

# Rowanwood Transmission Watermain Construction

**Public Information Meeting**  
**April 9, 2026**

# 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.



**This meeting is being recorded for purposes of creating a meeting summary.**

# Introductions

## **Engineering & Construction Services**

- Jennifer Graham Harkness, Chief Engineer & Executive Director
- Mika Raisanen, Director, Linear Underground Infrastructure
- Kuldip Tamberh, Manager (A), Trunk Sewers & Transmission Mains

## **Transportation Services**

- Kathryn Deschamps – Senior Project Manager, Construction Coordination and Traffic Mitigation

## **Public Consultation Unit**

- Steven Ziegler, Senior Consultation Coordinator

## **EXP – Consultant**

- Chris Sandink, Project Manager
- Amna Zaidi, Field Ambassador

# Opening Remarks

**Councillor Dianne Saxe**  
**City of Toronto, Ward 11**  
**University-Rosedale**



# Agenda

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| <b>6:30 pm</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introduction</li></ul>                 |
| <b>6:35 pm</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Webex Instructions</li></ul>           |
| <b>6:40 pm</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Presentation</li></ul>                 |
| <b>7:10 pm</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Question &amp; Answer Period</li></ul> |
| <b>8:30 pm</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Meeting ends</li></ul>                 |

# 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.


# Participating Online

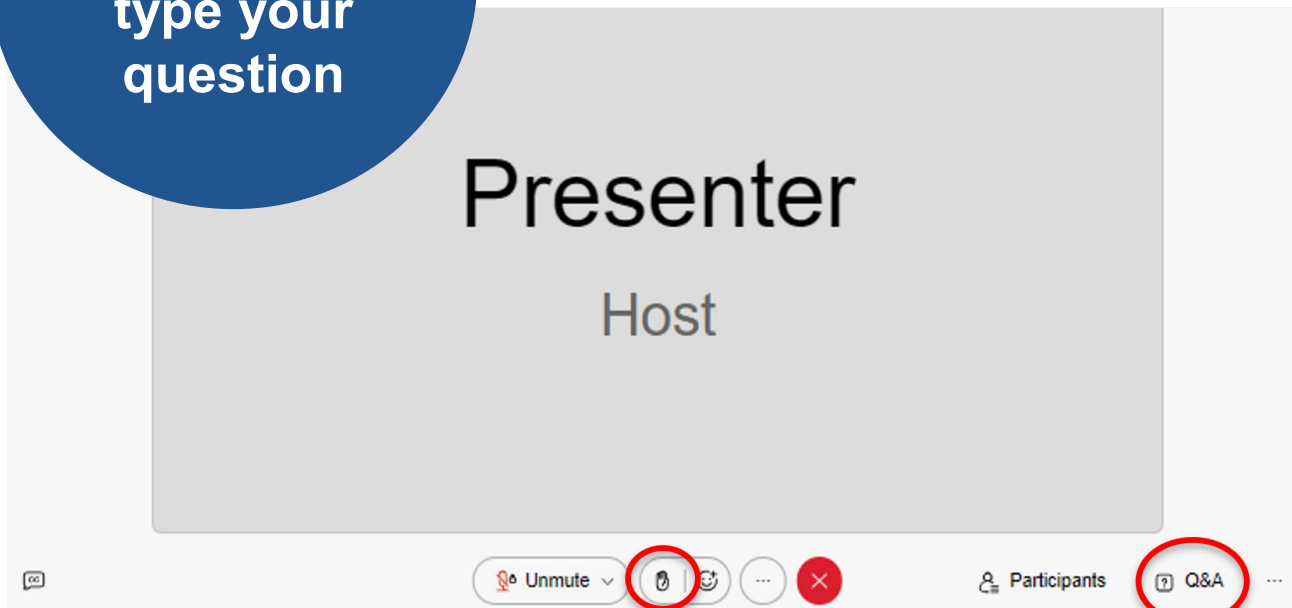
Raise your hand or type your question





## Via the internet browser

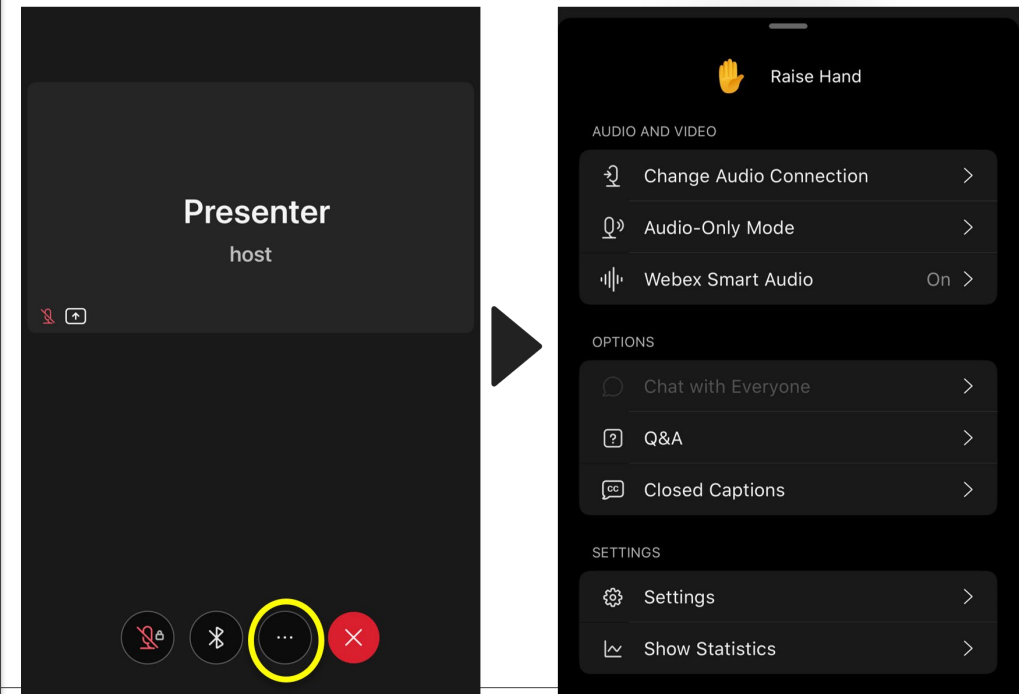
Raise hand by clicking 

Click the  "Q&A" button at the bottom right of the screen



## Via smartphones

Click the  button at the bottom of the screen. Then click  or "Q&A" button.



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

# Webex Audio Trouble?

## Webex can phone you

1. Click the arrow beside your mute button
2. Click “Switch audio”
3. Use “Call me” function
  - Enter your phone #

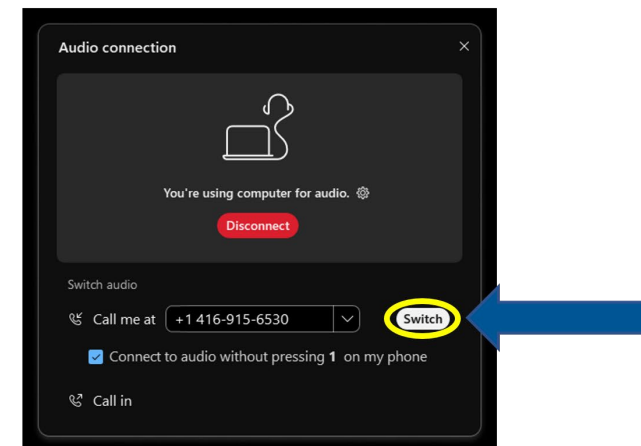
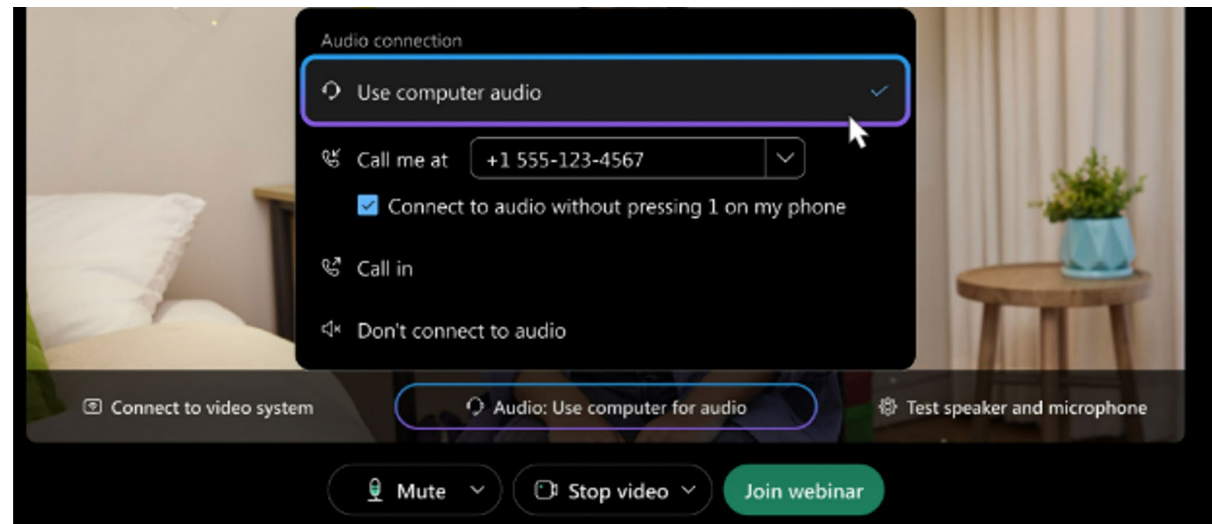
OR

## You can dial into the meeting

Dial: 416-915-6530

Access Code: 2337 817 9314

Attendee ID: 769 269 66

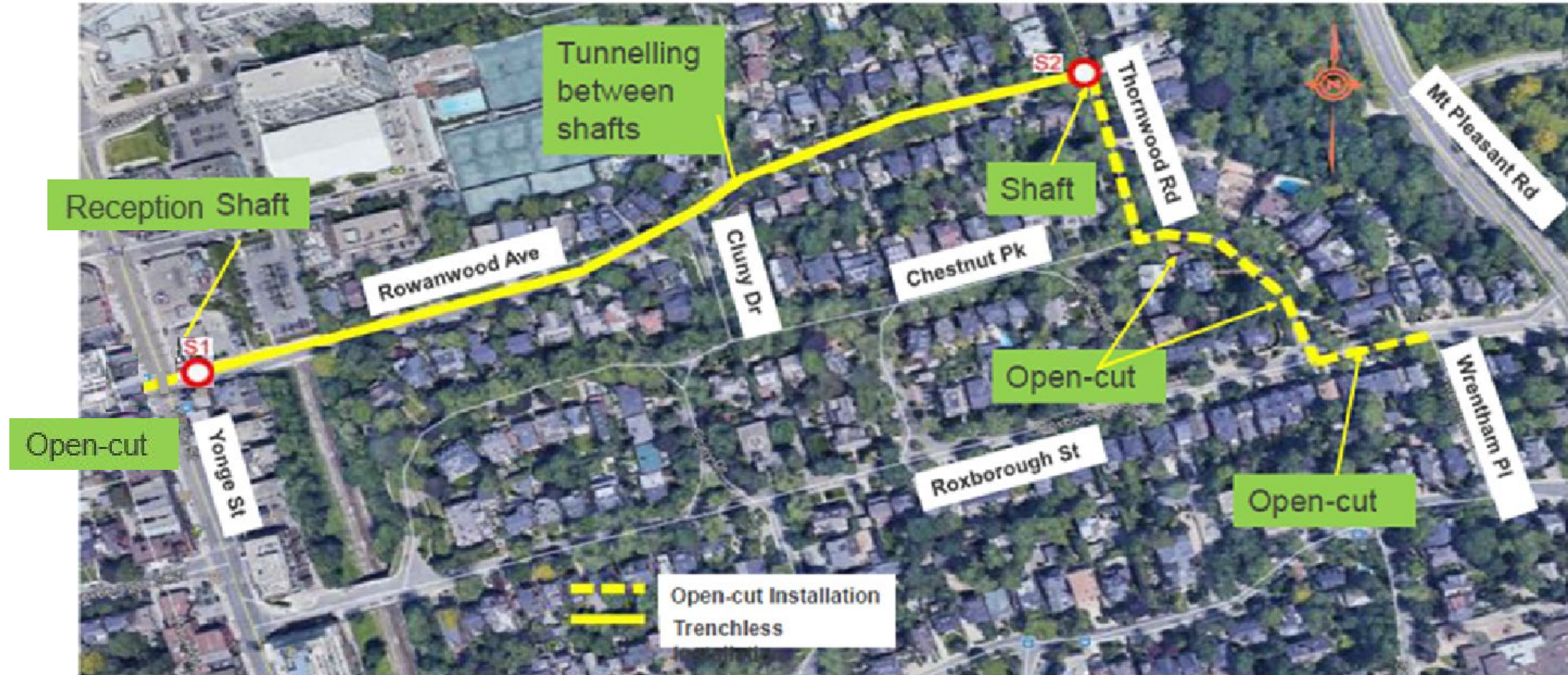


# Rowanwood Transmission Watermain Construction

# Overview

- The City of Toronto is replacing the 100-year-old transmission watermain.
- Transmission watermains supply water from the treatment plants to local watermains.
- The current 900 mm watermain is cast iron and has reached the end of its service life. Replacement reduces the risk of future breaks, which could compromise the water supply to a large area of the city.
- A larger 1200 mm pipe provides a reliable supply of water to the area and meets future water supply demands.
- The new transmission watermain will be constructed through two different methods:
  - Tunneling: A microtunnel boring machine will dig a tunnel under Rowanwood Avenue from Thornwood Avenue to Yonge Street.
  - Open-cut: Crews will dig trenches and install pipes on Thornwood Avenue, Chestnut Park, Roxborough Avenue and Wrentham Place.

# Project Area



# Pause in Construction

- The contract originally included a tunneling reception shaft on Macpherson Avenue, west of Yonge Street.
- In May 2025, during work at the Macpherson Avenue shaft site, an underground steel beam and column structure were discovered. Further investigation revealed that the beams extended deep underground (greater than 8 metres).
- Removing these steel beams and columns to proceed with construction at this location would have required extensive excavation and a significant expansion of the work zone. It would also result in further property impacts and community disruption, including extended construction time, removal of 47 on-street parking spaces and a prolonged full road closure of Macpherson Avenue at Yonge Street.
- To avoid these impacts to residents, the City's project team and the contractor decided to pause work to explore the relocation of the reception shaft site.

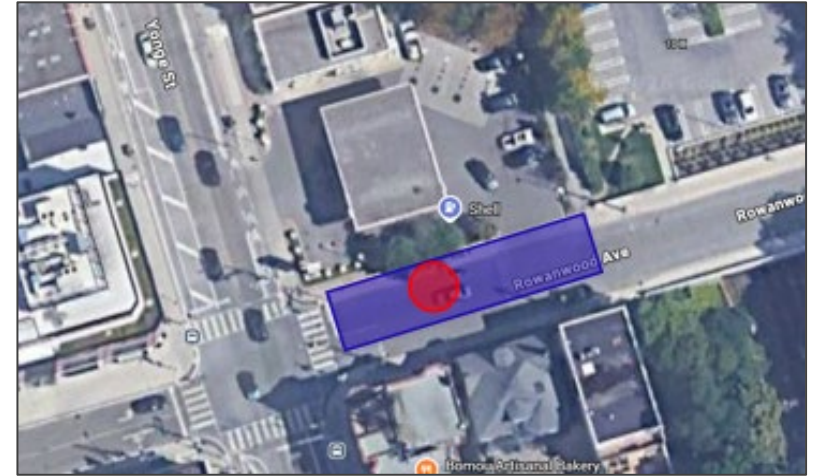
# Reception Shaft Evaluation

The City's consultant identified and reviewed four potential sites for the reception shaft:

1. East of Yonge Street on Rowanwood Avenue
  2. West of Yonge Street on Macpherson Avenue, west of the previous reception shaft location
  3. Macpherson Avenue at Molson Street
  4. Macpherson Avenue at Avenue Road
- The review considered impacts to parking and vehicle access, technical feasibility, underground conflicts and constraints as well as cost.
  - Site 1, Rowanwood Avenue east of Yonge Street, was selected because it presents the fewest technical conflicts, does not significantly increase project costs, and does not impact limited on-street permit parking.
  - The design and location of the original launch shaft at Thornwood Road and Rowanwood Avenue and the open-cut watermain replacement remain unchanged.

# Site 1: East of Yonge

- Extensive underground investigations show no major conflicts
- No additional impacts to on-street permit parking
- No tree removals required
- Most cost-effective alternative
- Short-term underground utility relocation work needed:
  - Third party utility relocation (Rogers, Enbridge)
  - Watermain bypass required around the shaft area
- Rowanwood Avenue entrance to gas station will be closed; Yonge Street entrance will remain open.
- Requires open-cut construction across Yonge Street to connect the existing watermain west of Yonge Street with the new (tunneled) watermain.
- Requires full closure of Rowanwood Avenue to vehicles for approximately 12 months. Sidewalks will be maintained.



# Site 2: Macpherson Avenue (west of previous shaft location)

- Major underground conflicts west of Yonge Street present significant challenges and costs for shaft construction:
  - Underground piles detected using Multi-Channel Ground Penetrating Radar
  - Large size storm trunk sewer and chamber
- Two mature trees would need to be removed from the north side of the street.
- Full road closure would be required, and traffic on Macpherson Avenue would need to be converted from two-way to one-way.
- To allow for two-way traffic, 47 on-street permit parking spaces would need to be removed.



# Site 3: Macpherson Ave at Molson Street

- Full closure of the Macpherson Avenue and Molson Street intersection
- Macpherson Avenue east and west of Molson Street would need to be converted to two-way traffic.
- On-street permit parking spaces on Macpherson Avenue would need to be removed east of Avenue Road and west of Yonge Street.
- Longer distance between the launch shaft at Thornwood Avenue could result in higher jacking loads when the new pipe infrastructure is installed.
- Longer tunneling length presents an increased risk of tunnel boring machine failure and potential need for an emergency shaft.



# Site 4: Macpherson Ave and Avenue Road

- Impact to Jay Macpherson Green; would require removal of mature trees
- Estimated \$30M additional cost to replace an extra 570 metres of transmission watermain west of Yonge Street.
- The existing pipe west of Yonge Street is in a good state of repair and does not require replacement.
- Long distance between the launch shaft at Thornwood Avenue (1 km) could result in higher jacking loads when the new pipe infrastructure is installed.
- Increased risk of tunnel boring machine failure and potential need for an emergency shaft with longer tunneling length.



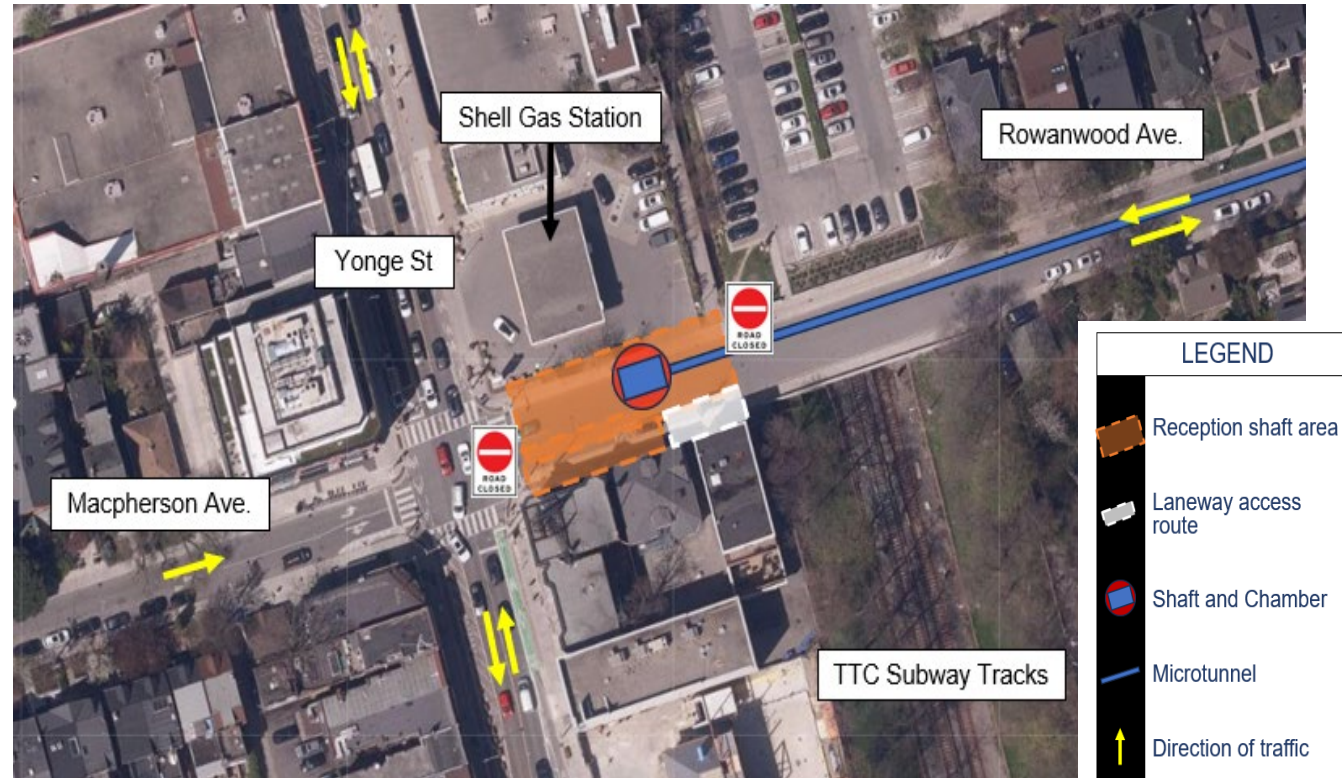


# Rowanwood Avenue Utility Relocation

- This week, crews will be on site to prepare for watermain bypass work on Rowanwood Avenue east of Yonge Street.
- **Rowanwood Avenue at Yonge Street will be fully closed to vehicles.** The road is expected to remain closed until construction is complete in April 2027.
- The bypass will temporarily route the watermain around the reception shaft location to maintain water supply during construction.
- The bypass must be completed before mid-May, ahead of increased seasonal water usage.
- Following the bypass work, other underground utilities will be relocated to create space for the reception shaft.
- The City is working with the contractor to identify opportunities for partial reopening of the road during future phases of construction.

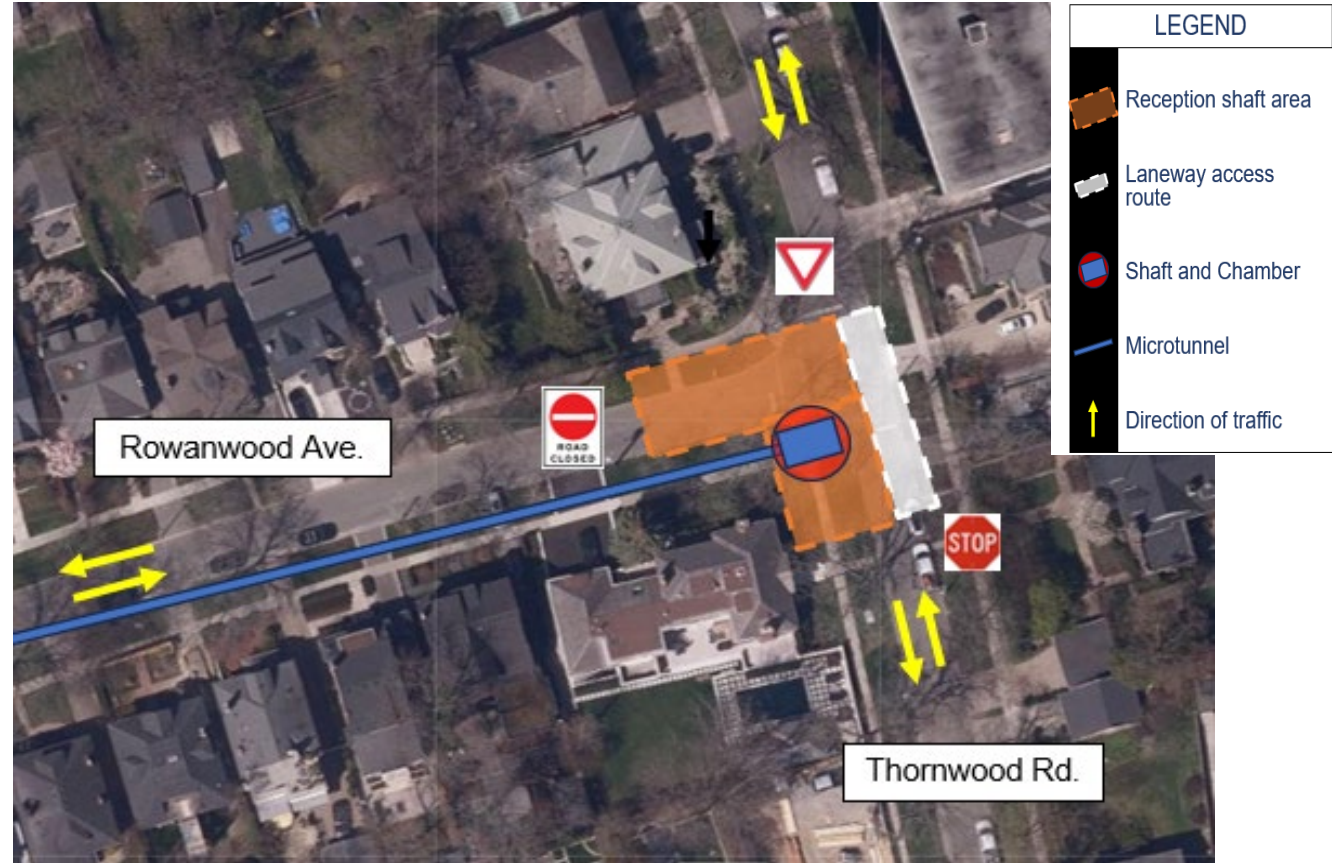
# Rowanwood Avenue Reception Shaft

- Work to construct the shaft is planned to begin in July 2026, after utility relocation is complete.
- Shaft construction is expected to take two months.
- The contractor will excavate a 30-metre deep, 5x6 metre-wide hole for the shaft, reinforced with piles.
- Construction vehicles will need to enter and exit the work area from Yonge Street and from Rowanwood Avenue to remove excavated soil and bring materials.



# Thornwood Launch Shaft

- Starting in May 2026, Rowanwood Avenue at Thornwood Road will be fully closed.
- Thornwood Road at Rowanwood Avenue will be reduced to a single lane (one direction).
- Work to construct the shaft is planned to begin in May 2026 and will take approximately 4 months.
- The contractor will excavate a 15-metre deep, 7 metre diameter hole and construct a poured concrete shaft.
- Significant space for equipment and material laydown is required.

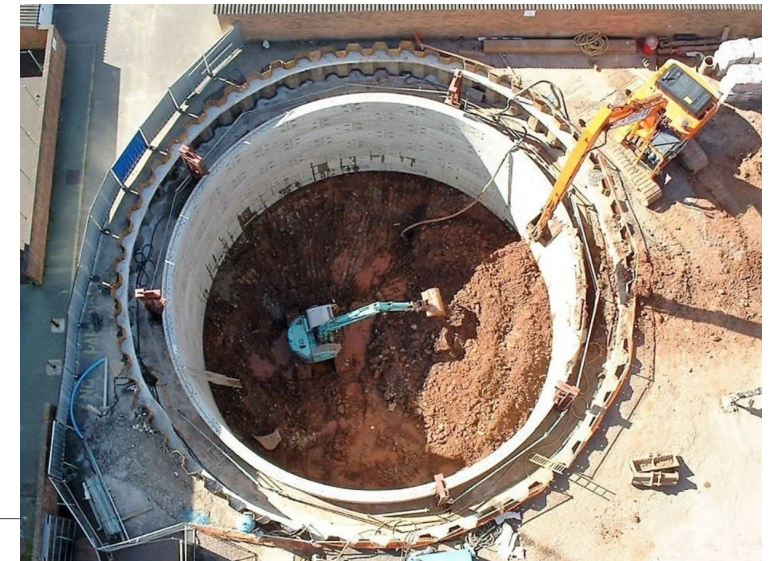


# Thornwood Launch Shaft

- Tunneling work and watermain installation is planned to begin in August 2026 and continue to December 2026.
- During work hours, generators will power machines on the work site.
- Once the watermain is installed, crews will construct a chamber around the shaft to allow future access to the watermain.
- From January to April 2027, crews will construct the chamber.
- From May 2027 to October 2027 the shaft work area will be required for storage of materials.



Support equipment at a tunneling site



Construction of a poured concrete shaft

# Truck Movements

- Trucks will bring materials to site, including pipes and concrete, and will remove excavated materials during shaft construction and tunneling.
- Truck movement will be limited to normal work hours, Monday to Friday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., unless otherwise communicated.
- Truck traffic volumes will vary depending on construction activities.
- Shaft construction (excavation) and tunneling work will involve a consistent flow of trucks during work hours.
- Traffic control people will be present to assist with truck movements and ensure safety.

# Truck Movements: Shaft Construction

- During shaft construction, empty trucks will arrive to remove excavated soil.
- Other trucks will bring concrete to construct the vertical shaft as excavation continues.
- 2-3 trucks/hr are expected during active excavation, for approximately 12 weeks.
- Trucks will enter from Yonge Street at Rowanwood Avenue or from Mount Pleasant Road (via Thornwood Road).
- Trucks will exit at Rowanwood Avenue and Yonge Street.



# Tunneling & Pipe Installation

- Trucks will continue to use the same routes during tunneling work and pipe installation.
- Empty trucks will arrive to remove excavated material from the launch shaft at Rowanwood Avenue and Thornwood Road.
- As the tunneling progresses, trucks will deliver sections of pipe to the launch shaft.
- During tunneling and pipe installation, generators will power equipment at the launch shaft site.
- A crane will lower pre-cast sections of pipe into the shaft, which are installed into the excavated tunnel by jacking.



Image of microtunneling activities at a launch site

# Safety Measures

- Barriers and locked gates will be used around shaft work areas to ensure safety and prevent public access.
- Removal of on-street parking provide clearer sightlines and safe movement of large construction vehicles.
- Traffic control people will be used for truck movements into and out of the shaft work sites and when backing up.
- At minimum, one sidewalk will be open at all times.

# Temporary Parking Impacts

- Starting in May 2026, until December 2026, on-street parking will be removed from streets with truck routes to allow for safe, two-way movement of large vehicles and to ensure clear sight lines for drivers.
- On-street parking will be prohibited Monday 12 a.m. through Friday 7 p.m. on
  - Pricefield Road
  - Rowanwood Avenue
  - Cluny Drive (west)
  - Thornwood Road
  - A small section at the east end of Chestnut Park
- Short term loading/unloading of passengers, goods or equipment will be permitted, provided it does not conflict with construction activities.
- Alternative parking for on-street permit holders will be provided on Mathersfield Drive and Chestnut Park.
- Short term on-street parking will be maintained on Roxborough Street and Chestnut Park.
- Work crews are not permitted to park personal vehicles on the local streets in the project area.

# Yonge Street Watermain Replacement

Location of shaft on Rowanwood Avenue east of Yonge Street will require open-cut watermain replacement to connect the tunneled portion of the transmission watermain to the existing watermain west of Yonge Street.

- Work is planned for January 2027.
- The project team is evaluating acceleration of the work through extended work hours. 24-hour construction would limit the overall duration of work and impacts to approximately two weeks, compared to four weeks with normal work hours (Monday to Friday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.)
- One traffic lane will be maintained in each direction on Yonge Street; shared lanes for bicycles with appropriate signage
- Paid Duty Officers or Traffic Agents would be present
- Work will be coordinated with TTC to avoid conflicts with planned track work/bus replacement service.
- Extensive communications strategy to notify the local and broader area of traffic restrictions.

# Open-Cut Watermain Replacement

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Plans for open-cut watermain replacement and anticipated impacts remain unchanged from the 2025 construction plans.

- The contractor will use an open-cut method to replace the transmission watermain on sections of Thornwood Road, Chestnut Park, Roxborough Street and Wrentham Place.
- Tunneling is not possible on these streets because of the curve of the road. A tunnel boring machine is unable to excavate an angled path.
- The contractor will excavate a trench to install the new watermain, working street-by-street.
- On-street parking will be impacted on streets with active construction.
- Driveway access will be maintained for residents of the street. If there are temporary impacts to driveway access, 48-hour notice will be provided.

# Tree Removal & Replacement

- Ten City-owned trees will need to be removed to allow the open-cut work to proceed safely:
  - Eight trees on Chestnut Park
  - Two trees on Roxborough Street
- The City will replant three trees for every tree impacted. New trees will be planted on streets where there is sufficient space in the boulevard, in parks and ravine areas.
- Notices will be hand-delivered to residents of properties immediately adjacent to the trees a minimum of 30 days in advance of tree removal and again 48 hours before removal.
- Tree removals related to construction are reviewed by Urban Forestry and require approval. Trees within the construction zone that will not be removed are protected.

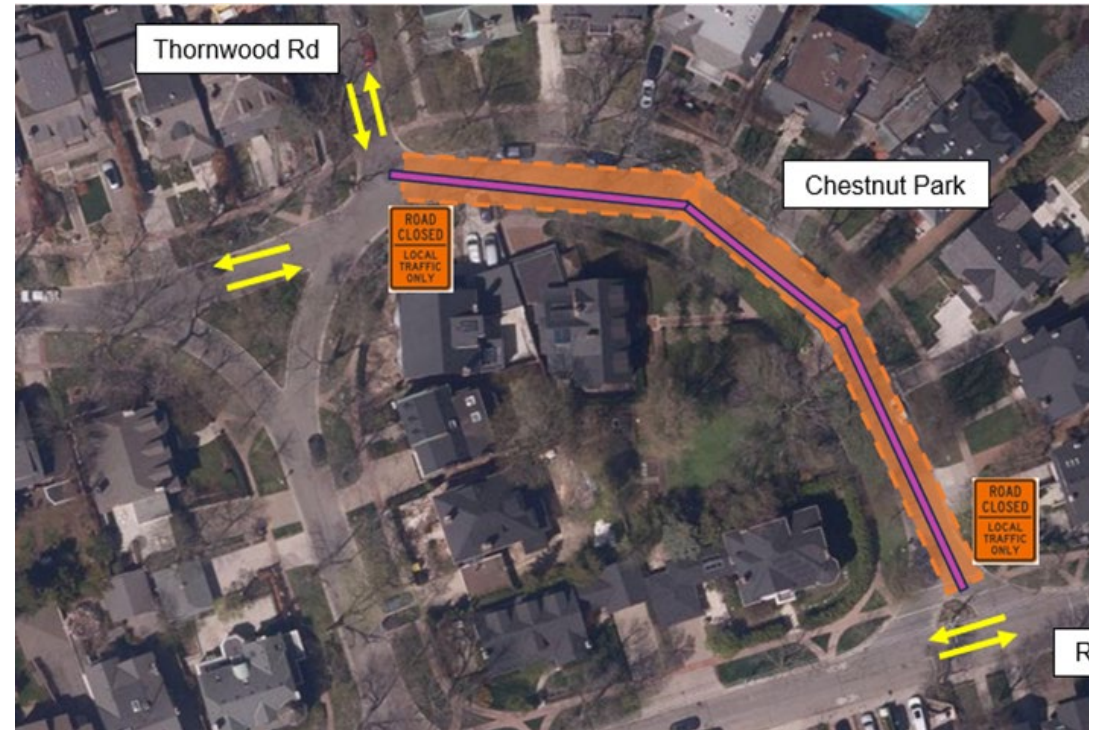
# Watermain Replacement: Thornwood Road

- Work is planned to begin in April 2027 for a duration of approximately two months.
- The road will be open to local traffic only.
- Driveway access will be maintained. If there are temporary impacts to driveway access, 48-hour notice will be provided.
- There will be no on-street parking on Thornwood Road during this phase of work.



# Watermain Replacement: Chestnut Park

- Work is planned to begin June 2027 for a duration of approximately two months
- Driveway access will be maintained. If there are temporary impacts to driveway access, 48-hour notice will be provided.
- Removal of eight trees is required to complete the work.



# Watermain Replacement: Roxborough Street

- Work is planned to begin August 2027 for a duration of approximately one week.
- A single lane for vehicles will be maintained.



# Watermain Replacement: Roxborough Street

- Work is planned to begin August 2027 for a duration of approximately one month.
- Two-way travel will be maintained.



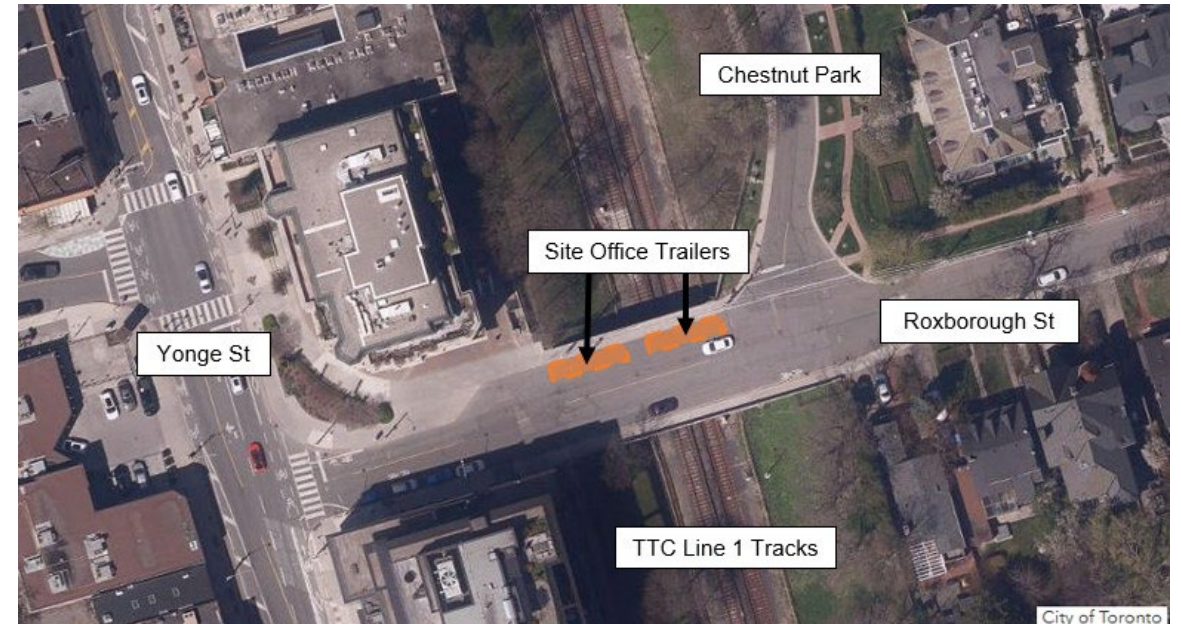
# Watermain Replacement: Wrentham Place

- Work is planned to begin September 2027 for a duration of approximately one month.
- A portion of the road will be fully closed for the duration of work.



# Site Office Trailers

- The site trailer will no longer be located on Cluny Drive. Two-way traffic will be maintained.
- Site office trailers will be located on Roxborough Street East.



# Noise, Vibration & Site Maintenance

- Noise silencers will dampen noise from generators.
  - A noise mitigation plan is being developed with the contractor to find ways to further reduce noise levels during the tunneling work.
  - Noise and vibration will be monitored throughout construction using monitoring devices at several locations.
  - While vibrations can certainly be felt, human perception of vibration occurs at levels far below what causes structural damage.
  - Pre-condition surveys have been undertaken by a third party for properties adjacent to the work areas that have agreed to inspections.
  - The contractor is required to keep the surrounding areas clean and implement mud and dust mitigation measures, including mechanical sweeping.
  - Work will take place from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday to Friday, with work after hours and on weekends as required.
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# Notification & Engagement

- Construction Update notices will be distributed ahead of key construction milestones and information will be posted on the project web page.
- Regular email updates will be issued to keep residents informed of upcoming work and potential impacts.
- The Field Ambassador will be available to answer questions and respond to concerns.
  - Meet with residents to discuss concerns and reduce construction disruptions (i.e., coordinate access for home renovations and landscapers)
- Open-cut excavation may affect privately-owned items within the City right-of-way, such as fencing, pavers, and landscaping.
  - Before work begins, property owners will receive direct notification outlining which items will be affected, timelines for removal and plans for restoration.

# Key Contacts



If you have any questions regarding construction, please contact:

**Amna Zaidi- EXP Services Inc.**

Field Ambassador

Telephone: 437-755-3286

Email: [amna.zaidi@exp.com](mailto:amna.zaidi@exp.com)

If you have any questions regarding the design,  
please contact:

**Steven Ziegler – City of Toronto**

Senior Coordinator, Public Consultation Unit

Telephone: 416-392-2896

Email: [rowanwood@toronto.ca](mailto:rowanwood@toronto.ca)

**[toronto.ca/rowanwood](https://toronto.ca/rowanwood)**

# Questions

# Question & Answer - How to Participate



## Computer / smartphone / tablet

- Use Q&A panel to type questions. Please direct questions to all panelists.
- For verbal questions, select the Participants button and use the 'Raise Hand' function.



## Phone (call-in) participants

- Press \*3 to virtually raise your hand and let the moderator know you want to ask a question.
- When it is your turn, the moderator will unmute you.