Advance Works construction by Metrolinx on Overlea Boulevard and Millwood Road were completed in March 2025 and road closures on both sides of Overlea Boulevard have concluded. In fall 2026, the City's Engineering and Construction Services Division and Transportation Services Division will begin state of good repair works to reconstruct the Charles H. Hiscott Bridge over the Don River (i.e. the Overlea Bridge) and related road works. This project will also include bridge deck widening for separated cycle lanes, wider sidewalks and new enhanced safety barriers on the Overlea bridge<sup>6</sup>. Figure 3 identifies the project area where the works will occur. Lane reductions on Overlea Boulevard will be required to complete the works. One lane will remain open in each direction beginning in early 2027 until the Overlea Boulevard roadwork is complete in summer 2028.



**Figure 3:** Map of the Renewing Overlea Boulevard project (Source: City of Toronto)

The City will utilize a coordinated and phased construction strategy for the Overlea reconstruction work to reduce congestion amidst Ontario Line construction. This includes phasing work to ensure routes serving as alternatives to Beth Nealeon Drive only commence once the closure has concluded and Beth Nealeon Drive has reopened. Additionally, the City will be phasing the work to minimize the traffic impacts by staggering work at the various intersections so they do not overlap with each other.

As directed through NY28.32, City staff have requested Metrolinx ensure any future lane closures on Overlea Boulevard and adjacent roads are communicated well in advance of construction activity. City staff have developed a traffic management plan, in consultation with the TTC, emergency services, and Metrolinx. The plan also includes

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.toronto.ca/community-people/get-involved/public-consultations/infrastructure-projects/overlea-boulevard-improvements/>

deploying Paid-Duty Officers, installing signage, and constructing temporary traffic signals and mid-block crossings as necessary to direct traffic and pedestrian safely through the work zone. City staff will continue to work closely with Metrolinx to coordinate construction in surrounding areas, while prioritizing public safety, traffic management, maintaining access, and mitigating impacts to surrounding businesses throughout construction. In June 2025, the local councillor held a town hall with Metrolinx and City staff to understand community concerns and gather feedback on how construction impacts could be mitigated. Further updates on the project timelines and schedule will be provided regularly as they become available.

### Truck Safety

Metrolinx and the City developed the Ontario Line Truck Route Safety Plan as a framework on haul truck routes and operations which was released in July 2025<sup>7</sup>. The objectives of the plan are to prioritize public safety, minimize community impacts, ensure regulatory compliance, support operational efficiency, and promote transparency and accountability.

City Council and City staff recommended Metrolinx implement GPS tracking and vehicle identification as mitigation measures in the Plan, which was reiterated through TE28.27. In response, Metrolinx launched a pilot program for truck identification and GPS tracking on construction vehicles at the Ontario Line Pape Station site. Based on the findings of the pilot, all Ontario Line contractors have now received directions to use magnetic identification signs and GPS tracking on all heavy construction vehicles that regularly travel to and from Ontario Line construction sites. As this will require changes to their existing contracts, the initiative will be rolled out incrementally. However, Metrolinx expects the magnetic signs to be implemented across all Ontario Line construction sites over the summer months. Metrolinx is currently procuring equipment and developing standards that can be applied across different delivery models for GPS tracking and anticipates full implementation by the end of 2026.

City staff continue to emphasize the importance of expediting the implementation of both the signage and GPS on the Ontario Line projects. City staff are working with Metrolinx to monitor and confirm timelines for full implementation and will provide updates to local Councillors as this work progresses and through future reports to City Council.

### Pest and Rodent Management

Metrolinx has confirmed to City staff that they have developed an Ontario Line Pest Management Strategy, which will be released in May 2026. This is in response to the community concerns related to the rise of rodent activity as a result of Ontario Line construction, particularly in East York. The strategy will outline how Metrolinx prevents, monitors and responds to pest activity related to Ontario Line construction, and builds on existing measures taken in coordination with contractors and the City.

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<sup>7</sup> <https://www.metrolinx.com/en/projects-and-programs/ontario-line/resources/truck-safety-plan-overview/ontario-line-truck-safety-plan>

## 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 Supports<sup>8</sup>.

Metrolinx released their 2024-2025 Community Benefits and Supports Annual Report in February 2026, which provides details on community benefits key performance indicators and initiatives<sup>9</sup>. Highlights from the report for the Ontario Line include:

- 1472 jobs have been created, including 1192 local hires since the start of the project (local is defined as within 10km of the project area along the Ontario Line and postal code information is disclosed on a voluntary basis, therefore this figure may not be representative of the total number of hires who are local to communities.)
- 20% of new hires by contractors identify as women, and 14% identify as Black, Indigenous, or a Person of Colour (BIPOC).
- 3% of skilled tradespeople hired by contractors are in apprentice roles.
- There has been \$89 million in local business investments, and \$6,000 in social enterprise investments.

*Note: These are figures across the Ontario Line as a whole, and are not exclusive to the Ontario Line North segment.*

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

Construction Liaison Committees (CLCs) are forums for two-way communication and sharing of information related to Ontario Line construction activities for communities. Members of the CLC include local community organizations, City staff, elected officials, and project team members. Metrolinx has 13 active CLCs and community working groups for the Ontario Line, which continue to meet monthly to share information and mitigate issues, including Thorncliffe Park and Flemingdon Park/Don Valley CLC's for the north segment. In addition, Metrolinx occasionally holds community open houses, tours and public meetings when significant construction activities are anticipated or to respond to community concerns.

Metrolinx also continues to operate their Community Office in Thorncliffe Park, which is located at East York Town Centre at 45 Overlea Boulevard and open 9am-5pm from

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<sup>8</sup> <https://www.metrolinx.com/en/projects-and-programs/community-benefits>

<sup>9</sup> [https://assets.metrolinx.com/image/upload/v1771008041/Documents/Making\\_Community\\_Bene%EF%AC%81ts\\_Supports\\_Happen2024-2025.pdf](https://assets.metrolinx.com/image/upload/v1771008041/Documents/Making_Community_Bene%EF%AC%81ts_Supports_Happen2024-2025.pdf)

Monday to Friday. Members of the public are welcome to visit to ask Metrolinx staff questions or provide feedback on the construction.

City staff continue to remind Metrolinx staff of the importance of timely construction notices and clear, comprehensive communication with communities regarding upcoming construction and impacts. Metrolinx aims to provide two weeks of advance notice of construction activities, including information on upcoming work, anticipated impacts, and mitigation measures. Notifications are distributed through a combination of methods, including direct delivery to affected properties and other communication channels, such as their website, social media and mailing lists<sup>10</sup>. Metrolinx also provides information to local elected officials to disseminate through their communication channels.

## **Next Steps**

The Transit Expansion Division will continue to advocate for and protect City interests through all stages of Metrolinx's project delivery, guided by Council direction and established agreements. This includes reviewing designs for conformance to City Standards, facilitating permits and approvals, and addressing construction issues that arise that may impact the local communities, including by emphasizing the need for continued community engagement as the project progresses.

City staff will report to NYCC with additional updates on the Ontario Line in Q2 2027.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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Derrick Toigo  
Executive Director, Transit Expansion Division

## **ATTACHMENTS**

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<sup>10</sup> <https://www.metrolinx.com/en/projects-and-programs/ontario-line/notices>