

University Avenue median construction site preparation

Expected start date: As early as December 6, 2023

Expected duration: Up to 3 months

Hours of work: Daily from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., with some overnight work as indicated.

Map of work area:



What is happening?

To prepare for construction of an Ontario Line connection at the existing Line 1 Osgoode subway station, crews will be undertaking several activities on and beside the University Avenue median between Queen Street West and Armoury Street.

Construction preparation details:

Fencing installation

- To ensure the site is secured ahead of construction work along University Avenue, crews will be installing temporary fencing around the work zone.
- Work is expected to take approximately 1 to 2 days to complete and will be done overnight from 7 p.m. to 5 a.m.

Removal of streetscape elements

- This includes: benches (7), flagpoles (2), and litter cans (3).
- Planters and other streetscape elements will also be removed to accommodate upcoming road works.
- This work is expected to take place as early as Dec. 4, 2023, during the day between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Construction of a new northbound lane on University Avenue

- A new lane will be constructed in the area currently occupied by the eastern portion of the median, travelling northbound.
- This activity will include underground infrastructure works, excavation, backfilling, and paving to extend the existing road onto the median.
- Line painting will also take place to reflect the new road alignment.
- This work is expected to take place as early as Dec. 4, 2023, overnight from 7 p.m. to 5 a.m.

Lane closures on University Avenue

- Metrolinx crews require one northbound and one southbound lane closure on University Avenue (as indicated in the map above) for the duration of work on the median. The lane closures will be beside the median.
- Lanes will be closed using protective barriers.
- A minimum of two lanes northbound and one lane southbound will be maintained at all times.
- Work will begin as early as Dec. 4, 2023 and will take place during daytime work hours.
- The lane closures are expected to be in place until the end of March 2024.

Contact us:

Call us 24/7 at: [416-202-5100](tel:416-202-5100)

Write to us at: ontarioline@metrolinx.com

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Visit the website: www.metrolinx.com/ontarioline

Visit our community office:

770 Queen Street East (near Queen & Broadview)

General hours:

- Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Wednesdays and Thursdays: 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Disponible en français sur demande. Si vous êtes intéressé, veuillez envoyer un courriel à ontarioline@metrolinx.com.

- The City of Toronto will be making infrastructure upgrades that require closing two southbound lanes on University Avenue from College Street to Queen Street. One southbound lane will always be open while both City and Metrolinx crews undertake their work.
- Traffic impacts are being closely coordinated with the City of Toronto.

Removal and protection of trees

- Two trees will be removed in the median to allow for construction activities. The trees are located on the east side of the median, north of the South African War Memorial. The remaining six trees will be protected at this time.
- Seven trees located along the sidewalk at the west side of Osgoode Hall will also be removed.
- Before removing trees, a crew will install protective barriers around nearby preserved trees.
- This work is expected to take place as early as Dec.4, 2023 during the day from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Preservation and removal of the South African War Memorial

- Specialized restoration crews experienced in the preservation of historic structures will remove the South African War Memorial in the median of University Avenue. Work will be overseen by a heritage specialist.
- The memorial will be restored and reinstated to its current location once construction is complete. Scaffolding will be installed around the South African War Memorial, and associated construction materials placed in lanes closed beside the University Avenue median.
- The Victory statue at the top of the memorial will be secured and lifted with a crane. The Victory statue will be securely placed onto a transport truck and transported to a storage facility for conservation work and safekeeping.
- The three other statues will be dismantled and salvaged using the same method.
- Statue stones will be removed and lowered onto pallets to be transported to a safe storage warehouse.
- Heritage elements of the remaining streetscape will also be dismantled and salvaged such as planters, the stones forming the fountain and concrete pavers, bricks, and stone stairs on the ground of the median.

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- These heritage works are expected to begin as early as Dec. 4, 2023, are expected to take up to 30 days. After the heritage works are completed, this area will become part of the construction site.
- This work is expected to take place during the day, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

What to expect

- Construction equipment and crews will be present in the University Avenue median.
- Work areas will be secured to ensure public safety. They will also be clearly marked with signage.
- Those near the site may hear noise from construction equipment including excavators, trucks, hand tools and power tools.
- The median will be closed to the public, except at crosswalks at Queen Street West.
- Flaggers will be used to ensure the safety of pedestrians, vehicles, and cyclists.
- Work may be delayed, rescheduled, or extended due to weather conditions or unforeseen circumstances.

Visit metrolinx.com/OntarioLineConstruction for more information on work happening in your community.

About the Ontario Line

- 15.6-kilometre subway line that will make it faster and easier to travel within Toronto and beyond.
- 15 stops and more than 40 connections to other transit, including GO train, subway, LRT, streetcar, and bus lines.
- Less than 30 minutes from one end of the line to the other.
- 28,000 fewer cars on the road each day.

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