

Early Works - Geotechnical Field Investigations in Your Community

September 2021

What is happening?

Metrolinx contractors will continue conducting geotechnical field investigations, and non-invasive utility and topographical surveys in the Royal Orchard community and on Yonge Street. You will notice mobile drilling equipment and survey crews on roads moving throughout the area.

Why is this work necessary?

This is an important stage of the planning and design work for Yonge North Subway Extension. Work crews will test underground conditions by drilling into the ground to collect soil samples. The samples will help us learn more about the makeup of the soil and rock in the area and the amount and location of groundwater. This work is necessary to inform our analysis and project plans, which include measures to avoid community impacts like noise and vibration from subway operations. Utility surveys will help us determine the location of cables, pipes, and other infrastructure buried underground.

What is the timing and duration?

Work will take place from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Yonge Street, and 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. within the Royal Orchard community, Monday to Friday. Work will continue until approximately November 30, 2021, with crews moving to different locations during this period. Work at each drilling site will take about two to four weeks to complete. We will issue separate notices if any of these times change.

What can you expect?

You may have already noticed markings on some of the roadways. When work begins, there will be several crews working in your community at different locations. You may see investigations in open maintenance holes. You can also expect to hear hammering sounds and diesel engines. Metrolinx will arrange for noise monitoring to confirm that the levels do not exceed municipal noise bylaws and we'll make every effort to minimize disruption.

Equipment used will include truck-mounted drill rigs and support vehicles, as well as survey equipment such as cameras and tripods. Drill rigs will be removed from the road after every shift, but storage drums for naturally occurring soil and water with no noticeable smell (45 gallons, clearly labelled and sealed) will remain on City property in the boulevard, 2.5 metres to 5 metres from the curb. These drums will not interfere with garbage or recycling pickup. Crews will empty the drums regularly and remove them after the drilling is complete at each location.

Crews will occupy one lane of traffic during the day. Signage will be installed, and traffic control personnel will be on site to keep traffic moving safely and efficiently.

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