

## **Liberty Village Streetscape Improvements - Update**

**Date:** May 7, 2026

**To:** Toronto and East York Community Council

**From:** Acting Deputy General Manager, Transportation Services

**Wards:** Ward 10, Spadina-Fort York

### **SUMMARY**

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This report responds to a request from Toronto and East York Community Council to report back on delivery opportunities for streetscape improvements in Liberty Village, including improvement of key sidewalks and boulevards and installation of interim quick build sidewalk, permanent sidewalks, planters and public art, in advance of FIFA World Cup 2026.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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The Acting Deputy General Manager, Transportation Services recommends that:

1. Toronto and East York Community Council receive this report for information.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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There are no immediate financial impacts arising from the recommendations in this report, which seeks Toronto and East York Community Council receipt for information. Funding for interim quick build sidewalk and interim boulevard improvements prior to FIFA World Cup 2026 is included in the 2026 Transportation Services Operating Budget. Funding for the Outside the Box program and the StreetARToronto StART UP: Underpass & Structures Program is allocated from the Transportation Services approved 2026 StreetARToronto operating budget and will be included in the proposed 2027 StreetARToronto operating budget.

Any future operating or capital requirements associated with related neighbourhood streetscape improvement measures will be included in a future year budget submission process.

## DECISION HISTORY

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On March 25 and 26, 2026, City Council adopted the following with amendments IE27.9 - Updates on Vision Zero Road Safety Initiatives: Follow-Up from June and October 2025 City Council Directives, Missing Sidewalk Installations, and Road Safety Improvement Projects. <https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2026.IE27.9>

On January 13, 2026, Toronto and East York Community Council adopted the following with amendments. [TE28.28 - Sidewalk Network in Liberty Village - Missing Links](#)

On November 27, 2025, Toronto and East York Community Council adopted the following [Agenda Item History - 2025.TE27.53](#)

On October 22, 2025, Toronto and East York Community Council adopted the following with amendments. [Agenda Item History - 2025.TE26.25](#)

On June 5, 2025, Toronto and East York Community Council requested staff to provide an update on the status of local infrastructure improvements identified as priorities for action in the Liberty Village Public Realm Strategy. <https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2025.TE23.62>

On October 9 and 10, 2024, City Council adopted Liberty Village Traffic Action Plan Update, including short and medium-term actions to be completed before FIFA World Cup 2026. <https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2024.TE16.56>

On April 17, 2024, City Council endorsed the Liberty Village Public Realm Strategy, including the Liberty Village Neighbourhood Streets Plan and directed staff to report back to the Toronto and East York Community Council in the third quarter of 2024 on a funding and implementation strategy in the leadup to the FIFA World Cup 2026. <https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2024.TE12.16>

On July 16, 2019, City Council adopted the Vision Zero 2.0 - Road Safety Plan Update and the Missing Sidewalk Installation Policy with amendment, which directs that sidewalk proposals not otherwise delegated to the General Manager, Transportation Services in the Policy shall be reported on an annual basis to the Infrastructure and Environment Committee for recommendation to City Council. <https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2019.IE6.8>

## COMMENTS

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### Interim Quick Build Sidewalk Installation

As approved by City Council in March 2026, three interim quick build sidewalk segments are planned for installation on Liberty Street in May 2026, in advance of the FIFA World Cup 2026 on:

- the north side of Liberty Street between Dufferin Street and Mowat Avenue, Liberty Village Streetscape Improvements - Update

- the south side of Liberty Street between Fraser Avenue and Pardee Avenue, and
- the south side of Liberty Street between Jefferson Avenue and Atlantic Avenue.

The project supports prioritization of space within the City-owned right-of-way for pedestrians to improve safety and comfort for all road users. These changes are being implemented to create safer conditions for people walking in the neighbourhood, in advance of when permanent sidewalks can be built in these sections.

To provide adequate pedestrian clearances, reconfiguration of the existing commercial boulevard parking spaces on the three blocks of Liberty Street with planned work is required. The existing commercial boulevard parking spaces on these three blocks of Liberty Street will be reconfigured from perpendicular spaces to parallel spaces along the building frontages. Notification letters have been delivered to affected commercial boulevard parking permit holders, advising of these upcoming changes.

Transportation Services has continued to work with the local Councillor and the Liberty Village Business Improvement Area to finalize these plans, with installation scheduled to begin in May, in advance of the FIFA World Cup 2026. In addition to the reconfigured commercial boulevard parking spaces, pedestrian areas will be clearly defined using high-visibility, brightly coloured pavement markings and stencils indicating pedestrian only space. Planters with a variety of perennial plants will also be installed to support the Business Improvement Area.

### **Improving Existing Sidewalks and Boulevards**

In advance of FIFA World Cup 2026, Transportation Services staff will undertake targeted maintenance and interim beautification efforts within the Liberty Village area. Staff are proactively inspecting all sidewalks in Liberty Village, including East Liberty Street, and repairing any trip hazards. This work is currently ongoing and will be completed by June 10, 2026.

Transportation Services staff plan to apply mulch in select boulevard locations identified as problematic, due to exposed soil, wear, or aesthetic concerns, on East Liberty Street. During FIFA World Cup 2026, and using existing operational resources, staff will monitor and maintain these areas with street sweeping operations to maintain overall roadway cleanliness and manage mulch spreading onto sidewalks and roadways. Manual cleaning will be undertaken, where required, to supplement mechanical sweeping and ensure safe and accessible pedestrian routes. This approach provides a practical, cost-effective enhancement to the right-of-way, in advance of FIFA World Cup 2026. Post-FIFA World Cup 2026, street sweeping operations will return to the City's standard service level for the area.

Transportation Services staff will work with the local Councillor on proposed permanent boulevard improvements on the north side of East Liberty Street, between Pirandello Street and Western Battery Road, to include pavers and protected tree zones, similar to the boulevard treatment on the north side of East Liberty Street between Pirandello Street and Lynn Williams Street. The target installation year for the permanent boulevard improvements is 2027, subject to available funding.

## **Permanent Sidewalk Installation**

Transportation Services staff conducted a review of all streets in Liberty Village that currently have missing sidewalks and determined that due to the complexities of permanent sidewalk construction, as outlined in [TE28.28 - Sidewalk Network in Liberty Village - Missing Links](#), it was not feasible to complete the detailed design and construction of any permanent sidewalks in Liberty Village prior to FIFA World Cup 2026. The Interim Quick Build Sidewalk Installation outlined above will address the gap in the sidewalk network on Liberty Street in advance of FIFA World Cup 2026.

Liberty Street is classified as a collector road. There are three sections of Liberty Street with existing sidewalk only on one side of the street. These sections are to be addressed with permanent sidewalk installations within the near-term capital program, through coordinated delivery of planned road resurfacing and new sidewalk construction, scheduled for delivery in 2029, pending confirmation through the capital coordination process. There is also planned trunk sewer work and road resurfacing on Liberty Street between Dufferin Street and Pardee Avenue in the medium term (2031-2033). Other missing sidewalks in Liberty Village will continue to be programmed through the capital coordination process, based on bundling opportunities with state-of-good repair roadwork and/or pursued through redevelopment sites, where feasible.

## **Public Art - Traffic Signal Boxes and Liberty Village Pedestrian Bridge**

As part of the City of Toronto StreetARToronto (StART) Outside The Box program, the following Liberty Village-area traffic signal boxes will receive mural art applications by local artists by early June, 2026, in advance of FIFA World Cup 2026:

- Sudbury Street and King St West
- Strachan Avenue and Wellington Street West
- King Street West and Joe Schuster Way
- King Street West and Dufferin Street
- Dufferin Street and Springhurst Avenue

Once art is applied, boxes will receive anti-graffiti protective coating. Artists are selected through a two-stage competitive process and awarded through an external advisory panel.

Public art mural application to the interior of the Liberty Village Pedestrian Bridge is anticipated to take place in summer 2027, following completion of the public engagement and artist selection process planned for Fall 2026 to Spring 2027.

Art installation on the King Street West Railway Underpass (between Sudbury Street and Atlantic Avenue) is not practical due to highly textured, cut stone surfaces not being amenable to mural application.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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