

KENNEDY **PUBLIC** **STATION** **REALM** **MASTER** **P L A N**

Fall 2024 Engagement Summary

Prepared by City Planning

City of Toronto

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Background

The City is developing the Kennedy Station Public Realm Master Plan to provide a public realm vision for the area that guides changes as future growth and development occur. The Study being undertaken by the City Planning division will include the analysis of existing constraints and opportunities related to the public realm, such as pedestrian and cycling connections, street elements, and transit stations.

The City conducted public engagement between September to December 2024. Public engagement was completed in-person and online to provide information and obtain feedback. This was achieved through:

- Pop-ups at:
 - Toronto Public Library - Kennedy Eglinton branch
 - Kennedy TTC Station
- Open house at the Mid-Scarborough Hub - hosted by the Parks & Recreation division
- Youth workshops at Winston Churchill Collegiate Institute and St. Joan of Arc Catholic Academy (Note: City staff only provided information at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Academy and did not collect data)
- Senior's drop-in at Don Montgomery Community Centre
- Social Pinpoint survey available online from August 30 to December 15, 2024

Some of the questions asked by City staff via the online Social Pinpoint and in-person include but are not limited to:

- What challenges do you experience cycling, walking, driving, or taking transit in this area?
- How can this area become more cycling, walking, or transit friendly?
- Are there access points or connections that can be improved?
- What changes/improvements might encourage you to walk, cycle or take transit?
- What challenges do you experience using open spaces and streets in this area?
- What makes this open space comfortable/uncomfortable to use (e.g., windy, shady/dark, lacks seating etc.)?
- How can these open spaces or streets be improved?

Approximately 374 people were engaged in-person, with 658 people reached online and 131 comments received through Social Pinpoint.

Engagement Summary

Below is a high-level summary of the feedback received through public engagement. Please note that some feedback is relevant to various thematic headings, though is organized under the theme most applicable.

Safety, Accessibility & Comfort

- It can be a hostile environment for those not using vehicles.
- The area is dirty and not adequately maintained.
- Some streets, the Hydro Corridor, and other green spaces are poorly lit and/or not lit at all. This reduces sense of safety and year-round use.
- A noise barrier is needed between the rail line and adjacent houses.
- Traffic calming is needed. This includes mechanisms that slow down drivers and give pedestrians the right-of-way to cross.
 - Traffic calming is also needed on Midland Ave between Eglinton Ave E and St. Clair Ave.
- A traffic light is needed at the intersection of Kennedy Ave and Transway Crescent to assist all modes of travel with safely turning into the station.
- Walking along the street under the Eglinton Ave E overpass can be dangerous. Need to improve sightlines between pedestrians and vehicles.
- Include a barrier that separates vehicles and pedestrians/cyclists on the Eglinton Ave E overpass. The current conditions are dangerous.
- The bus stop platforms and underground TTC tunnel need to be made more accessible.
- Ramps need to be more stable and graded to accessibility standards to better accommodate mobility devices.
- Multi-modal trails can be dangerous. Dedicated lanes must be provided within this network to prevent injuries and accidents.
- Audio-visual signals are missing at Kennedy Rd and Eglinton Ave, making navigation difficult.

Greenery & Green Space

- There is currently limited greenery. The area needs more trees, shrubs, flowers, planters.
- Consider adding two rows of trees along sidewalks and increasing the tree canopy along Eglinton Ave E to enhance comfort, shade, and overall aesthetics.
- Need more shaded areas with seating.

- Need more parkland and green infrastructure.
- Create a park with Indigenous spaces for circle gatherings and sacred fires.
 - Consider making Winter Ave a dead-end street for cars, and connecting the strip of lands between Falmouth Ave and Huntington Ave for a linear park.

Placemaking

- This area should be a destination, rather than a place people travel through.
- Need more plazas and community gathering spaces for people to relax and socialize.
- The area lacks the vibrant character and amenities needed to support its community, beyond commuting purposes.
- Establish a character for the area that reflects its diversity.
- Need more art murals at Kennedy Station and surrounding areas, such as plazas and community spaces.
 - Consider a mural that is unique to the Kennedy Area. For example, “the eye” was a big part of the area’s character.
- It would be nice to see better shops along the streets. The current stores look run-down.

Pedestrian & Cycling

- Not a pleasant walking experience. Sidewalks can be unsafe, especially in the winter and when it floods.
- Need wider sidewalks and a natural barrier between the sidewalks and vehicles.
- Need a staircase for pedestrians to exit the Eglinton Ave E overpass closer to the GO Station pick up and drop off area.
- Improve cycling access to Kennedy Station (i.e. bike lane on Transway Cres).
- There is currently no option to cycle at-grade between the Kennedy GO and TTC Stations.
- Add bike lanes on Eglinton Ave E, as well as Midland Ave between Eglinton Ave E and St. Clair Ave.
- Convert the Scarborough Rapid Transit (SRT) track to a cycle or multi-use path.
- Need more bicycle storage.

Vehicles

- The area is congested with car traffic associated with passenger drop-off.
- Parking is needed for those driving to the station and City facilities.
- Reduce lanes for driving and promote public/active transportation.

- Remove car centric businesses (e.g. car dealers and body shops) to accommodate more people-focused infrastructure. This is a must in this neighbourhood as the current businesses do not align with the goals of complete streets.

Connections

- Direct and clear paths from the neighbourhoods to the transit station is needed. People often resort to using alleys and laneways.
- Consider adding more direct connections for those biking to Kennedy TTC and GO Stations, as well as the community centre.
- Continue the southern portion of the Hydro Corridor Trail to connect to Kennedy Station, as well as add a connection to the retail plaza to the east (e.g. such as incorporating a walkway or stairs).
- It would be helpful to have a proper pedestrian walkway under the Eglinton Ave E overpass to allow people to cross north-south to get to and from the transit stations.

Wayfinding

- Improve wayfinding (e.g. signage) at-grade and belowground to better direct passengers to the TTC and GO Stations and differentiate the two. This includes incorporating wayfinding at major intersections such as Kennedy & Eglinton and Midland & Eglinton Ave E.
- Pathways can be better designated and designed for those trying to safely access transit stations by foot, bicycle, or mobility device.
- Wayfinding for those using the bicycle lanes is currently not clear and could be improved.
- The TTC Station is very disconnected from the GO Station

Amenities

- Add more benches, tables, garbage receptacles and other street furniture along the streets and near the stations.
- The community centre lands could be better utilized by including a playground, splash pad, tennis court, etc.
- The area lacks shelter from harsh weather conditions and cars driving by pedestrian/bicycle paths. Provide covered walkways and/or natural barriers along areas with high foot traffic.

Public Transit

- Modernize the TTC station, improve maintenance, and beautify the station entrances.
- Need an operational elevator.