



Steeles Avenue East (Midland Avenue to Brimley Road) Consultation Report

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Project Overview

Project Summary

Steeles Avenue East between Midland Avenue and Brimley Road is scheduled for reconstruction in 2023. The roadwork provides an opportunity to review the street for changes to improve safety and operations for people driving, taking transit, walking and cycling. As part of the roadwork, the City of Toronto is proposing cycling, pedestrian, motor vehicle operations, and road safety improvements on Steeles Avenue East from Midland Avenue to McCowan Road. The proposed design maintains two lanes of motor vehicle travel at 50km/h and includes new cycle tracks, intersection improvements and tree plantings and green infrastructure. The new bikeway will increase opportunities to safely connect to key destinations, including Milliken District Park to the east and Metrolinx's Stouffville GO Grade Separation.

Through consultation activities, it was determined that some community members are opposed to the project and do not think that the improvements (bike lanes and widened sidewalks) will be used. Other community members support the project and its safety benefits for vulnerable road users, including seniors and people walking and cycling.

Communications and Consultation Activities

A variety of methods were used to notify stakeholders and members of the public in advance of the consultation efforts:

- Project website: [Toronto.ca/SteelesAvenueEast](https://toronto.ca/SteelesAvenueEast)
- 23,492 public consultation notices distributed to all properties within the boundary of Birchmount Rd to the west, Denison St to the north, Markham Rd to the east and McNicoll Ave to the south

As a result, City staff recorded feedback from:

- 3 phone calls documented
- 27 emails received and responded to when required

>>Appendix A: Public Consultation Notice

Feedback Summary

Feedback (Emails and Phone Calls)

The questions and comments received through email and phone are summarized by theme below. Please note that any comment that was heard more than once is marked with an asterisk (*).

General

- In support*
 - Active transportation infrastructure is desperately needed in Scarborough North
 - Is an improvement for all forms of transportation
 - Please do it faster and with no disruptions
 - Will feel safer riding my bike

- Not in support*
 - Would rather see the space for the bike lanes used for additional vehicle travel lanes*
 - These are a waste of money*
 - Provide better, more and/or more accurate road fatality statistics and traffic data used to make this decision*
 - Narrowing the four vehicle travel lanes is dangerous - vehicles are just scraping by big transport semis*
 - People will not use it*
 - People cycling can only use bike lanes for a few months of the year*
 - Waste of money to widen it for pedestrians – very few people use these sidewalks*
 - People do not cycle to the Metrolinx station
 - Will cause more traffic and pollution
 - Add a public transit lane and safe transit waiting areas instead
 - Concentrate instead on road expansion of Steeles Ave E from Markham Rd to 9th Ave
 - Consider installing a two-way cycle track on one side of Steeles Ave E to connect the park and the GO Station while maintaining the sidewalk on the other side

Safety for People Walking and Biking

- Prioritize the safety of vulnerable road users
 - Commuters operate by bike or by walking to/from work and stores
 - Community has a very large seniors population

- Provide safety education campaigns*
- Improve visibility for people cycling and walking at the Steeles Ave E and Hillcroft Dr intersection
 - Reposition the utility poles
 - Remove some of the bushes
- People Walking
 - Pedestrian visibility is important
 - Install more street lights for people walking at the corner of intersections where they stand prior to crossing the street
 - Consider more lights along sidewalks and pedestrian paths - these places are used 24/7 and should be well-lit
 - Fix missing lights on the north side along Steeles Ave E near Midland Ave
 - Ensure the sidewalk is wide enough to accommodate people who use shopping trolleys and kids' bicycles
 - Upgrade existing street lights to make them brighter
- People Biking
 - Move the bike lane further away from the roadway*
 - Consider vertical dividers alongside the bike lanes

Green Infrastructure

- In support of adding green infrastructure
- Consider adding coniferous trees over deciduous trees
- Ensure trees do not block lights
- Consider other greenery than grass for the buffer between sidewalk and bike lane as this will require maintenance and mowing

Turn lanes and Intersections

- Keep centre turn lanes (for left turns)*
 - Vital to avoid accidents
 - Smooths traffic
- Do not remove any turn lanes*
 - Would cause inconveniences to elderly living at Mon Sheong Court
 - Consider TTC drivers and potential bus breakdowns
- Program the left turn advanced signals at intersections to be activated whenever traffic conditions warrant, rush hour or not

- In support of removing westbound right turn lane at Midland Avenue
 - Unless there are plans to extend it and connect with Celadine Dr
- Extend the left-turn lane from Steeles Ave E onto Midland Ave
- Improve safety at the Steeles Ave E and Brimley Rd intersection

Traffic

- Coordinate traffic lights
 - For example, if Midland Ave and Kennedy Rd turn green at the same time may ease congestion
- Consider 'diamond intersections'

Additional Traffic Calming Measures

- Deploy speed cameras

Consultation

- Consider translating materials in French

Other

- Concerned about e-bikes using the sidewalks or bike lanes*
- Ensure people biking wear helmets

Next Steps

The Steeles Ave E project will be reported on to the Infrastructure and Environment Committee (IEC) and City Council in spring 2022. If approved, reconstruction will begin in 2023.

Appendices

Appendix A: Public Consultation Notice



Public Consultation

March 1, 2022

Steeles Avenue East Complete Street from Midland Avenue to McCowan Road



In 2023, Steeles Avenue East between Midland Avenue and Brimley Road is scheduled for road resurfacing. The roadwork provides an opportunity to review the street for changes to improve safety and operations for people driving, taking transit, walking and cycling. As part of the roadwork, the City of Toronto is proposing cycling, pedestrian, motor vehicle operations, and road safety upgrades on Steeles Avenue East from Midland Avenue to McCowan Road. The proposed design keeps two lanes of motor vehicle travel and includes new cycle tracks, intersection improvements and tree plantings and green infrastructure. The new bikeway will increase opportunities to safely connect to key destinations, including Milliken District Park to the east, and Metrolinx's Stouffville GO Grade Separation project to the west.

Project Area



Why Consider Changes on Steeles Avenue East?

The City of Toronto is proposing changes on Steeles Avenue East as part of the road resurfacing to fulfill the City's commitment to the Vision Zero Road Safety Plan. The Plan's goal is to eliminate traffic-related fatalities and serious injuries by making our roads safer for everyone, especially for seniors, school children, and people walking and cycling.



From 2010 to 2021 on Steeles Avenue East between Midland Avenue and McCowan Road, there was one person killed and there were seven people seriously injured along this corridor. All proposed changes are focused on reducing future collisions.

Proposed Changes

- Addition of cycle tracks (protected bike lanes) on both sides of the street from Midland Ave to McCowan Rd creating a safe cycling connection to Milliken District Park from the west.
- Motor vehicle lanes would be slightly narrowed, with 2 lanes maintained in each direction
- Sidewalks would be widened, where feasible
- Westbound right turn lane at Midland Avenue removed (subject to coordination with Metrolinx), and additional turn lane removals are being considered based on impacts to traffic
- Tree impacts are expected, but all efforts will be made to minimize these
- Opportunities for passive storm water capture through green infrastructure and permeable surfaces and additional tree planting are being considered

Next Steps

Following consideration of your feedback, City staff will report to the Infrastructure and Environment Committee and City Council in the spring of 2022.

<p style="text-align: center;">Learn More</p>  <p>View project information on the website, including the project presentation.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">www.toronto.ca/SteelesAvenueEast</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Provide Feedback</p>  <p>Submit comments by email, mail or phone.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Comment Deadline: March 18, 2022</p>
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More Information

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如果需要普通话协助, 请拨 311

如果需要廣東話協助, 請致電 311

தமிழில் உதவியைப் பெறுவதற்கு, 311 ஐத் தொடர்பு கொள்ளவும்.

* Information will be collected in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record. ** To help reduce the spread of COVID-19 consultation activities will be conducted online, by phone, email, and mail only.