

ReNew Golden Mile: Reconfigured and New Major Streets Environmental Assessment

Second Public Meeting

November 21, 2024



toronto.ca/goldenmile

Land Acknowledgement



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, as well as the Williams Treaties (which covers Scarborough) signed with multiple Mississaugas and Chippewa bands.







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



Introductions

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City of Toronto

Cassidy Ritz – Project Director, Strategic Capital Coordination Office

Philip Morse – Senior Project Manager, Capital Projects and Program, Transportation Services

Sonali Praharaj – Senior Project Manager, Major Projects, Transportation Services

Steve Turco– Senior Transportation Planner, Transportation Planning

Nasim Norouzi – Transportation Planner, Transportation Planning

Emily Caldwell – Senior Planner, Community Planning

Xue Pei – Program Manager, Urban Design

Xinqi Wang – Senior Urban Designer, Urban Design

Dominic Cobran – Senior Coordinator, Public Consultation Unit

Michael Carroll- Coordinator, Public Consultation Unit

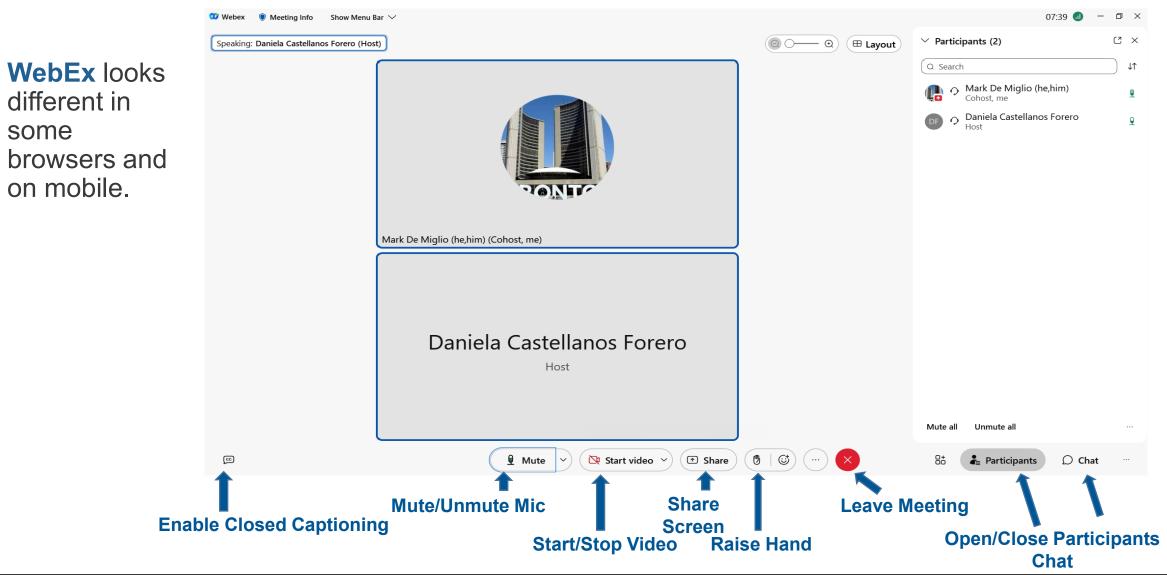
HDR Consulting Team

Heather Templeton – Project Manager Justin Jones – Deputy Project Manager Brittany Zhang – Project Coordinator



Using WebEx







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Participating by Computer



Raise your hand or type your question

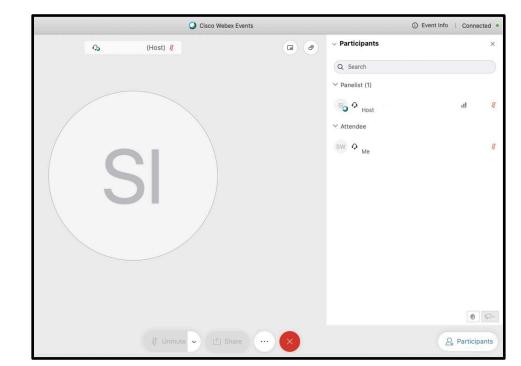
Via the <u>internet browser</u>

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

Paise Hand □ Feedback ○ Audio connection □ Switch to desktop app ○ 2 : ×

Via the <u>Webex App</u>

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.





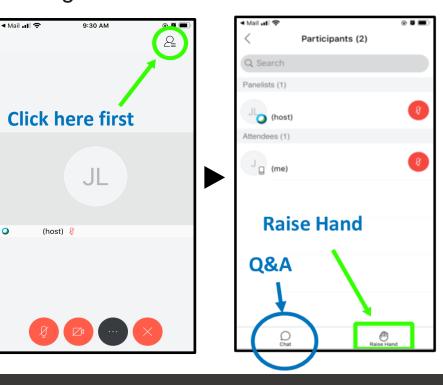
Participating by Smartphone or Tablet

Raise your hand or type your question

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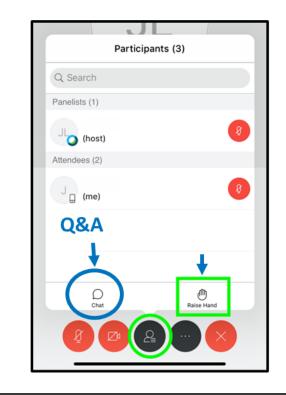


Click the Participants panel button at the top right corner of the screen. Then click "Raise Hand" or "Q&A" at the bottom right of the screen.



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 periods, the Host will unmute you and let you know that you can speak



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 you are 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!

If we do not address your question, staff will follow up with you after the meeting.



Purpose of Today's Meeting





Study Overview



Recap of Alternatives and Evaluation



Recommended Street Designs



Next Steps



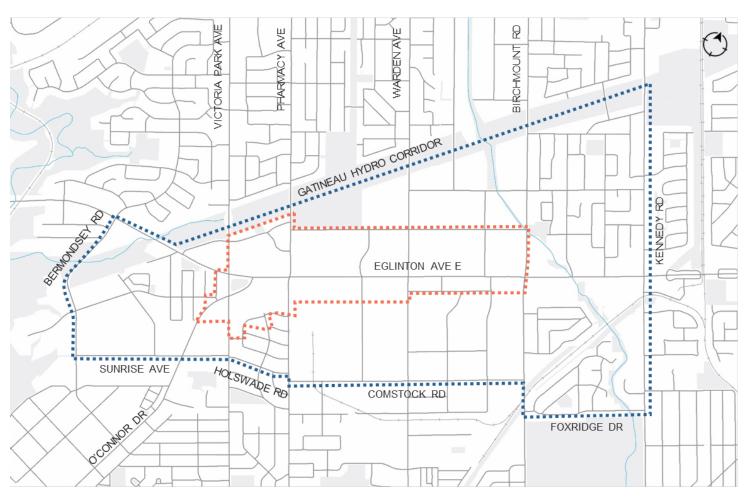
Study Overview and Recap of the Phase 1 Public Consultation



Study Overview

Schedule 'C' Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (EA) for transportation infrastructure in the Golden Mile area

- Builds on recommendations from the Golden Mile Secondary Plan (GMSP) completed and Golden Mile Transportation Master Plan (TMP) completed in 2020.
- The study area is bounded by the Gatineau Hydro Corridor Trail to the north, Bermondsey Road to the west, Sunrise Avenue, Holswade Road, Comstock Road, Foxridge Drive to the south, and Kennedy Road to the east.



GM EA Study Area Boundary GM TMP Study Area Boundary



Golden Mile TMP – Problems and Opportunities

The TMP identified the following problems and opportunities within the study area:

	Problem		Opportunity
	The Golden Mile was planned and built predominantly for cars	Ŀ ſ i	Create comfortable and accessible streets for all ages and abilities
কৈ	No formal cycling facilities within the area	Ř	Create various mobility options where possible to encourage an active community and lifestyle
\$	Future ECLRT divides and acts as a barrier for pedestrians and cyclists		Provide safe and convenient connections to future ECLRT transit stops
	Existing streets are wide and lack connectivity		Create a finer-grained street network to enhance connectivity
	Large blocks and low-rise buildings setback and separated from streets by surface parking		Ensure economic vitality of existing and future business is protected



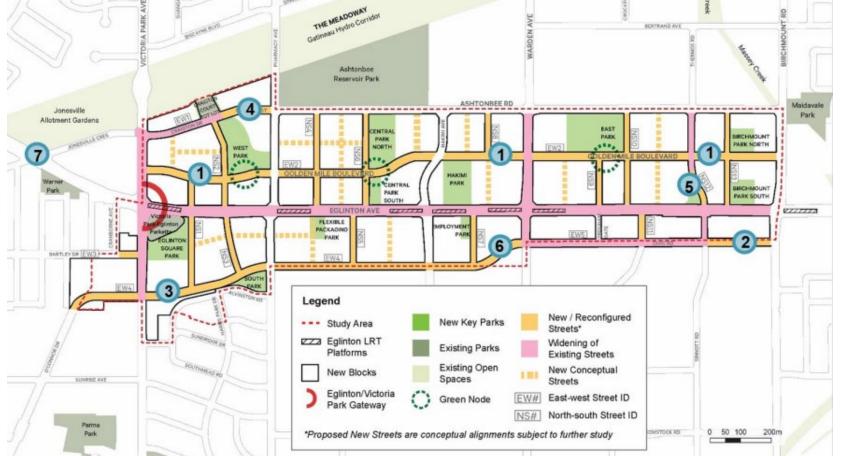
Golden Mile TMP Preferred Street Network

The TMP identified five Schedule C road projects that trigger the requirement to complete Phases 3 and 4 of the MCEA to determine preferred alignments and designs

Golden Mile Boulevard

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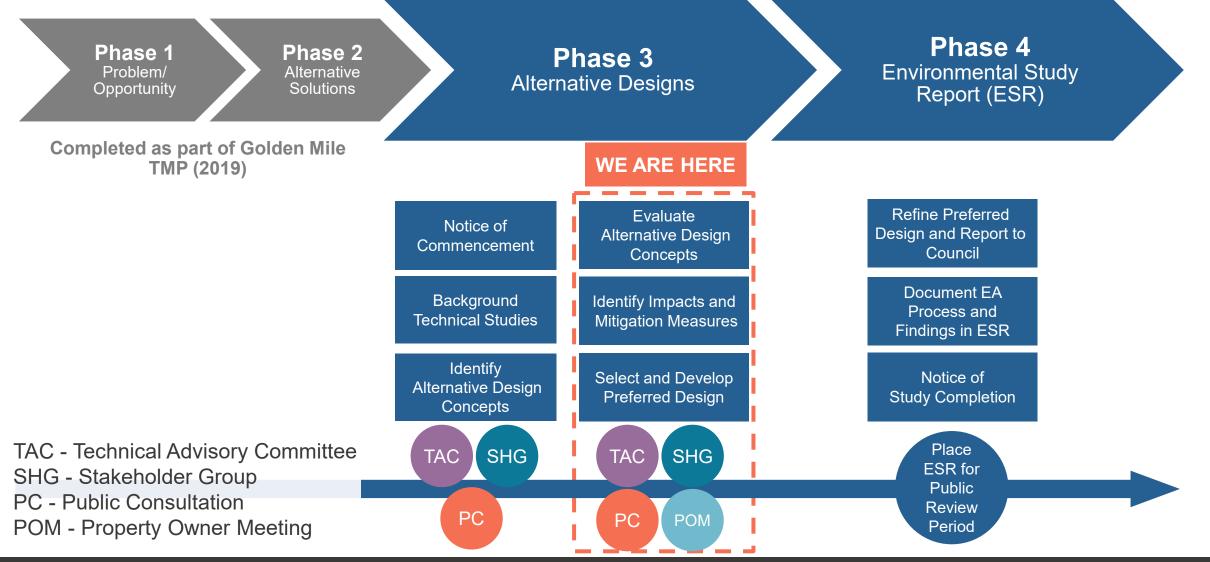
- O'Connor Drive Extension (Pharmacy Ave to Birchmount Rd)
- O'Connor Drive Reconfiguration (West of Pharmacy Ave)
- Craigton Drive/Ashtonbee Road Realignment
- 5 Thermos Road/Sinnott Road Intersection



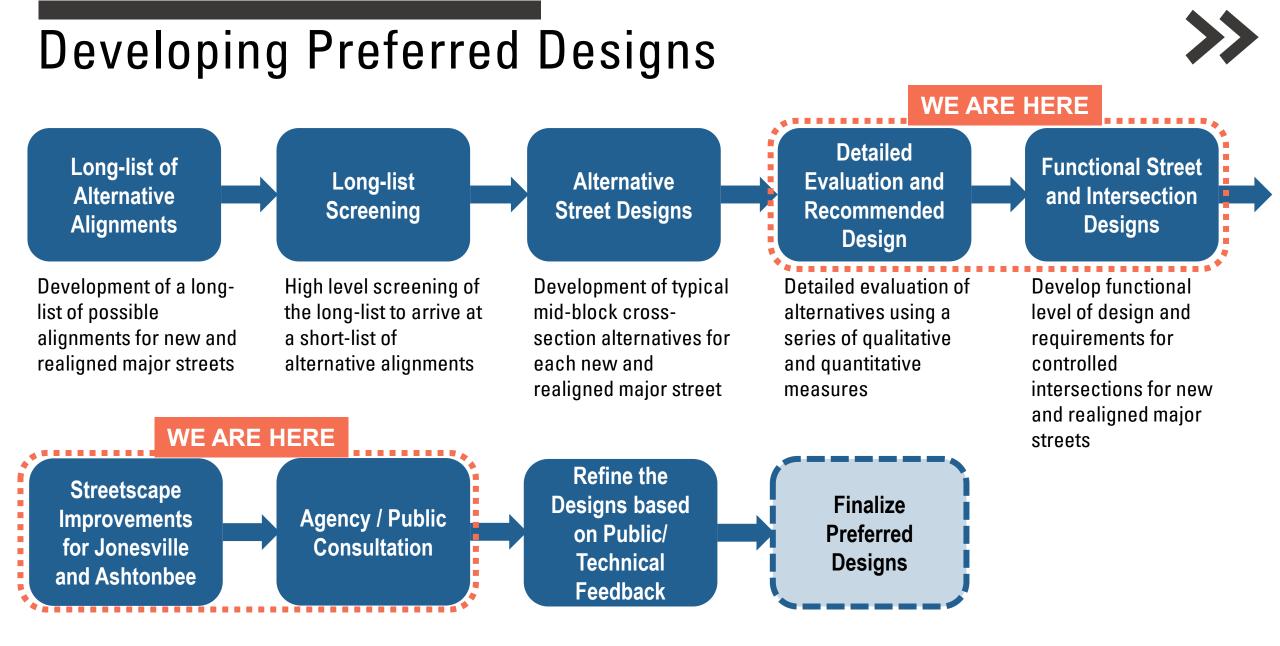


Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (EA) Process











Recap of Policies, Plans & Guidelines Informing This Study



This study is informed by several policies, plans and guidelines as instructed by City Council:





Recap of the Short-listed Alternative Alignments

A total of 17 short-listed alternative alignments for the five EA street corridors were presented at the first public consultation meeting, highlighted on the map below along with key features of the study area

- -1- Short-list Alternatives
- O'Connor Drive Reconfiguration
- O'Connor Drive Extension
- Golden Mile Boulevard
- Reconfiguration of Thermos and Sinnott Roads
- Craigton Drive Reconfiguration
- Ashtonbee and Jonesville Streetscape Improvements
- Streets to be decommissioned
 - Toronto Water Tower
 - Water Pumping Station
 - Potential Cultural Heritage Resource / Building
- Archeological Potential



Listed on the Heritage Register

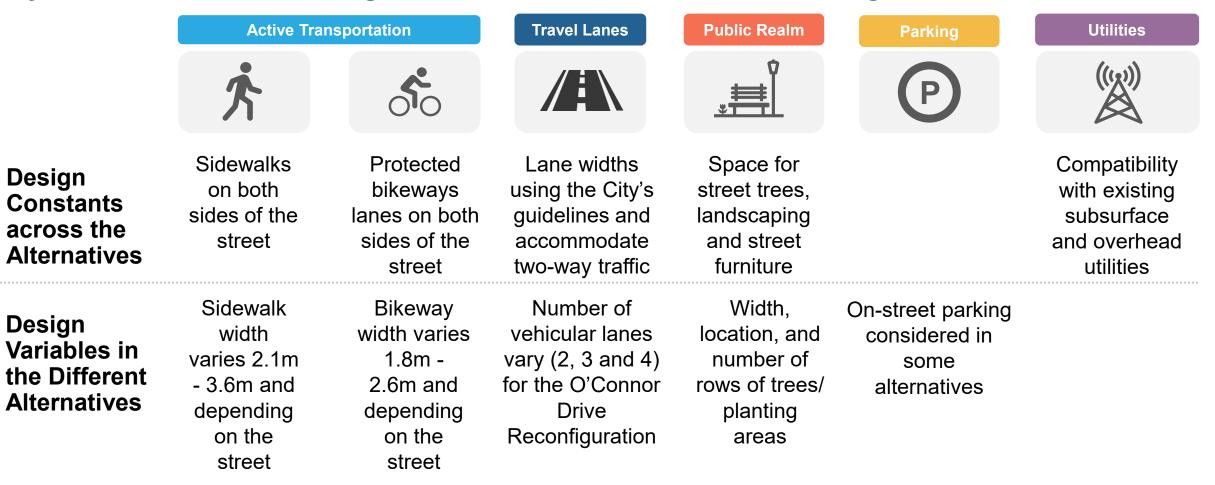
- New Conceptual Local Streets
 - Existing and Proposed Parks / Open Spaces
 - Golden Mile Secondary Plan Area





Recap of the Alternative Street Designs

A total of **16 mid-block alternative street designs** for the five EA street corridors were presented at the first public consultation meeting. Each mid-block alternative design considered the **Official Plan's planned right-of-way widths**. There were also **design constants** in all of the alternatives and **design variables**





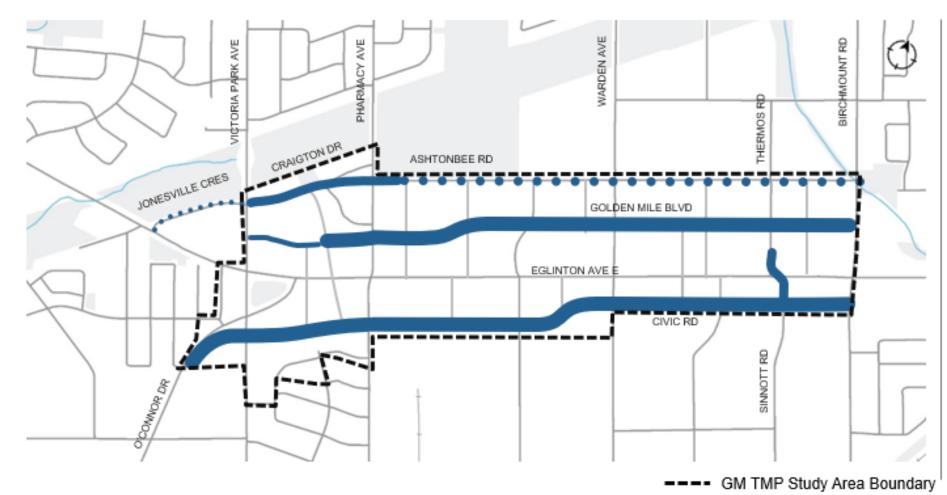
Recap of Official Plan Street Widths



The widths for each street are based on the planned street widths in the City's Official Plan, as shown below



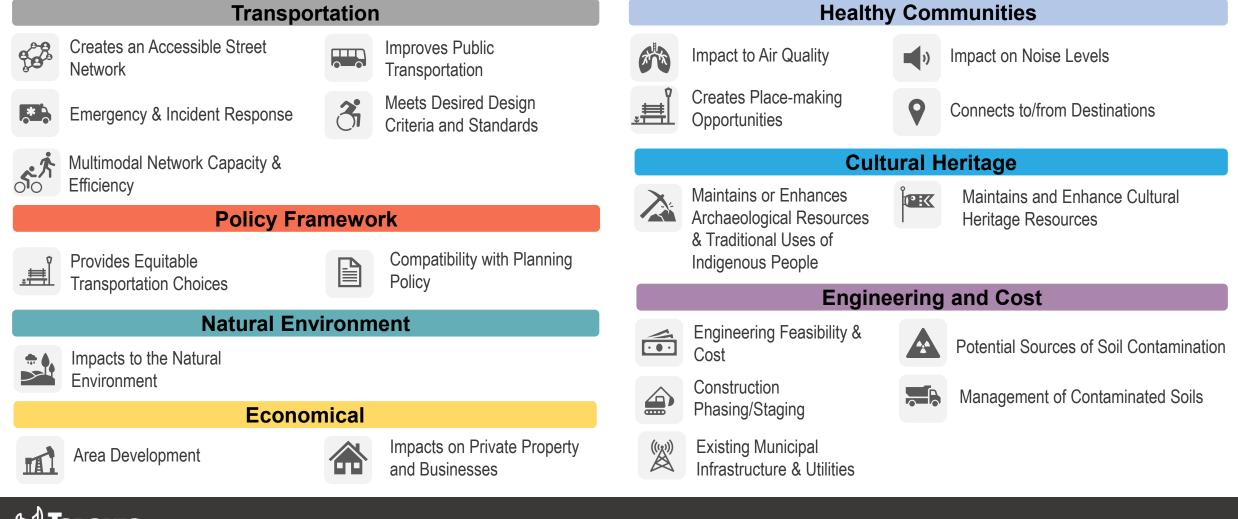
Note: Additional street width may be required at some intersections to allow for the required functionality of the intersection that will be secured in accordance with Official Plan policy 2.2.5. See functional plans.



Recap of Evaluation Criteria

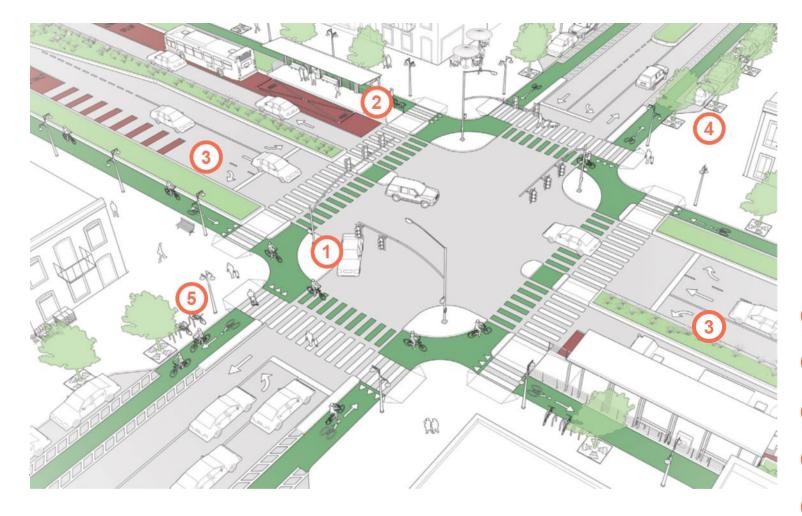


An initial set of evaluation criteria to evaluate the alternatives were also presented at the Phase 1 Public Consultation. The evaluation criteria has since been refined to take into account feedback received during the Phase 1 consultation



Recap of Intersection Features





The Phase 1 Public Consultation identified that protected intersections would be advanced as part of developing recommended designs. In some instances, these types of intersections along with the need to accommodate other functional requirements require additional property. Functional requirements can include:

- Corner medians to protect cyclists
- Transit stops
- Right and/or Left Turning Lanes
- Green Infrastructure
- Traffic poles and light standards



What We Heard from Phase 1 Public Consultations >>>

Phase 1 Public Consultation activities began in December 2022. Activities included **three meetings** between the City and developers, **a virtual Interest Group meeting, a virtual public event** and **an online public survey** where the proposed alignments and evaluation criteria were presented. Feedback from the public included the following:



Desire for Greenspace

Preserving and improving greenspace, including the addition of trees, has been expressed as a top priority

Economic Impacts



Local businesses are important to the community and construction impacts to existing businesses should be strongly considered in the evaluation of alternatives



Traffic Congestion

Maintaining sufficient traffic flow on main roads should be prioritized to reduce traffic on residential roads



Construction Duration, Impacts & Disruption

Resistance to new roads and re-alignments have been strongly expressed due to the potential impacts to residential areas, commercial properties, and community services, such as the ECLRT, from construction



What We Heard from Phase 1 Public Consultations >>>

Continued common feedback from the public.



Pedestrian & Cyclist Safety

Residents voiced concerns for traffic calming, meeting accessibility requirements, elderly mobility and safety, and wider sidewalks.



Parking Availability

It was noted that existing parking options are expensive and infrequently available. Concerns were raised about parking availability as the neighbourhood continues to grow and change.



Amenity Availability

Concerns were raised regarding the accessibility of grocery and healthcare facilities nearby, and the preservation of original Golden Mile retail such as Eglinton Square Mall.



Study Background Information

Residents wished to learn more about the use of the Transportation Master Plan (TMP) and Secondary Plan (SP) to inform the EA study of future community growth trends and needs of the neighbourhood.



Alternative Refinement and Evaluation



Refinements to Alternatives



Based on feedback during Phase 1 consultation as well as continued discussions with landowners and developers, refinements to some of the Alternatives were made:

- **Minor adjustments were made to some Alternative Alignments** to reflect feedback and discussions with area developers with active applications:
 - Alternative 4 for the Golden Mile Boulevard;
 - Alternative 1 for the O'Connor Drive Reconfiguration; and
 - Alternative 1 for the O'Connor Drive Extension
- A new Alternative Alignment (4B) was added and evaluated to the O'Connor Drive Extension. The new Alignment generally reflected an alternative suggested by a landowner
- Minor adjustments to street element widths were made to some Alternative Street Designs to ensure functional intersections and consistent sidewalks



Final Short-listed Alternative Alignments

- Short-list Alternatives
 O'Connor Drive Reconfiguration
 O'Connor Drive Extension
- Golden Mile Boulevard
- Reconfiguration of Thermos and Sinnott Roads
- ----- Craigton Drive Reconfiguration
- Ashtonbee and Jonesville Streetscape Improvements
- Streets to be decommissioned



Toronto Water Tower

Water Pumping Station

Open Spaces

- Potential Cultural Heritage Resource / Building
- Archeological Potential



Listed on the Heritage Register

Existing and Proposed Parks /

- New Conceptual Local Streets

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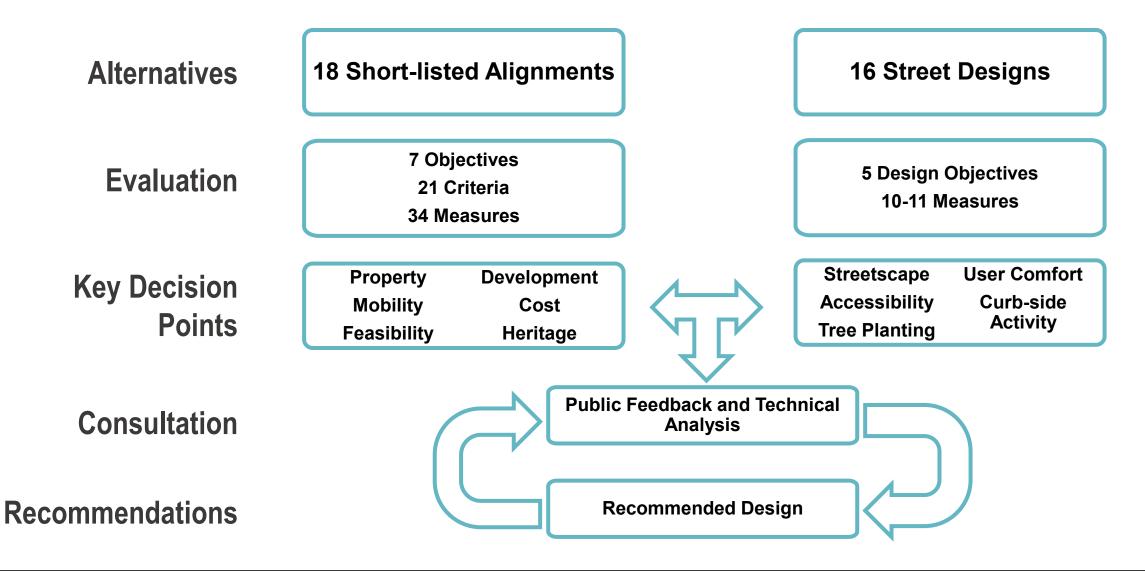
Golden Mile Secondary Plan Area





Evaluation Process

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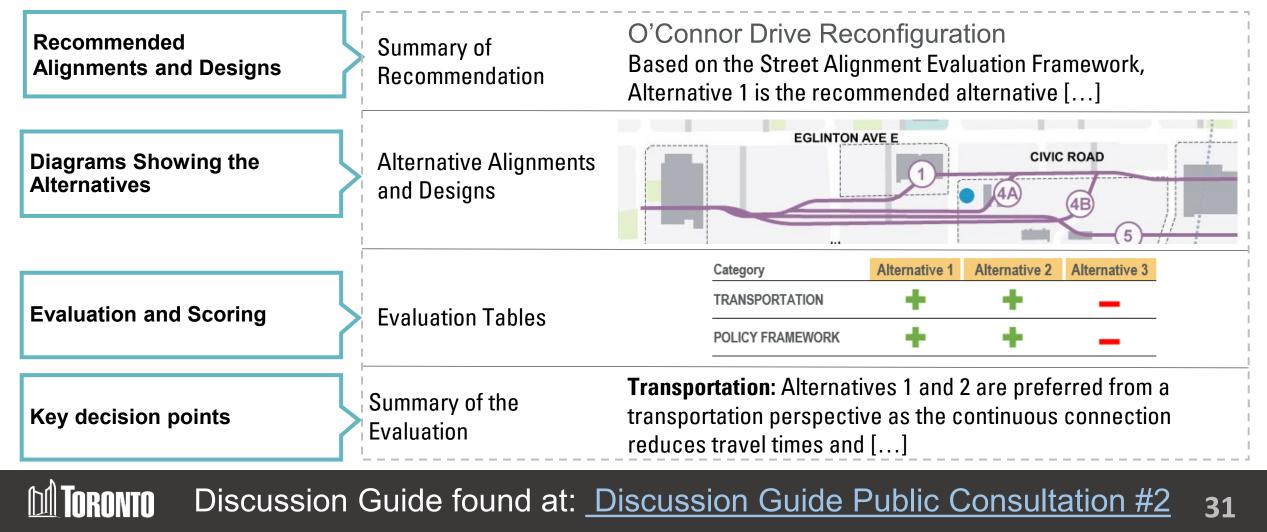




Discussion Guide Example

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The <u>discussion guide</u> serves as supplementary material that summarizes the evaluation process. It includes information such as alternatives, scoring, and key decision points, helping the reader to understand the reasoning behind each recommendation.



Evaluating Impact to Private Property



Type of Property Impact	Evaluation Considerations
 Impacts to existing rental residential units Impacts to existing business anticipated to remain for the foreseeable future Significant loss of development viability and/or status of development approvals to date 	 Avoid alternatives that impact any existing rental housing due to the housing crisis Identify land swap opportunities and policies to support redevelopment in the medium- to longer-term Address in evaluation and where possible advance location-specific impact mitigations
 Sites not anticipated to redevelop where the majority of a site or a building is impacted requiring full acquisition 	Calculate the land area of the site as part of the evaluation and measure severity depending on total property requirement for an alternative
 Minor impacts (e.g. small land area consisting of existing landscaped areas or surface parking) Active development sites early in development approvals or sites anticipated to redevelop in the future 	 Optimize road geometry, where possible, to reduce required land area for minor impacts Secure land through development approvals in accordance with the City of Toronto Act and/or Planning Act



Recommended Alignments and Network



Recommended Alignments

The diagram below presents the recommended street alignments based on a detailed evaluation of alternatives and through feedback from the public and various agencies and landowners

- 1 O'Connor Drive Reconfiguration
- O'Connor Drive Extension
-) Golden Mile Boulevard
- Maintain off-set intersection at Thermos Road and Sinnott Road with improvements
- 2 Craigton Drive Reconfiguration
- Ashtonbee Road and Jonesville
 Crescent Streetscape Improvements
- Streets to be decommissioned
- Conceptual local streets, not part of the EA
 - Golden Mile Secondary Plan Area

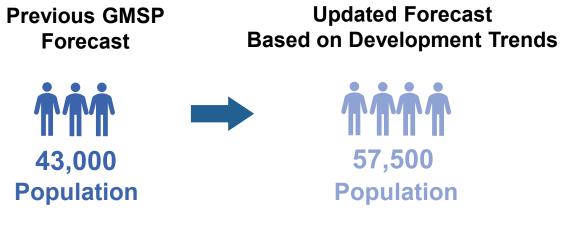




Future Traffic Needs and Performance

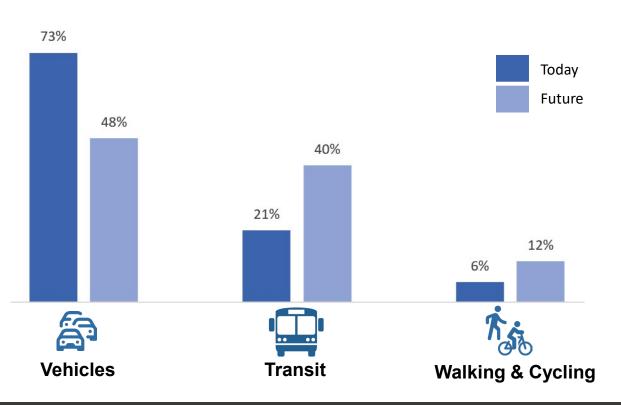
Future population and employment growth will continue to increase travel into, out of and within the Golden Mile.

New development will create a compact, mixed-use community that supports more trips by transit, walking and cycling and reduces reliance on cars.



20,000 of employment is forecasted in both the GMSP and the updated forecast

Many people in Golden Mile drive for short trips. In the future, more people will live or work near rapid transit stations. The wider sidewalks and cycle tracks will encourage more walking and cycling for short trips.

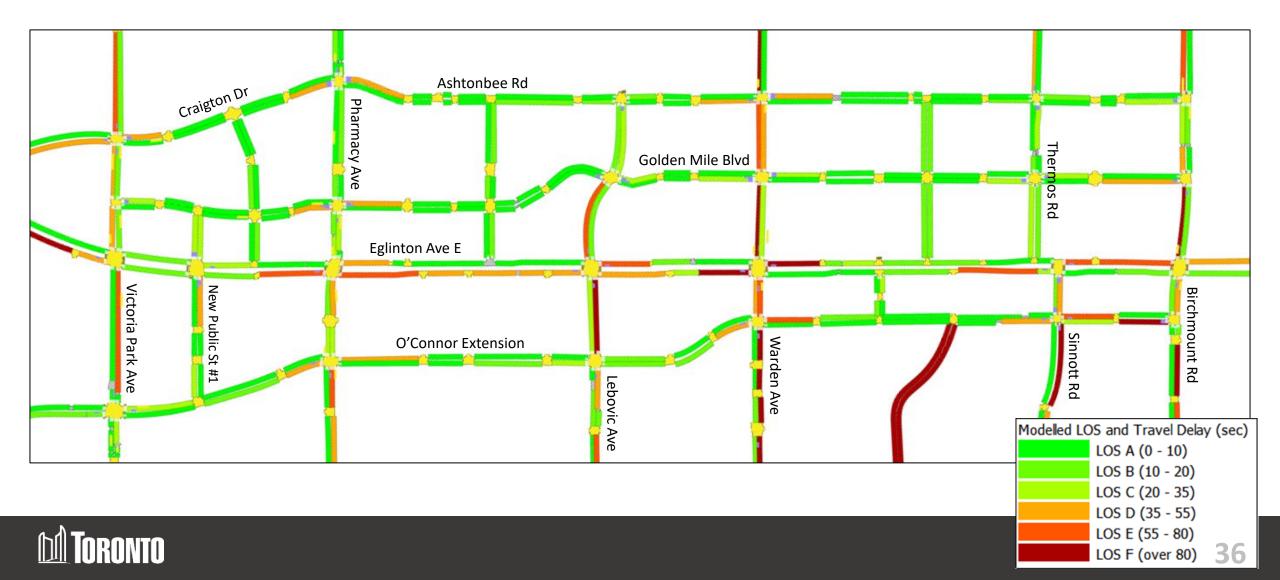




Future Traffic Needs and Performance

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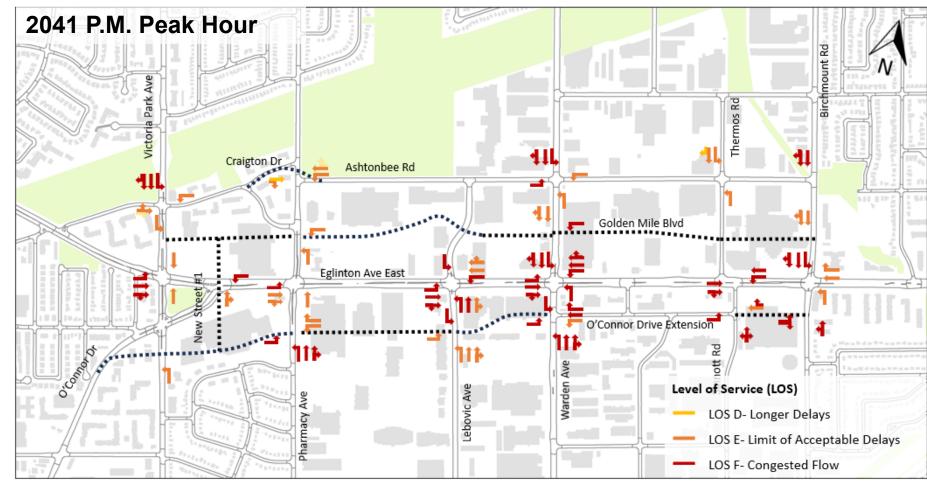
The future (2041) P.M. Peak traffic operations analysis or traffic modelling completed for the recommended street network illustrates below that overall traffic flows as expected for the PM Peak Hour.



Future Traffic Needs and Performance



The future (2041) traffic operations analysis results illustrate where delays are anticipated at intersections in the Golden Mile shown as Level of Service (LOS).



Level of Service (LOS) reflects the experience a road user can expect at an intersection. LOS ranges from A to F, where "A" represents a generally smooth travel through the intersection, whereas "F" signifies that delays can be expected.

Only travel movements with LOS E or F are shown in the graphic below, all other movements are anticipated to function at a level of D or higher.

In an urban setting like the City of Toronto, it is common to encounter LOS E or F at a busy intersection.



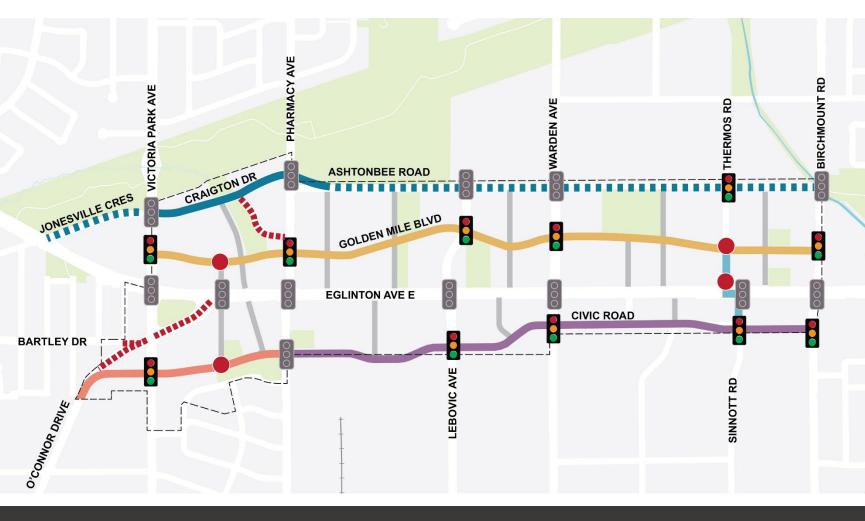
Recommended Street Network

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Detailed transportation analysis also informed intersection controls and confirmed the closure of specific street segments

Several existing roads are proposed to be closed:

- The portion of Craigton Drive between Rannock Street and Pharmacy
- Eglinton Square from Victoria Park Avenue to Eglinton Avenue
- The portion of O'Connor Drive from the realignment to Eglinton Square.
- Access to Bartley Drive would be closed from O'Connor Drive.
- New signals proposed at certain major intersections with significant traffic volumes
- New Stop signs
- Existing signals
- Existing streets proposed to be closed





Recommended Transit and Eco-mobility Network

The diagram below presents the transit, cycling and eco-mobility hub network proposed in the study area, which will provide people with choice on how to move around and help people connect to destinations, day-to-day activities and to the broader city sustainably

- New Cycle Tracks on EA streets
 - New Multi-use Trail on Jonesville Avenue
- Existing Bike Lanes on Eglinton Avenue
- Planned Bikeway Connection (Victoria Park Avenue Complete Street Feasibility Study)
- Planned Bikeway Connection on Non-EA streets
- ----- Existing Meadowvay multi-use trail
- ---- Planned multi-use trail
- Eglinton LRT
 - Transit priority improvements
 - Existing and Proposed Parks / Open Spaces
 - Golden Mile Secondary Plan Area
 - Ecomobility Hubs Large Scale (Transit Interchages at LRT stops)
 - Medium Scale (Autos, Bikes)
 - Small Scale (Bike Share)





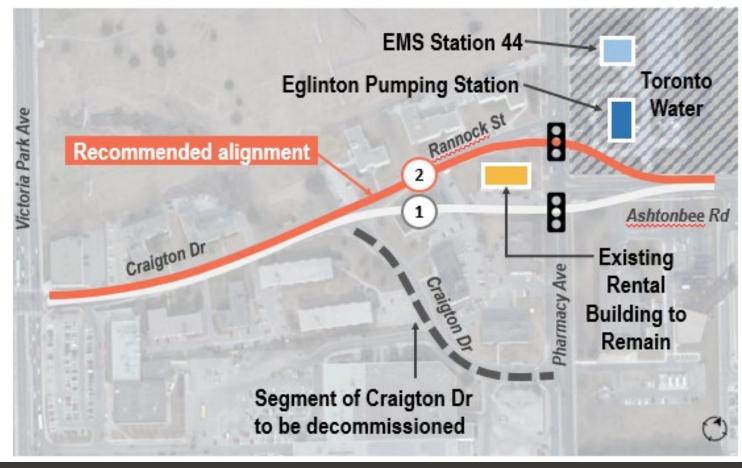


Craigton Drive Reconfiguration Additional Analysis at Preliminary and Detailed Design

The Craigton Drive Reconfiguration recommendation requires additional mitigation measures in order for the realignment to proceed to maintain and protect for future operations of the Eglinton Pumping Station

Transportation Services will complete more detailed analysis during preliminary and detailed design of the re-aligned street to:

- Reduce impacts to transmission mains and water valves that would be located under the roadway;
- Include safety measures to protect the Pumping Station building; and
- Relocate the EMS station within the area or reduce its footprint to free up land in the northwest quadrant of Toronto Water's site to ensure Toronto Water has sufficient contiguous land for the critical water infrastructure needs and long-term operational and maintenance requirements.



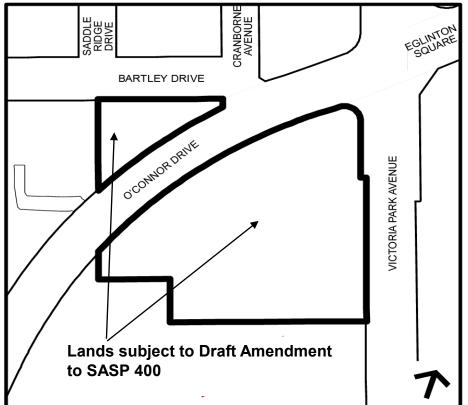


O'Connor Drive Reconfiguration West of Victoria Park Avenue

O'Connor Drive Reconfiguration has implications for the lands west of Victoria Park Avenue to be addressed through Official Plan policies

City staff are drafting amendments to Site Area Specific Policy (SASP) 400 in the Official Plan to provide direction on:

- Requiring consolidation of lands to deliver the O'Connor Drive Reconfiguration through development approval
- Built form, land use and public realm objectives
- Potential implementation mechanisms



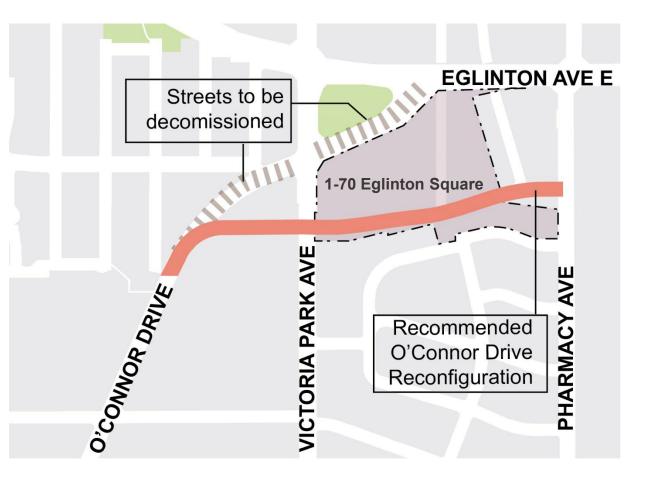


O'Connor Drive Reconfiguration East of Victoria Park Avenue

O'Connor Drive Reconfiguration has implications for the lands east of Victoria Park Avenue.

City staff are drafting amendments to the sitespecific Official Plan policies and Zoning Bylaw provisions for the lands at 1-70 Eglinton Square to:

- Update the alignment of the O'Connor Drive Reconfiguration between Victoria Park Avenue and Pharmacy Avenue
- Provide direction on built form and public realm adjustments to accommodate the recommended alignment for the O'Connor Drive Reconfiguration





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Q&A Period





Question or Comments? We want to hear from you!



Recommended Street Designs

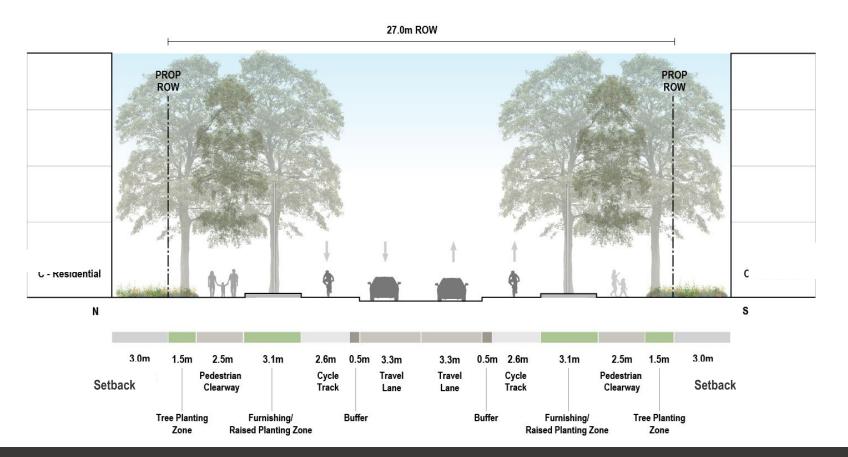


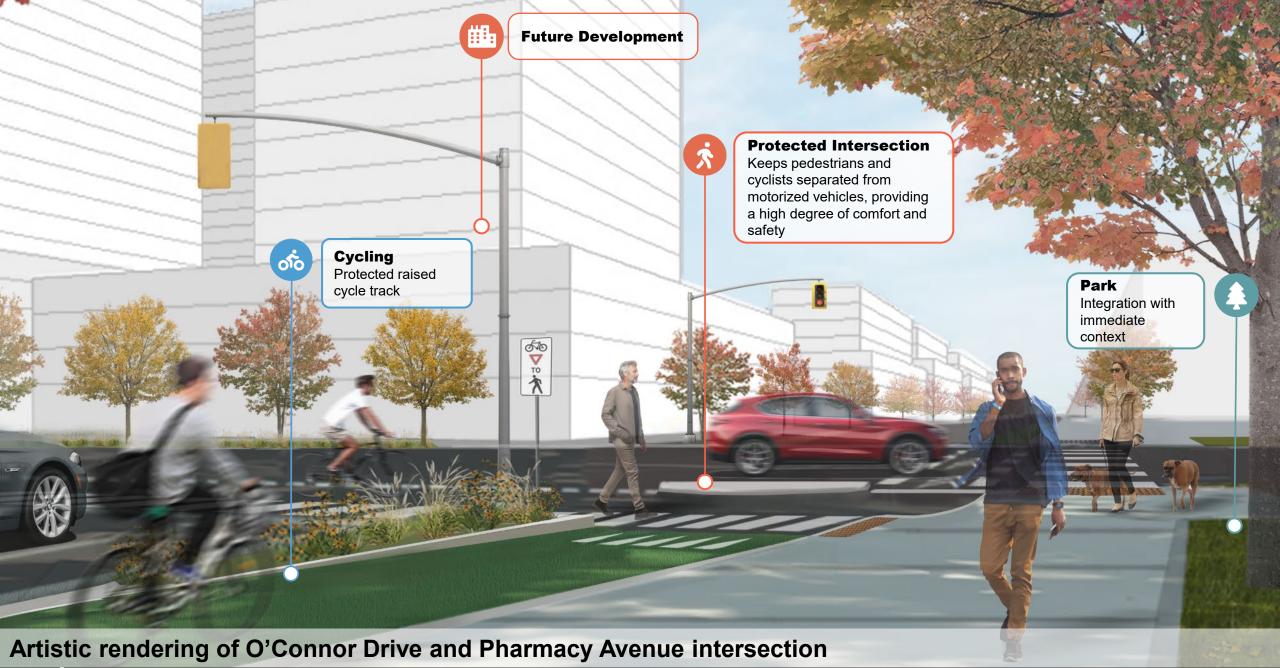
O'Connor Drive Reconfiguration and Extension Typical Mid-Block Design (27.0m)

Alternative C4 and Alternative D2 are the Recommended Street Designs for the O'Connor Drive Reconfiguration and Extension to support the existing and planned uses along the two corridors

The typical mid-block condition for the Recommended Street Design has:

- Two motor vehicle traffic lanes (one in each direction);
- Protected bikeways;
- 2.5m wide sidewalks on both sides of the street;
- Generous space allocated to two planting areas on both sides of the street; and
- Opportunities for some lay-by parking mid-block to support curbside activity.





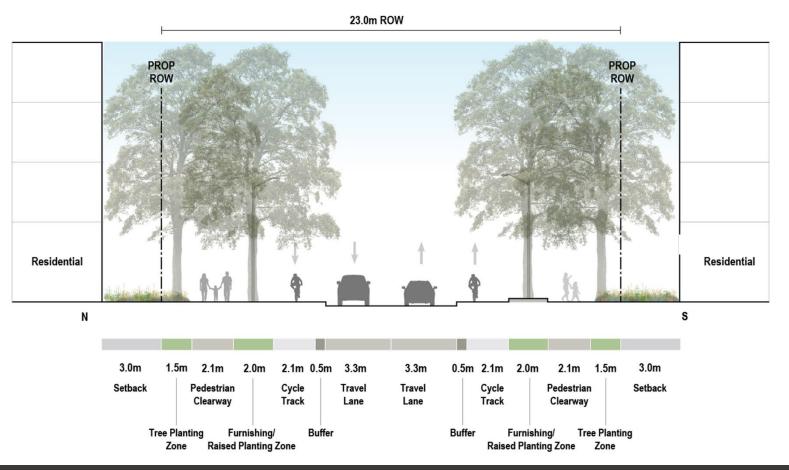
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Craigton Drive Reconfiguration Typical Mid-Block Design(23m ROW)

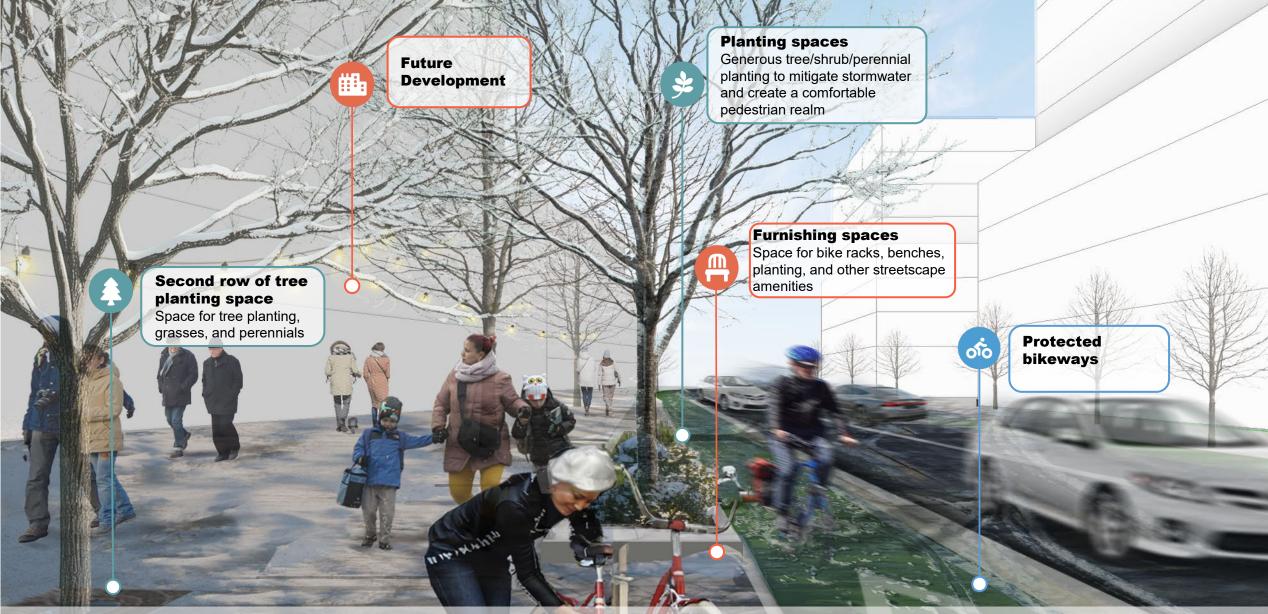
Alternative E2 is the Recommended Street Design for the Craigton Drive Reconfiguration to support the existing and planned uses along the corridor

The typical mid-block condition for the Recommended Street Design has:

- two motor vehicle traffic lanes (one in each direction);
- protected bikeways;
- **2.1m wide sidewalks** on both sides of the street; and
- Generous space allocated to two planting areas on both sides of the street;



Click here to see the Craigton Drive Reconfiguration Roll Plan



Artistic rendering of Craigton Drive, east of Victoria Park Avenue

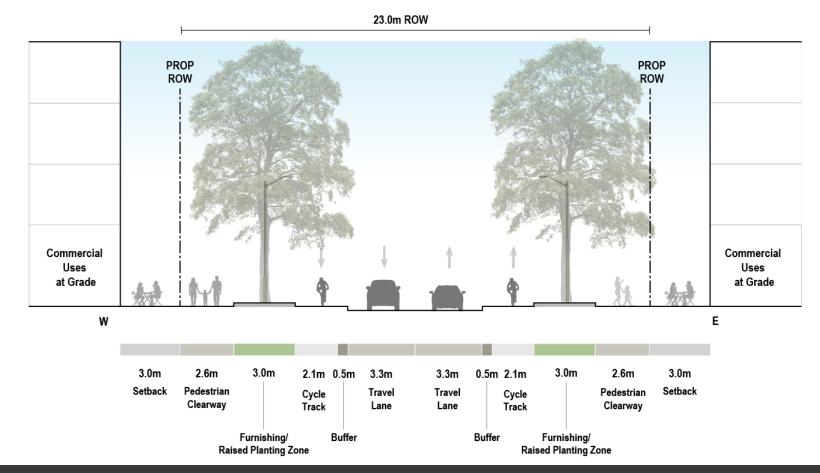


Thermos Road and Sinnott Road Typical Mid-Block Street Sections (23m ROW)

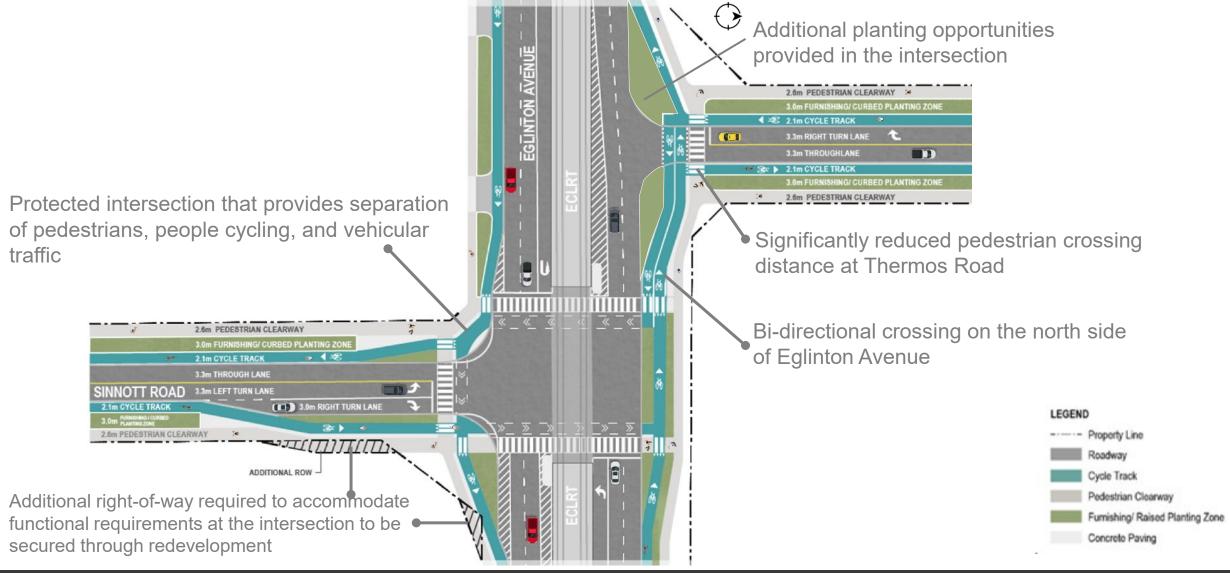
Alternative F1 is the Recommended Street Design for Thermos Road and Sinnott Road to support the existing and planned uses along the corridor

The typical mid-block condition for the Recommended Street Design has:

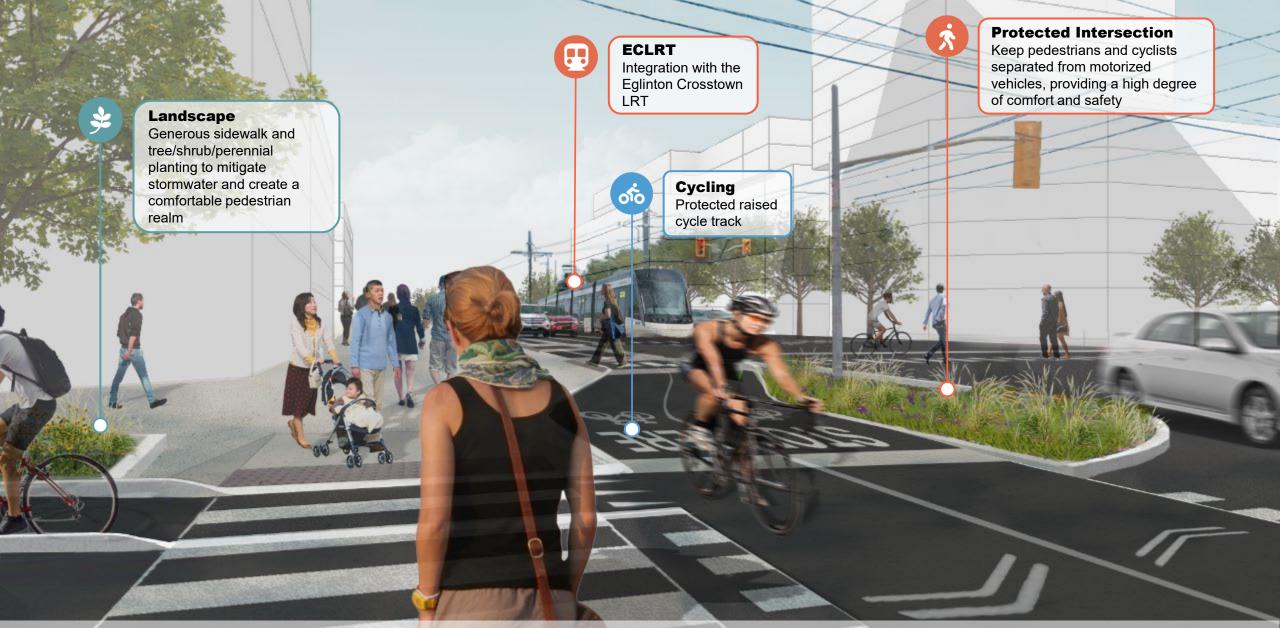
- two motor vehicle traffic lanes (one in each direction);
- protected bikeways;
- **2.6m wide sidewalks** on both sides of the street; and
- generous space allocated to planting and furnishing areas on both sides of the street;



Thermos Road and Sinnott Road







Artistic rendering of the Thermos Road and Eglinton Avenue intersection

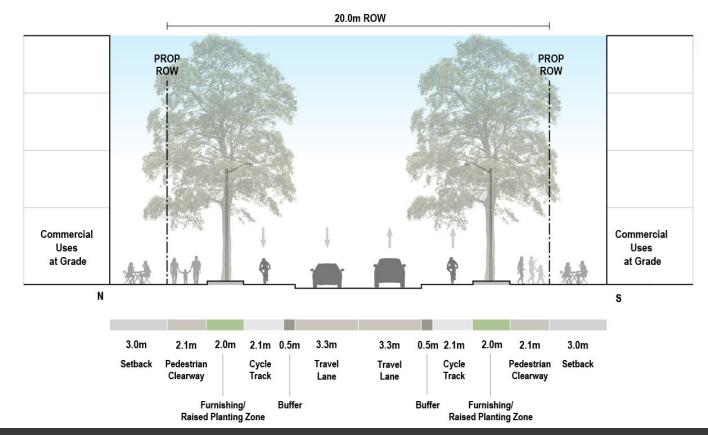


Golden Mile Boulevard Typical Mid-Block Street Sections (20m ROW)

Alternative B2 is the Recommended Street Design for Golden Mile Boulevard between Victoria Park Avenue and West Park to support the existing and planned uses along the corridor.

The typical mid-block condition for the Recommended Street Design has:

- two motor vehicle traffic lanes (one in each direction);
- protected bikeways;
- **2.1m wide sidewalks** on both sides of the street; and
- two planting areas on both sides of the street;



Victoria Park Avenue to West Park

Golden Mile Boulevard Typical Mid-Block Street Sections (27m ROW)

Alternative A2 is the Recommended Street Design for Golden Mile Boulevard between West Park and Birchmount Road to support the existing and planned uses along the corridor.

The typical mid-block condition for the Recommended Street Design has:

- two motor vehicle traffic lanes (one in each direction);
- protected bikeways;
- 2.5m wide sidewalks on both sides of the street;
- generous space allocated to two planting areas on both sides of the street; and
- opportunities for some lay-by parking mid-block to support curbside activity.

West Park to Birchmount Road







Artistic rendering of Golden Mile Boulevard and Hakimi Avenue intersection





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Future Residential Development Massing from Golden Mile Secondary Plan. Mid-rise buildings, 5-11 stories

Cycling Protected raised cycle track

Retail Use Setback Spill-out space for future retail buildings

Future Park Recreational space near retail and housing

Tree Planting Zone

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Artistic rendering of Golden Mile Boulevard, east of Warden Avenue

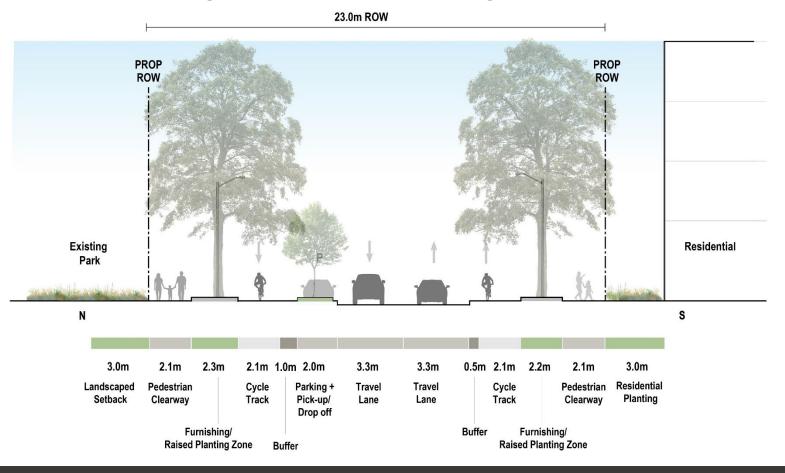


Ashtonbee Road Streetscape Improvements

Ashtonbee Road streetscape improvements are recommended when the street requires reconstruction within the existing street width to support the existing and planned uses along the corridor

The typical mid-block condition for the streetscape improvements has:

- two motor vehicle traffic lanes (one in each direction);
- protected bikeways;
- **2.5m wide sidewalks** on both sides of the street;
- planting and furnishing areas on both sides of the street; and
- opportunities for some lay-by parking mid-block to support curbside activity.



Jonesville Crescent Streetscape Improvements

Jonesville Crescent streetscape improvements are recommended when the street requires reconstruction within the existing street width to support the existing and planned uses along the corridor

The typical mid-block condition for the streetscape improvements has:

- two motor vehicle traffic lanes (one in each direction);
- 3.0m multi-use path on north side;
- improved landscape and furnishing zone to the south side of the street; and
- **existing sidewalk** on the south side of the street.





Q&A Period





Question or Comments? We want to hear from you!



Next Steps

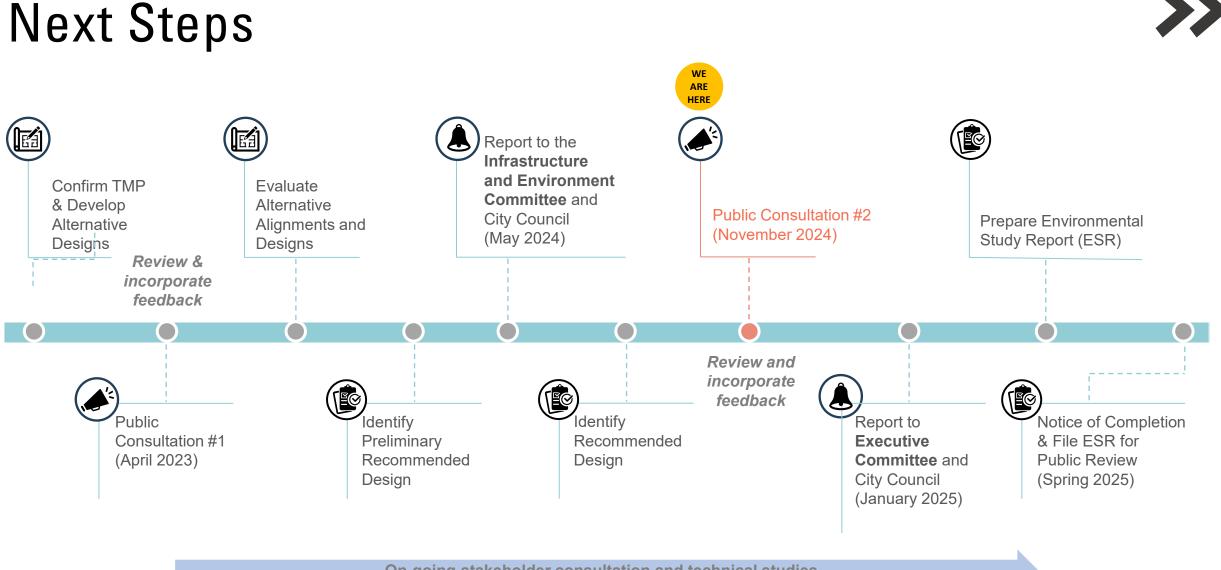


Survey Questions

- How well do you think the recommended alignments address the area's future transportation needs for all road users, including people driving, walking or rolling, and cycling? Why?
- What do you like about the recommended street design for different streets?
 Why?
- What would you change in the Recommended Street Designs? Why?



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On-going stakeholder consultation and technical studies



Share Your Feedback and Stay Connected



Learn more about the project, complete the survey and subscribe to receive project updates:

Toronto.ca/goldenmile

Comment Deadline: December 2, 2024

Questions? Contact:

Dominic Cobran (he/him) Senior Consultation Coordinator Public Consultation Unit City of Toronto Tel: 416-338-2986 Email: goldenmile@toronto.ca



Thank You

