

## **Metrolinx's Scarborough Subway Extension – Q2 2026 Semi-Annual Update**

**Date:** May 11, 2026  
**To:** Scarborough Community Council  
**From:** Executive Director, Transit Expansion  
**Wards:** 20, 21, 23, 24

### **SUMMARY**

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City Council, 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 in Q2 2027.

The purpose of this report is to provide updates on the status of construction activities on the SSE project, including on:

- Construction Progress;
- Community Benefits and Supports; and
- Public Engagement.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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The Executive Director, Transit Expansion recommends that:

1. Scarborough 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 and tunnelling underway for the Scarborough Subway Extension (SSE) 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 December 16, 2025, City Council adopted SC27.6 - Metrolinx's Scarborough Subway Extension - Fourth Quarter 2025 Semi-Annual Update which provided updates on the SSE regarding progress of construction activities, community benefits and public engagement.

Link: <https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2025.SC27.6>

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 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 the Subway Agreement in Principle 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 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 included 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 updates 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 Subway Program, including 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, including the SSE.

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 the SSE.

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

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The Province of Ontario, through its agency Metrolinx, is delivering the Scarborough Subway Extension (SSE) project that extends the Toronto Transit Commission's (TTC) existing Line 2 – Bloor-Danforth subway by 7.8 kilometres. The SSE will consist of three new stations that will run below grade from the existing Kennedy Station to a new station at Lawrence Ave and McCowan Road, followed by a new station at Scarborough Centre, and 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 line of tunnelling for the SSE project, from Sheppard Avenue and McCowan Road to Kennedy Station, as well as associated activities necessary to construct the tunnel. Tunnelling began in January 2023 at the launch shaft located at Sheppard Avenue and McCowan Road (the future location of the SSE terminus station) using a Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM). The TBM is currently traveling south, generally under McCowan Road, towards the extraction shaft located at Eglinton Avenue East and Midland Avenue. As of May 7, 2026, the TBM has tunnelled over 4.3 kilometers out of the total 6.9 kilometer tunnel and is near Danforth Road and Hollyhedge Drive (Bendale Library).

## 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. As this is the location of the TBM launch shaft, haul trucks continue to transport materials to and from worksites at this location. To manage dust in the area, all trucks exiting the site go through a mandatory wheel-washing station and there are dedicated street sweepers operating daily.

## Scarborough Centre Station (Scarborough Town Centre)

Major construction is ongoing at the Scarborough Centre Station site where piling work (i.e. structural supports for the concrete foundations) began in September 2025 and is halfway complete. The piling work is expected to continue until spring 2027, with McCowan Road north of Bushby Drive reduced to three lanes in some areas to accommodate this work<sup>1</sup>. Utility replacement, including storm, sanitary and watermain works, have also commenced. To enable these works, road reconfigurations in the area went into effect in March 2026 and will continue until the end of April 2027.

## Lawrence and McCowan Station

Preparation for excavation is underway for the main station entrance at the Lawrence and McCowan Station site. To facilitate construction at the site, McCowan Road at Lawrence Avenue West has been reconfigured to reroute traffic to the east lanes of McCowan Road.<sup>2</sup> Work hours for the site have been extended to 24 hours a day during the week and 7:00 am to 5:00 pm on weekends.

## Kennedy Station

To enable future stages of SSE construction, Metrolinx and the TTC are working together on early works at Kennedy Station which includes ventilation and power upgrades being delivered by Metrolinx. The early works are expected to be completed shortly, after which the new ventilation and power systems will be in operation. Construction of two major ventilation structures for the SSE is also underway by Kennedy Station.

Support of Excavation (SOE) work is occurring in the Don Montgomery Community Recreation Centre (DMCRC) north parking lot to prepare for the construction of the Kennedy Station Box, which will connect Kennedy Station to the TBM extraction shaft at Eglinton Avenue East and Midland Avenue. Excavation for the extraction shaft was completed in June 2025. In December 2025, Metrolinx began their long-term closure of the Eglinton Avenue East South Loop, by DMCRC, to vehicles to support the SOE

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<sup>1</sup>[https://assets.metrolinx.com/image/upload/v1772223109/Images/Metrolinx/SSE/20260227\\_SCS\\_Traffic\\_Stage\\_2B\\_and\\_3\\_for\\_watermain\\_work\\_and\\_SOE\\_-\\_FINAL\\_25.02.26.pdf](https://assets.metrolinx.com/image/upload/v1772223109/Images/Metrolinx/SSE/20260227_SCS_Traffic_Stage_2B_and_3_for_watermain_work_and_SOE_-_FINAL_25.02.26.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [https://assets.metrolinx.com/image/upload/v1769452467/Images/Metrolinx/SSE/Long-term\\_McCowan\\_Road\\_diversion\\_near\\_Lawrence\\_Avenue\\_East.pdf](https://assets.metrolinx.com/image/upload/v1769452467/Images/Metrolinx/SSE/Long-term_McCowan_Road_diversion_near_Lawrence_Avenue_East.pdf)

activities<sup>3</sup>. Passenger pick up and drop off for GO and TTC remains accessible from the Eglinton Avenue East North Loop. From January 2026 to September 2026, there will also be lane reductions and diversions on Eglinton Avenue East at Brimley Road to prepare for tunneling by the TBM in the area<sup>4</sup>.

## **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>5</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>6</sup>. Highlights from the report for the SSE project include:

- 635 jobs have been created, including 58 local hires since the start of the project (local is defined as within 10km of the project area along the SSE 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.)
- 30% of new hires by contractors identify as women and 50% identify as Black, Indigenous, or a Person of Colour (BIPOC).
- 7% of skilled tradespeople hired by contractors are in apprentice roles.
- There has been \$29 million in local business investments, and \$46,000 in social enterprise investments.

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*

In 2022, Metrolinx initiated four Construction Liaison Committees (CLC) for each SSE station site. Each CLC convened two to three 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 for relaunch with a consolidated CLC in the coming months for the entire SSE.

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<sup>3</sup>[https://assets.metrolinx.com/image/upload/v1765389004/Images/Metrolinx/SSE/Long\\_term\\_closure\\_of\\_Eglinton\\_Avenue\\_East\\_South\\_Loop\\_to\\_vehicles.pdf](https://assets.metrolinx.com/image/upload/v1765389004/Images/Metrolinx/SSE/Long_term_closure_of_Eglinton_Avenue_East_South_Loop_to_vehicles.pdf)

<sup>4</sup>[https://assets.metrolinx.com/image/upload/v1769627729/Images/Metrolinx/SSE/Lane\\_diversions\\_to\\_accommodate\\_work\\_on\\_Eglinton\\_Avenue\\_East\\_at\\_Brimley\\_Road.pdf](https://assets.metrolinx.com/image/upload/v1769627729/Images/Metrolinx/SSE/Lane_diversions_to_accommodate_work_on_Eglinton_Avenue_East_at_Brimley_Road.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.metrolinx.com/en/projects-and-programs/community-benefits>

<sup>6</sup>[https://assets.metrolinx.com/image/upload/v1771008041/Documents/Making\\_Community\\_Benefits\\_and\\_Supports\\_Happen2024-2025.pdf](https://assets.metrolinx.com/image/upload/v1771008041/Documents/Making_Community_Benefits_and_Supports_Happen2024-2025.pdf)

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, and City Staff followed up regularly on this request with Metrolinx. In April 2026, Metrolinx engaged local Councillors regarding plans for the consolidated CLC, which is now expected to launch in June 2026.

### *SSE Feature Walls Consultation*

Metrolinx has been consulting the community on feature wall designs inside SSE stations. This has been an iterative process, beginning with an online survey in 2024 to develop theme options, and three in-person open houses in 2025 to gather feedback on two proposed themes<sup>7</sup>. Metrolinx is reviewing feedback and updates will be shared with the community and local councillors and through future staff reports.

### *Community Engagement*

Metrolinx's SSE community engagement team engages directly with residents, businesses, students and transit users along the alignment. Their team also conducts pop-up events to engage community members and address their concerns. Pop-up events are held at a variety of locations and include but are 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.

As part of efforts to notify residents of upcoming construction, Metrolinx's team canvasses in communities and distributes construction notices prior to construction activities. These notices are also shared with elected officials for distribution and published in Metrolinx's monthly SSE newsletter.

City Council, through item SC27.6, requested that Metrolinx hold public meetings with Scarborough residents to address questions and concerns related to the SSE. In response, Metrolinx has scheduled five days of community open houses from May 5 to May 14, 2026. Located at various locations, including the Toronto Bendale Library, Eglinton Square, Centennial College and Scarborough Town Centre, these sessions are intended to provide information on SSE construction, and gather community input on station naming recommendations for government consideration<sup>8</sup>.

### **Next Steps**

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

City staff will report to SCC with additional updates on the SSE project in Q2 2027.

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<sup>7</sup>[https://assets.metrolinx.com/image/upload/v1750447138/Images/Metrolinx/SSE\\_station\\_design\\_feature\\_wall\\_open\\_house\\_JUNE19\\_FNL.pdf](https://assets.metrolinx.com/image/upload/v1750447138/Images/Metrolinx/SSE_station_design_feature_wall_open_house_JUNE19_FNL.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.metrolinx.com/en/projects-and-programs/scarborough-subway-extension/events/spring-2026-community-open-houses>

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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