

EVENT: Bendale Library Open House

DATE: December 11, 2022

Q: Is the relocation of Shoppers Drug Mart temporary or permanent?

A: The Shoppers Drug Mart will permanently relocate from the plaza at McCowan Rd and Lawrence Ave E. to the Midland Ave and Lawrence Ave plaza across from the TD Bank. All medication prescriptions will automatically be transferred to the new location, no action is required from the customers.

Q: After Shoppers Drug Mart closes, what will happen to the area?

A: The location will be used as a staging area for the future development of the station at McCowan Rd and Lawrence Ave E. Future uses for the site will be reassessed.

Q: I'm located near Lawrence and McCowan, and I received a notice that construction work would begin in August, I haven't seen anything, is it delayed?

A: Construction work for the north headwall at McCowan and Lawrence began in August at the North-West corner by the Scarborough General Hospital. Construction for the south headwall is expected to begin in February.

Q: When will the project be complete?

A: Expected timeline for project completion is between 2029-2030

Q: What type of work can we expect to occur on the street for the tunnelling portion of the contract?

A: For the tunnelling portion of the contract, construction activity on the ground level will primarily be utility and piling work

Q: Where are the Stations?

A: There will be three new stations with the extension; they will be located at McCowan Rd and Lawrence Ave East, Scarborough Centre, and McCowan Rd and Sheppard Ave East.

Q: When tunnelling occurs, how far below will the machine be? Will we feel the vibration?

A: The Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) will be a little more than 20 meters below ground level, meaning impacts from the machine will be minimal; at most, one can expect a faint rumble. The TBM will also be moving 10 meters a day, so it won't be under your home for several months.

Q: Will the TBM be running 24/7?

A: Yes.

Q: Why are we using one TBM? I've heard of other projects using two; wouldn't two be faster?

A: The TBM on this project is the largest to ever be used on a transit in Canada. As a result, the subway extension will be built using a single tunnel instead of two separate tunnels; this is expected to increase the efficiency of the construction.

Q: Will there be a direct transfer underground from Lawrence East Station to Scarborough general hospital, or will you need to walk outside?

A: There will be a secondary entrance on the north side of Lawrence near the hospital. We will continue to work with our station's developer to confirm if that entrance will connect directly to the subway station. In 2023 we plan to share more information about our future stations with the community.

Q: The future station at McCowan Rd and Sheppard Ave E. is the end of the line, yet there is no plan for parking; why? If we can have parking at Yonge and Finch and at Vaughan Metropolitan Centre station, why is Scarborough treated differently? Not having parking at stations is a poor planning design as it adds more traffic onto local streets from those who commute from out of the city to the station.

A: Transportation planning is moving towards building future stations under the urban station model. This model helps to encourage walking, cycling and pick up/ drop off at the station. This is an urban planning trend, and as a result, we will see future stations following the urban station model.

Q: As part of your engagement strategy, are there any plans in place to reach underprivileged groups?

A: Absolutely, we are always looking to get creative in the way we reach people. Currently, we host engagement events at various locations along the alignment that serve the diversity of Scarborough, but we would love to hear from you to get a better understanding of how we can do a better job reaching all members of the community.

Q: I'm here from the Don Montgomery Community Recreation Centre; our concern is a disruption to the programs we host. What guarantee do we have that we will be able to continue operating them and serving the people we do?

A: We can guarantee that we will be here throughout the construction to listen and find solutions.

Q: What buses will be served at Lawrence East Station?

A: TTC manages the strategic plan for local buses that might have routes providing services out of the future station. Info should be shared publicly by the TTC closer to the in-service date.

Q: Why is it that if we live next to a transit corridor, we have to receive permission from the City/Metrolinx about what we do on our property?

A: The Build Transit Faster Act was passed recently to remove barriers associated with building transit, working closely with the city; this is one step we can take to ensure transit is built faster

Conversation amongst residents regarding the need for parking:

- Transit should be accessible via biking, walking, etc. not just driving, but by prioritizing parking space, it makes those other forms of travel much more inaccessible
- Scarborough is a long way from removing parking, and much of the area is still greatly inaccessible via biking and walking.
- There is a difference between less parking and no parking. The changes occurring at Warden station is a good example of us prioritizing parking infrastructure in the past and the current generation having to pay for the updates now.

A: Sheppard station will also have a designated passenger pick-up and drop-off area, and as part of the transit-oriented communities' program, there are plans to ensure communities exist adjacent to the transit. We will also work with our development partner to explore what opportunities to provide parking might be available.

Q: once the TBM is done tunnelling for this project, what happens to the machine?

A: It depends on the wear and tear experienced during tunnelling, but it will most likely be refurbished and reused.

Q: Will the SRT exist after the SSE is built?

A: The SRT will likely shut down in Q4 of 2023; we also don't require the SRT infrastructure to complete SSE. The City of Toronto/TTC will decide the future use of this infrastructure.

- Resident adds that the TTC needs to show up to these meetings. He has attended several of these meetings, and I know the TTC is invited, but they never show up.

A: We will commit to further engagement with the TTC to ensure they are present in future engagements.

Q: Do you engage hybrid, in person or online?

A: We have been trying to use all methods, our last open house was online, but it does help to hear from the community and understand how they would like to be engaged

Q: How will this affect our property values?

A: As we know the current GTHA real estate market it is unpredictable but being located close to transit has historically increased property values.