

The Esplanade and Mill Street Connection Phase 1 and 2A and Bayview Trail Data Analysis and Project Update

In 2021, the initial phase of The Esplanade and Mill Street Connection and the Bayview Avenue multi-use trail projects were installed. The goals of both projects were to improve road safety for all and make cycling, walking and taking transit more appealing.

Throughout 2022 and 2023, Transportation Services analyzed the effects of the projects on the local area by collecting motor vehicle travel times and volumes, and bicycle volumes. Staff continued to engage with key partners and the public in consideration on adjustments to the bikeway design, traffic signals, and by-laws to improve safety.



THE ESPLANADE AND MILL STREET CONNECTION AND BAYVIEW TRAIL TIMELINE (2019-2023)

2019 - Public consultation (The Esplanade and Mill Street)

Spring 2021 - Bayview Trail installation

Spring 2022 - The Esplanade and Mill Street Phase 2 installation: Lower Sherbourne Street to Lower Jarvis Street Summer 2023 - Parliament Trail installation

Early 2021 - City Council approval (The Esplanade and Mill Street and Bayview Trail) Fall 2021 - The Esplanade and Mill Street Phase 1 installation: Lower Sherbourne Street to Berkeley Street/Hahn Place and Parliament Street to Bayview Avenue

Winter/Spring 2023 - Traffic signal and pedestrian upgrades on Mill Street

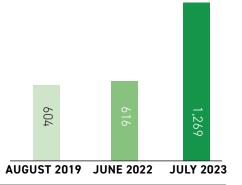
BICYCLE VOLUMES ON THE ESPLANADE



Daily bicycle volumes have approximately doubled on The Esplanade since installation of the two-way bikeway on the south side of the corridor.

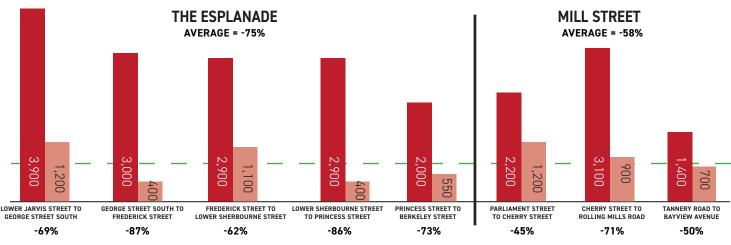
The chart on the right shows the number of cycling trips per day pre-installation (August 2019) and post-installation (June 2022 and July 2023).

Although pre- and post-installation bicycle count data is limited, automated bicycle counters are planned for Phase 3 on The Esplanade and Mill Street.



CHANGES IN MOTOR VEHICLE VOLUMES

Traffic volumes on The Esplanade and Mill Street were reduced by approximately 75% and 58%, respectively. Several segments are below the maximum vehicle volume threshold for Neighbourhood Greenway projects, while some segments are slightly above. As the remaining phases are implemented, staff will monitor motor vehicle volumes to ensure they remain at or below Neighbourhood Greenway threshold levels.



Pre-installation average (2019 and 2020) Post installation average (2021 and 2022)

Neighbourhood Greenway maximum vehicle volume threshold (750 vehicles/8 hours)

The chart summarizes pre- and post-installation motor vehicle traffic volume averages over 14-hour counts (7 am – 9 pm).

CHANGE IN AVERAGE MOTOR VEHICLE TRAVEL TIMES IN SECONDS

Compared to 2019 pre-pandemic travel, there was no significant travel time impact to eastbound or westbound travel on Front Street East between Lower Jarvis Street and Berkeley Street; Mill Street, Front Street East and Eastern Avenue between Parliament Street and Bayview Avenue, and southbound or northbound travel on Bayview Avenue, Parliament Street and River Street between Queen Street East and Gerrard Street East. The charts below reflect the average difference in post-installation travel time data in 2021 and 2022, compared to 2019 travel time data.

TRAVEL TIMES IN SECONDS DURING MORNING PEAK HOURS (7:00 A.M. TO 10:00 A.M.)



TRAVEL TIMES IN SECONDS DURING AFTERNOON PEAK HOURS (4:00 P.M. TO 7:00 P.M.)



^{*}Mill Street is westbound-only between Bayview Avenue and Parliament Street

^{**}Bayview Avenue is southbound-only between River Street and Mill Street