

Mid Humber Gap Environmental Assessment

Public Information Centre #1

June 10, 2021

Land Acknowledgement for Toronto

We acknowledge the land we are meeting on is the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. We also acknowledge that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit.

Agenda

6:30 p.m. Welcome and Introductions

6:35 p.m. WebEx Instructions

6:40 p.m. Presentation:

- Project Background, EA process, & Problem/Opportunity
- Baseline Inventory
- Preliminary Screening Criteria and Results
- Preliminary Preferred Alternatives

7:10 p.m. Question & Answer Period

7:55 p.m. Next Steps



This meeting is being recorded for purposes of creating a meeting summary that will be shared with all meeting participants.

Project Team

TRCA:

- Lisa Turnbull
- Corey Wells
- Celene Mariano

City of Toronto:

- Jennifer Hyland
- Maogosha Pyjor
- Mark Lowe

R.J. Burnside & Associated Ltd.:

- Tricia Radburn

Opening Remarks

Councillor Nunziata
City of Toronto,
York South-Weston

Councillor Ford
City of Toronto,
Etobicoke North

Code of Conduct

- **Be patient:** Virtual meetings don't always run as smoothly as planned.
- **Be brief:** Limit yourself to one question or comment when called on to speak.
- **Be respectful:** The City of Toronto is an inclusive public organization. Discriminatory, prejudicial or hateful comments and questions will not be tolerated and you will be removed from the meeting.

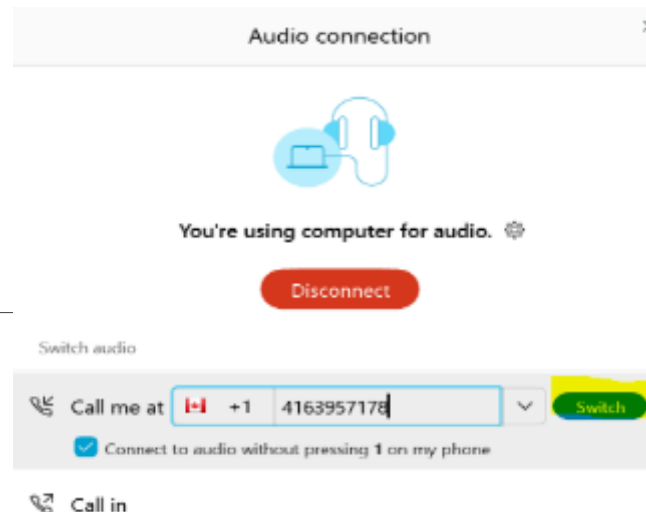
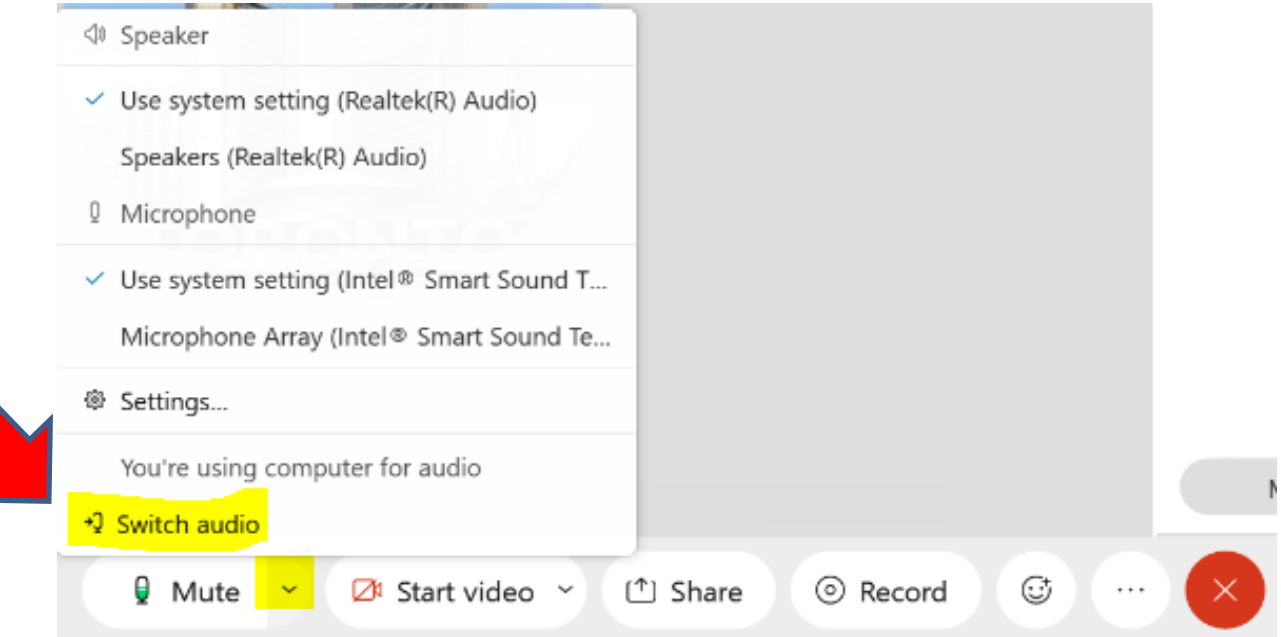


We want to hear from you – all questions are good questions!

WebEx Audio Trouble?

WebEx can call you!

1. Click the **arrow** beside your mute button
2. Click **“Switch audio”**
3. Use **“Call me”** function
 - Enter your phone #
 - WebEx will call your phone
 - No long distance charges



Audio still not working?

Call Into the Meeting

Dial: **416-915-6530**

When prompted for a meeting number
enter:

177 266 2310

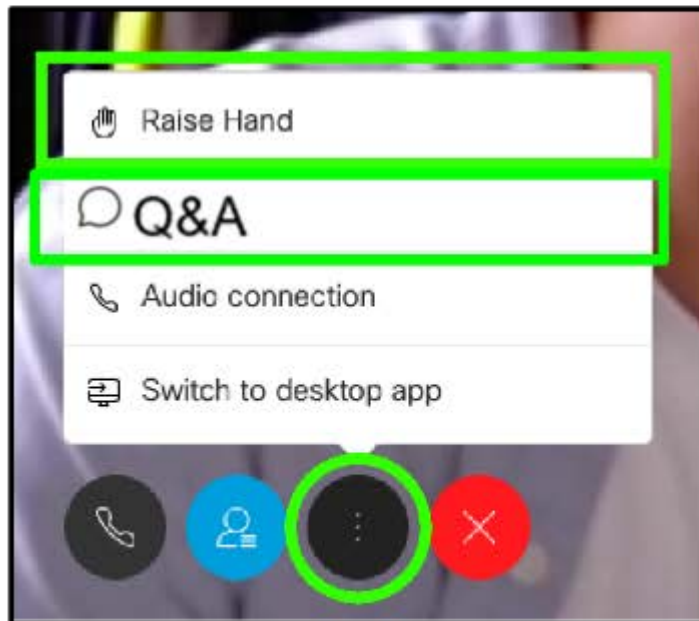
Participating by Computer

Raise your
hand or
type your
question



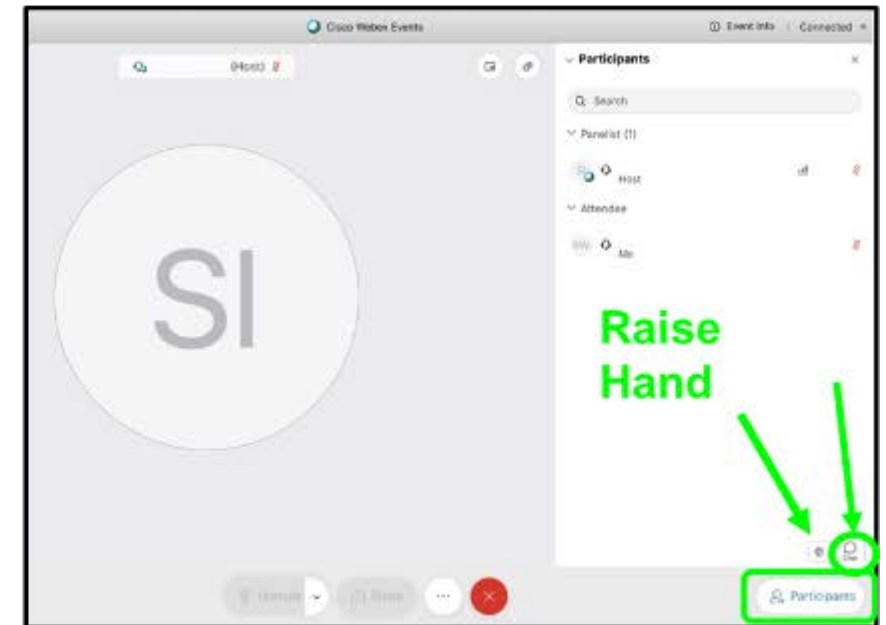
Via the internet browser

Click the “...” button at the bottom of the video window and select “Raise Hand” or “Q&A”.



Via the Webex App

Click the Participants button at the bottom of the video (the Participants panel will open to the right). Then click the “Raise Hand” or “Q&A” button at the bottom right.



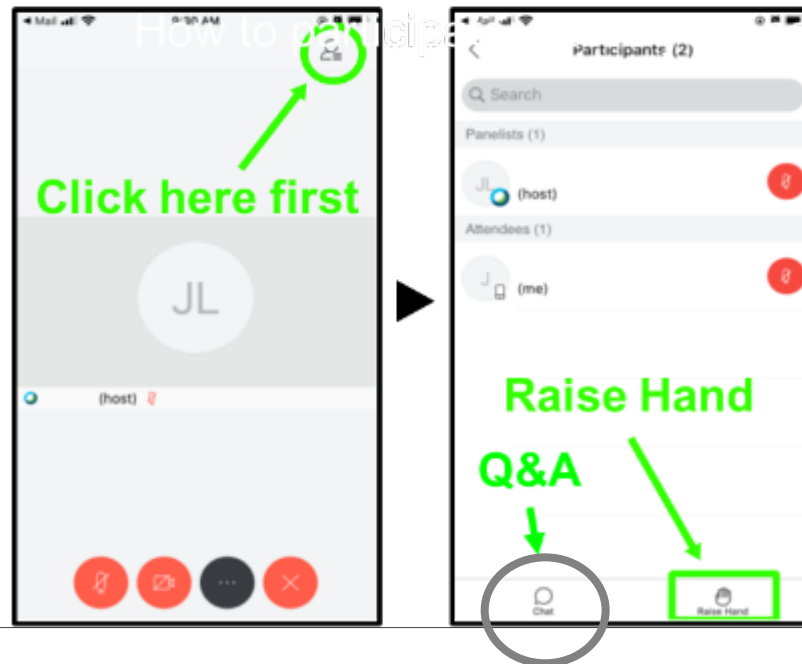
Participating by SmartPhone or Tablet

Raise your
hand or
type your
question



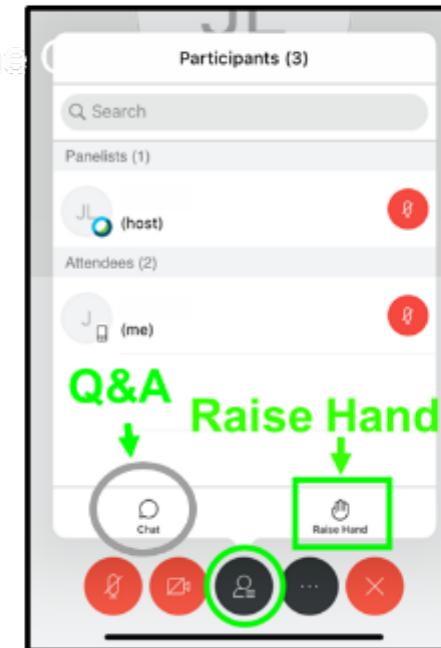
For smartphones

Click the Participants panel button at the top right corner of the screen. Then click "Raise Hand" or "Q&A" at the bottom right of the screen.



For tablets

Click the Participants panel button at the bottom of the screen. Then click the "Raise Hand" or "Q&A" button at the bottom right.



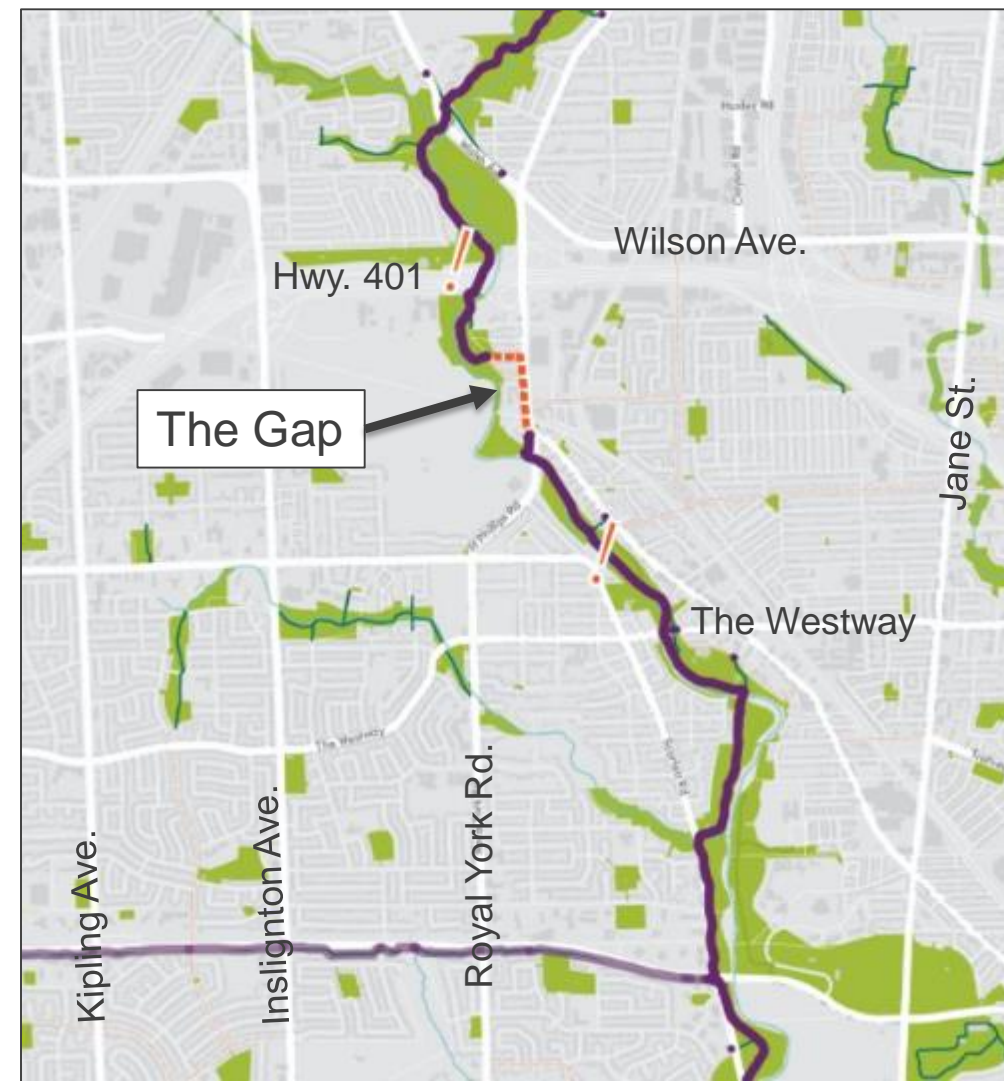
Raising your hand by Phone



- To raise your hand virtually, **key in *3.**
- The Host will see a hand up beside the last four digits of your phone number
- During the Q&A period, the Host will unmute you and let you know that you can speak

Project Background

- One of 26 trail projects listed in the Bikeway Trails Implementation Plan (2012) and identified in the 2019 Cycling Network Plan update
- Originally a 1.4 km gap in the Humber Recreational Trail (HRT), approx. 800 m of trail remains to be completed
- Presents a barrier to a continuous trail system from Toronto's north-west boundary to Lake Ontario and is a discontinuity in the future Loop Trail



The Humber River Trail, with the existing gap highlighted as the orange hashed line

Project Study Area



Past Work

Planning and implementation of a trail connection has followed a multi-stage approach

- Stage 1 – Trail Construction and Improvement (2013)
 - 600 m trail segment connecting Mallaby Park to Cruickshank Park
 - Preparation of preliminary trail alignments for Feasibility Study



Stage 1 trail connection (dashed line)



Looking east towards Cruickshank Park

Past Work

Planning and implementation of a trail connection has followed a multi-stage approach

- Stage 2 – Feasibility Study (2019)
 - Inventoried existing conditions and evaluated five conceptual trail routes
 - Identified key planning constraints and considerations
 - Initial engagement with private landowners
 - Determined order-of-magnitude cost estimates
 - Served as a framework by which a more rigorous planning process could be undertaken

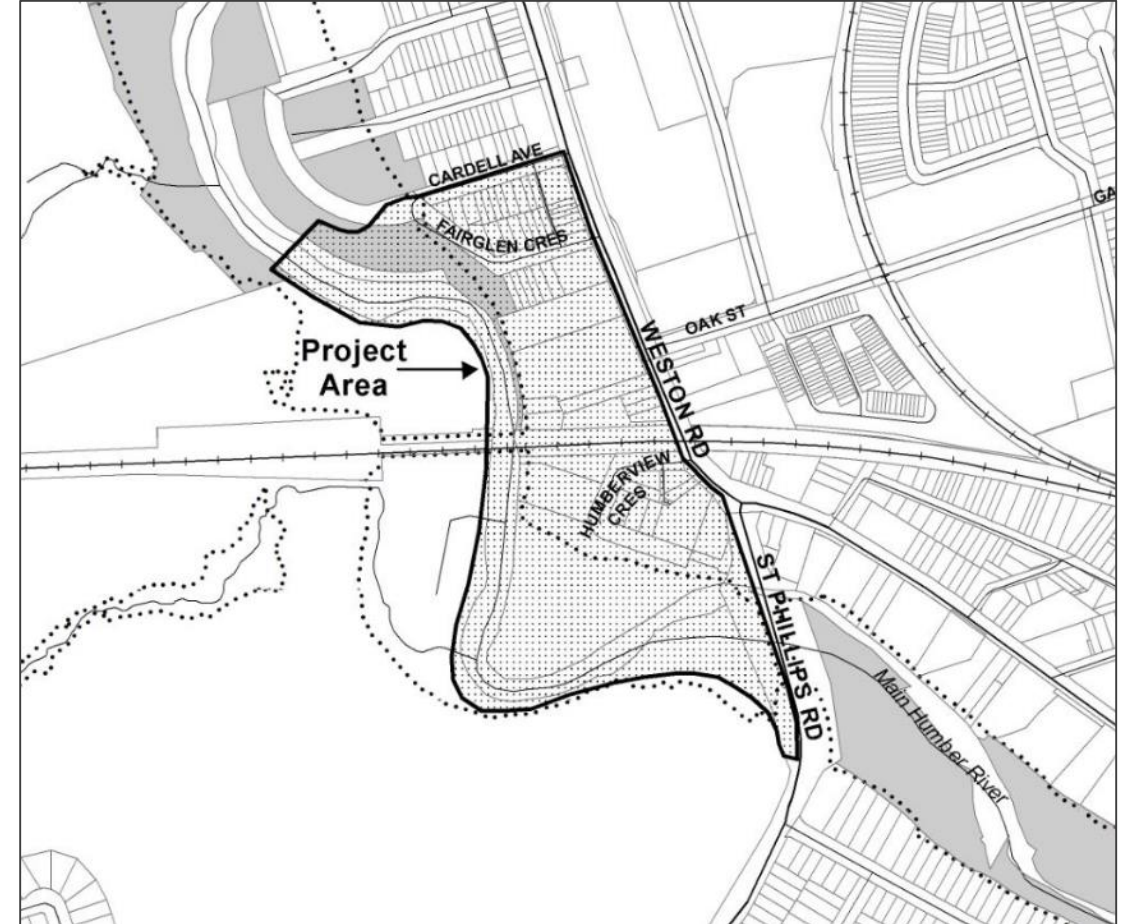


Conceptual trail routes identified during the Feasibility Study

Environmental Assessment

Stage 3 - The Mid Humber Gap MCEA – Schedule B

- Triggered due to potential costs for construction
- Formally launched on March 31st, 2021
- Undertaken jointly between TRCA and the City of Toronto
- **Objective** – Identify and evaluate trail alignments and select a preferred route that will close the remaining 800 m gap and provide for a complete connection between Mallaby Park and Crawford-Jones Memorial Park in Toronto



MCEAs – What, Why, and How?

Stage 3 - The Mid Humber Gap MCEA – Schedule B

1. What is a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (MCEA)?

- A standardized planning process for activities that are carried out on a routine basis and have predictable environmental effects

2. Why undertake an MCEA?

- Minimize or avoid adverse environmental effects before they occur
- Incorporate environmental factors into decision making
- Provide for meaningful public and stakeholder participation

MCEA – Planning Process

1. Identify & Refine Conceptual Trail Alignments

- Will consider additional routes identified in the Feasibility Study

2. Develop a Detailed Inventory of Existing Conditions

- Biological, water resource, transportation, geotechnical, socio-economic, etc.
- Supporting field studies

3. Complete a Detailed Evaluation of Alignments & Select Preferred

- Measured against criteria such as natural environment, residents and property owners, user safety and accessibility, constructability, and cost

4. Refine Preferred Alignment (30% Design)

- Structural and landscape design refinements and costing

Landowner
& Public
Input

Planning Context

Existing Problems

- Existing gap is a significant barrier in the HRT and is a discontinuity in the future Loop Trail
- Users are forced to detour along busy local roads that lack designated cycling infrastructure
- The Mallaby Park staircase presents an obstacle to some users and is not fully accessible to all ages and abilities
- Existing right-of-ways are constrained and do not have boulevard space for widening in order to accommodate a trail

Planning Context

Opportunities

- Remove the gap and provide for a complete trail connection between Mallaby Park and Crawford Jones Memorial Park
- Develop an accessible multi-use trail connection that accommodates a variety of trail users
- Improve user safety by providing for enhanced pedestrian and cyclist infrastructure that reduces interaction between users and road vehicles
- Provide enhanced opportunities for users to access, enjoy, and learn about Toronto's ravine system
- Aligns with Toronto's Strong Neighbourhood Strategy (2020) by prioritizing active transportation projects in Neighbourhood Improvement Areas
- Build on existing City of Toronto, TRCA, and Province of Ontario planning initiatives for trail construction, expanding the bikeways network.

Problem and Opportunity Statement

- The Mid Humber Gap constitutes a significant barrier to a continuous multi-use trail system along the HRT and is a discontinuity in the future Loop Trail, a 65 km off road, multi-use ring that will connect multiple ravines, neighbourhoods and trail systems throughout Toronto. Existing routes present safety concerns to users who are forced to detour along busy local roads that lack designated cycling infrastructure and are not fully accessible.
- As a key piece in support of the City's Ravine Strategy and Cycling Network Plan, as well as TRCAs Trail Strategy, the Mid Humber Gap MCEA will explore a range of multi-use trail alignments, culminating in the selection of a preferred route that will close the gap and provide for a complete connection between Mallaby Park and Crawford-Jones Memorial Park in Toronto.

Existing Conditions

The Project Study Area includes:

- Weston Golf and Country Club (WGCC) on the west side of the Humber River
- Private land trust and steep slope on the east bank of the Humber River
- Residences and businesses along Weston Rd
- Metrolinx rail corridor bisecting study area

