

May 24, 2026

Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

NY33.26 - Metrolinx's Ontario Line Construction within the North York District - Second Quarter 2026 Update

To Chair Pasternak, and members of North York Community Council:

Established in Thorncliffe Park in the 1980s, the Leaside Towers Tenants Association of Thorncliffe Park (LTTA) is a volunteer, resident-led group that represents over 2,500 Torontonians residing at 85 and 95 Thorncliffe Park Drive on concerns relating to their rental apartment tenancies, as well as matters of broader importance to the community.

The LTTA has reviewed report and offers the following comments:

Construction impact of Ontario Line on TTC operations at Line 5 Don Valley Station

Line 5 Eglinton's Don Valley Station, formerly Science Centre Station, opened to the public on February 8, 2026.

Since opening day, TTC riders with accessibility requirements have been denied use of the elevator between the Don Valley Station's bus terminal and its concourse level due to on-site Ontario Line construction.

The public has not been provided with a date for when the elevator will be brought into service, or even a formal acknowledgement that bringing the elevator into service is a priority.

In the absence of an operating elevator, TTC riders with accessibility requirements have been offered impractical and/or unsafe alternatives. For example, being directed to use a station entrance on a different corner of Don Mills Road and Eglinton Avenue, either by re-boarding the bus, or by walking to get there.

Don Valley Station is a major bus terminal for TTC routes, including: 25 Don Mills, 34 Eglinton, 54 Lawrence East, 72 Pape, 100 Flemingdon Park, 162 Lawrence-Donway, 191 Underhill, 325 Don Mills, 334 Eglinton, 354 Lawrence East, 403 South Don Mills, 925 Don Mills Express, 954 Lawrence East Express.

The Don Valley Station elevator cannot remain off-limits for the duration of Ontario Line construction. Respectfully, nobody knows if construction will continue for another five years, or for another ten years.

The LTTA requests that the Transit Expansion Division be directed to prioritize bringing the Don Valley Station elevator into service, and to work with Metrolinx to confirm a date when that can safely occur.

Restoring full TTC bus service between Thorncliffe Park Drive and Line 5 Laird Station

The report states that a new temporary 156 Millwood bus route service began on March 15, 2026, in reaction to the start of the two-year closure of Beth Neilson Drive that prevents the 88 South Leaside bus from running from Line 5 Laird Station to Thorncliffe Park Drive, through the Leaside Business Park.

What the reports fails to acknowledge is that the 156 Millwood bus is a downgraded, limited-service route.

88 South Leaside bus service from Thorncliffe Park Drive to Line 5 Laird Station was provided seven days a week, at all hours, from early morning to late evening. Weekday morning peak period service was provided every 7 ½ minutes. *Source: TTC Service Summary February 8 to March 14, 2026.*

156 Millwood bus service from Thorncliffe Park Drive to Line 5 Laird Station, by contrast, is being provided every 25 to 30 minutes. Weekday and weekend early evening and late evening service has also been removed from Thorncliffe Park. *Source: TTC Service Summary March 15 to May 2, 2026.*

In anticipation of the opening of Line 5 Eglinton, the LTTA partnered with the Leaside Residents Association years ago to successfully advocate for Thorncliffe Park, one of the City's Neighbourhood Improvement Areas, to have a good transit connection to Laird Station. Our mission was to make more education and employment opportunities accessible for its 30,000 residents in places like Scarborough, Etobicoke, and North York and north of Toronto too through new connections to Line 1 and Line 6.

Thorncliffe Park benefitted from that new service, with the revised 88 South Leaside, for about one month between the opening of Line 5 Eglinton on February 8th and the closure of Beth Neilson Drive on March 14th.

The LTTA believes that a two-year wait for the return of the full-service 88 South Leaside bus to Laird Station is unreasonable.

We also reasonably worry that upcoming major construction on the Overlea Bridge will cause significant, multi-year delays and disruption to TTC services that Thorncliffe Park relies upon to utilize Line 5 Don Valley Station.

The LTTA requests that the Toronto Transit Commission be directed to upgrade the 156 Millwood bus to a full-service route, operating seven days a week between Thorncliffe Park Drive and Laird Station, with a service frequency matching what had been scheduled for the 88 South Leaside prior to the closure of Beth Neilson Drive.

Thank you,

Jason Ash, Co-chair
Leaside Towers Tenants Association

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