



»» Notice of Commencement

Georgetown South Service Expansion and Union-Pearson Rail Link Project

»»» Project

In November 2008, Metrolinx adopted *The Big Move*, the Regional Transportation Plan for the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA). The Georgetown South Service Expansion and the Union-Pearson Rail Link, which would operate on the Georgetown Line, is the first major project to be initiated under *The Big Move*. The project would make it easier to get around the region by rail, generate 10,000 construction jobs, spur economic growth for businesses and communities in the GTHA, ease the social, environmental, and economic burdens of congestion, and reduce air pollution from cars.

Metrolinx is proposing to increase rail capacity between Bathurst Street in Toronto and Highway 427 in Peel Region to address GO Transit's operating needs. (Please see map). Metrolinx proposes to lay new tracks, build new and re-build existing stations and platforms along with bridges and underpasses to separate trains from other traffic. A passenger Rail Link would run on the corridor between Union Station and Lester B. Pearson International Airport. The Union-Pearson service would operate entirely on GO tracks except for a 3.3 kilometre track between Terminal 1 at Pearson Airport and the Georgetown Line.

»»» Process

The project's environmental impact will be assessed under Ontario's Transit Project Assessment Process (Regulation 231/08 under Ontario's *Environmental Assessment Act*). Regulation 231/08 assumes that the rationale and alternatives to public transit or the rationale and alternatives to this particular transit project have been established. The regulation, instead, allows the proponent, Metrolinx, to focus its efforts on the environmental and other impacts of the preferred method.

Metrolinx will prepare a draft Environmental Project Report. Two draft reports will be published. A copy of the first document may be downloaded from the Metrolinx's web site on April 14, 2009. The second document will be available in May 2009.

The first draft report will identify the site of the project and describe current environmental conditions, and present the preferred method. The second draft report will outline the impacts of the preferred method on the natural and built environments, economy and society and their interrelationships. It will describe measures which are being proposed to mitigate negative impacts and identify how the effectiveness of those measures will be checked. The two draft reports will be combined with the feedback Metrolinx receives from the public, government agencies, and First Nations to produce the Environmental Project Report.

Metrolinx is committed to an open and transparent public consultation. Information about the project, including the two draft reports and current and past planning studies will be posted at www.metrolinx.com/gsse.

»»» The First Open Houses

Wednesday, April 15
3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Fort York
Blue Barracks Room
100 Garrison Road
Toronto, ON M5V 3K9

Thursday, April 16
3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Courtyard by Marriott - Toronto Airport
Atlantic Room
231 Carlingview Drive
Toronto, ON M9W 5E8

Friday, April 17
3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Terry Miller Recreation Centre
Room #2
1295 Williams Parkway
Brampton, ON L6S 3J8

Monday, April 20
3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Weston Park Baptist Church
1871 Weston Road
Toronto, ON M9N 1V9

Tuesday, April 21
3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
The Lithuanian House, Hall B
1573 Bloor Street West
Toronto, ON M6P 1A6

Wednesday, April 22
3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Mount Dennis United Church
71 Guestville Avenue
Toronto, ON M6N 4N4

Dates and locations for the second series of Open Houses will be announced in May.

Transit Project Assessment Process Contacts

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General Information Contact

The Open Houses are just one part of Metrolinx's commitment to ongoing community consultation. For more information, please contact:

- Metrolinx, 20 Bay Street, Suite 901, Toronto, ON M5J 2N8
- www.metrolinx.com/gsse
- 1-866-658-9890
- info@metrolinx.com

Information will be collected in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record.

Information about the project will be available beginning today at:

- Ministry of the Environment, Environmental Assessment and Approvals Branch, 2 St. Clair Avenue West, Floor 12A, ON M4V 1L5. Tel.: 416-314-8001
- York Civic Centre, 2700 Eglinton Avenue West, Toronto, ON M6M 1V1. Tel.: Access Toronto General Enquiry, 416-338-0338
- Toronto Public Library, City Hall Branch, Nathan Phillips Square, 100 Queen Street West, Toronto, ON M5H 2N3. Tel.: 416-393-7650
- Toronto Public Library – Weston Branch, 2 King Street, Toronto, ON M9N 1K9. Tel.: 416-394-1016
- Toronto Public Library – Annette Street Branch, 145 Annette Street, Toronto, ON M6P 1P3. Tel.: 416-393-7692
- Mississauga Public Library – Malton Branch, Malton Community Centre, 3540 Morning Star Drive, Mississauga, ON L4T 1Y2. Tel.: 905-615-4640

The Environmental Project Report will be issued at the same time as the Notice of Completion. Anyone who received a Notice of Commencement or who registered with Metrolinx will receive a copy of the Notice of Completion.

Interested persons, government agencies, and First Nations will have 30 days to review the Environmental Project Report and send their comments in writing to the Minister of the Environment.

The Minister will have 35 days to review the comments and determine whether the project can proceed as described in the Environmental Project Report, proceed subject to conditions, or requires further work.

All comments received will become part of the public record for this project.

»»» Get Involved – Community Open Houses

This Notice of Commencement marks the beginning of the formal 120-day consultation period which will end when the Notice of Completion is issued.

As part of the formal consultation process, Metrolinx will host two rounds of Open Houses. The first round will share information on current environmental conditions and the scope of the preferred project, as well as identify changes as a result of public input.

Residents are encouraged to drop in, view the materials on display, and speak to the technical team to learn more.

Starting on April 15, please visit our Virtual Open House. Online, convenient, and open 7-days a week, 24-hours a day, project details will be available for your review. We encourage you to provide comments.

