

# Topham Park Basement Flooding Protection Program

**Date:** Thursday, November 21, 2024

**Meeting Type:** In-Person

**Start time:** 6:00 p.m. **End Time:** 8:00 p.m.

## Project Overview:

As part of the ongoing Basement Flooding Protection Program (BFPP) work in the O'Connor Drive area, the City of Toronto is preparing to begin the final phase of the project. The final phase involves modifying and upgrading storm and sanitary sewers on St. Clair Avenue East and various streets in the Topham Park neighbourhood.

## Meeting Objectives:

Share Information about the upcoming construction and hear from residents about their concerns.

## Meeting Overview:

The meeting was facilitated by Steven Ziegler, Senior Public Consultation Coordinator. A presentation was provided by Melissa Ho and Rachele Joseph, Engineering & Construction Services Division followed by an opportunity for participants to ask questions and hear responses from City staff.

## Questions & Comments:

The following questions and answers were provided during the meeting. All questions have been categorized by topic.

Topic	Questions & Comments	Project Team Answer
Topham Park Construction	How much larger will the new storm sewer and sanitary sewers be?	<i>Detailed information about sewer dimensions was not included in the meeting presentation.</i> <u>Post Meeting Note</u> - The new sewers vary from 300 millimeters (mm) to 1200mm diameter in size.
	How long will the water outages for homes be?	The length of water shut off will depend based on the work. Notices will be provided to residents 48hrs prior to any planned water outage.
	Will I have access to my driveway during construction?	There are times when access to your driveway will be temporarily unavailable so the project can be completed safely. In these instances, you will receive written notice beforehand.

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	How will information about construction be communicated to schools and senior's homes?	City staff will be communicating directly with them, making sure they are accommodated where possible.
	During phase 1 on St Clair Ave E, where will the work begin?	Work will begin at Westview Blvd and move east towards Squires Ave.
	The temporary bollards on Westview Blvd. cause turning issues for drivers and firetrucks. Can they be reviewed before they are made permanent?	City staff will review to ensure the design meets current curb radii guidelines.
	Who can residents raise concerns about construction equipment storage?	Residents can contact the Field Ambassador.
	Will this project include road work at St Clair and O'Connor Drive? The intersection just reopened.	No, the work on St Clair Avenue East will start east of the intersection, at Westview Blvd.
	During construction, will the streets remain open for vehicles?	<p>St. Clair Ave will remain open with at least one lane in each direction. Rolling closures will be used meaning the lane closures will be in one section at a time, rather than the entire stretch.</p> <p>For the work on the other phases, work will move from one street to another. There may be limited access to certain areas of street but local access will be permitted.</p> <p>Additional notices and updates closer to construction, will include details on the construction staging and traffic management.</p>
	What happens if we get a parking ticket when we move our vehicle due to construction?	If there are restrictions to driveway access you may park on other side streets, in locations where parking is permitted. You can put the construction notice in your dash, to help avoid tickets.
	The intersection of Gardens Cres and Westview Blvd is very unsafe. Can any additional safety improvements be made here?	This will be reviewed by City staff.

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	Who will be responsible for the maintenance of the rain gardens in the median of Valor Blvd?	Staff will follow up with Transportation Services.  <u>Post Meeting Note –</u> Transportation Services staff will be responsible for the maintenance of the rain gardens.
	Will there be one field ambassador for the whole project?	Yes, we will have the same field ambassador for all phases of the project.
	Why is the contractor not here talking with us?	They are not here because we have not hired a contractor yet. City staff are in the process of preparing a bid for contractors.
	When does bidding on the construction contract start and how many contractors usually bid?	Once the bid is out, it could be on the market between 3-6 weeks. Those are typical timelines. The Purchasing & Material Management Division handles the hiring of contractors.
	What is the project budget?	Staff cannot comment on the budget until the contract is awarded.
	Of the 67 basement flooding studies, is this the first that's under construction?	No, it is not. A number of other basement flooding studies have been completed already.
	The City should form a Construction Liaison Committee (CLC) to meet regularly to ensure voices are heard and mitigate problems.	Staff noted the suggestion.
	Can the City provide extra pedestrian protection near the schools?	Contractor's work hours will be limited when working in front of schools. Paid-duty officers will be deployed, as needed and as directed by the City or Contract Administrator
	During construction, how will they monitor and ensure vibrations are kept to a minimum?	Vibration monitoring devices can be installed on-site and can be moved as work progresses. The devices measure and record vibration levels.

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General Construction Comments	Comment and recommendation that police should have more presence in active construction zones, there is a lot of speeding through construction areas which is dangerous.	Comment noted
	Can the staging area and construction materials be located at the old gas station at O'Connor Drive and St Clair E.	City staff can review looking at using this private property as a storage location.
	What happened to the plans to add a bike lane on St Clair Ave E?	The City is not constructing bike lanes as part of this contract. Additional plans for bike lane construction could be part of a separate project.
	Can you hold the contractor accountable for leaving equipment in the roadway or closing lanes when there isn't work taking place?	The contract will include restrictions on when lane closures are allowed, prohibiting unnecessary closures on St. Clair Ave E when no active work is taking place.
	Are there penalty clauses in the contract for extending project schedules?	The Contractor's working days have been constrained to ensure the job is completed without delays. If they go beyond contract-specified days, liquidated damages will be imposed to cover the City's incurred costs.
	Are the by-laws for downpipes from buildings that require them to drain into lawns still in effect?	<u>Post Meeting Note -</u> Downpipe disconnection is mandatory except for those who have been granted an exception.
O'Connor Drive Improvements Project	During the O'Connor project there were no alternative TTC routes when roads were closed. There was poor communication on TTC routes and updates.	The TTC handles all communication and rerouting of busses. City staff have been in contact with the TTC about the upcoming construction and will remain in contact with TTC throughout the duration of the construction.
	Field Ambassadors were not always helpful. Residents were advised that their concern may be related to another project, without follow up.	There is a Field Ambassador hotline phone number and email address for residents to call or email. The contact information is listed on construction notice.

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<b>Topic</b>	<b>Questions &amp; Comments</b>	<b>Project Team Answer</b>
	The second left turn lane arrow at O'Connor and St. Clair has been removed, resulting in traffic congestion. Why was the turning arrow removed?	Staff will follow up with Transportation Services.  <u>Post Meeting Note –</u> Transportation Services is currently working with the Councillors Office on reinstating the turning arrow.
	Who will maintain the landscaping and trees on O'Connor Drive?	There are several approaches to the maintenance of planters in the City, depending on the location. Staff can follow up with Transportation Services to confirm.

**Total Participants: 34**

### **Project Team and Panelists:**

#### **Councillors Office**

Beaches-East York - Councillor Brad Bradford

#### **City of Toronto**

Rachele Joseph, Engineering & Construction Services

Melissa Ho, Engineering & Construction Services

Mika Raisanen, Engineering & Construction Services

David McCollum, Toronto Water

Steven Ziegler, Public Consultation Unit

Stephanie Gris Bringas, Public Consultation Unit