

Don Yard Community Open House
MEETING MINUTES
June 5, 2024
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Young Centre for the Performing Arts

OVERVIEW:

On June 5, 2024, Metrolinx, KO Constructors, and LURA co-hosted an open house at the Young Centre for the Performing Arts to inform and speak with members of the community about construction work taking place in the area to support the new Ontario Line bridge over the Don River/Don Valley Parkway (DVP). During the event, the project team had discussions with community members and residents to understand their questions and concerns about the project.

QUESTIONS & METROLINX RESPONSES:

1. The bridge design is not the most inspiring. Have you looked at other new bridges in Portland for inspiration?

The Ontario Line will cross the Lower Don River on a bridge with an arched design that will become a new landmark in the City of Toronto. The arches will make for an elegant and attractive structure, something seen from the Don Valley Parkway, East Harbour, Canary District, and the nearby section of the Toronto Waterfront. The new bridge will tie in with its surroundings in the East Waterfront, including the bridges to the south that have been built for Waterfront Toronto as part of the Port Lands project. As an additional community benefit, the bridge structure will be complimented by a lighting scheme designed to enhance the inherent urban design qualities of the arch structure when the sky is dark. Though the Ontario Line Lower Don Bridge will become a highly visible landmark in the east end of Toronto, landmark status was not the primary driver of the design of this structure. The striking arch bridge design was selected because it represented the most efficient way to span across the Lower Don River without any piers impacting the watercourse below. The lightness of the structural design results in a more sustainable use of materials and resources.

2. Where are track crossovers planned between Corktown and East Harbor stations, if there are any? Please ensure there isn't one under the 39 Parliament St. Condo.

The track crossovers are not located under the condominium at 39 Parliament Street and are located at the Don Yard crossover.

3. Will the new bridge have pedestrian and bike paths available?

The Lower Don Bridge is a dedicated bridge for Ontario Line, adjacent to the existing bridge for heavy rail trains. However, there is potential for a future pedestrian/cycling bridge in or around the location of the Lower Don Bridge. Metrolinx and the City of Toronto are discussing a potential pedestrian/cycling bridge connection over the Lower Don River.

4. How will pedestrians cross the bridge to reach East Harbor Station?

The Lower Don Bridge is intended to accommodate Ontario Line Subway trains and is not designed for pedestrians and/or cyclists. Metrolinx and the City of Toronto are discussing a

potential pedestrian/cycling bridge connection over the Lower Don River. In the absence of a pedestrian/cycling bridge, pedestrians have multiple options to access East Harbour Station. Pedestrians can cross using the existing Queen Street East bridge. Pedestrians can also utilize the Lower Don Trail at such time as it reopens. Additionally, at the time Ontario Line is completed, pedestrians will also be able to reach East Harbour Station by first accessing Corktown Station. From Corktown Station, it's a short ride eastbound for one stop to East Harbour Station. These options are designed to offer flexibility and ease of access, ensuring that all pedestrians can reach East Harbour Station conveniently and safely.

5. Why is there not a subway station planned for this area? It seems like a missed opportunity.

The station locations for the Ontario Line were strategically chosen to serve areas anticipated to experience the largest percentage of future growth and to provide maximum benefit to the greatest number of people. These locations were selected through extensive public engagement, considering preferred corridors and alignments, technical considerations, and optimal distances between stations. It was determined that the location of Corktown Station and East Harbour Station would adequately serve the area. This approach ensures that we maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of the Ontario Line, balancing the needs of current and future transit users.

6. Will summer construction impact the scheduled Toronto Outdoor Picture Show screenings at Corktown Common (each Thursday in July at sundown)?

Construction work in the Don Yard is not expected to impact the Toronto Outdoor Picture Show. Overnight work is currently taking place in the west portion of the site near Cherry Street (away from Corktown Commons). Metrolinx has shared the dates of the screenings at Corktown Commons with the contractor so that these dates can be considered when planning overnight work.

7. Is there any possibility of connecting the Ontario Line to Mississauga via Metrolinx?

The province's [Connecting the GGH: A Transportation Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe](#) includes a 30-year vision for mobility, considering potential future expansion plans for the Ontario Line. This includes a conceptual cross-regional transit corridor, the Ontario Line Loop Connection, which would link Pearson International Airport, downtown Toronto, and Richmond Hill Centre. The proposed loop would extend from Pearson to Kipling Station, east to Exhibition GO Station, along the current Ontario Line, and north to Richmond Hill Centre. It is important to note that the Ontario Line Loop Connection is still conceptual, unfunded, and there are no current plans to extend the Ontario Line to Mississauga.

8. How many washrooms will be on the full Ontario Line? Please consider including accessible washrooms.

Public washrooms will be constructed at all terminal and interchange stations, which in the case of Ontario Line would mean that washrooms would be provided at 5 of the Ontario Line stations, including Exhibition, Osgoode, Pape, Science Centre, and East Harbour. This approach aligns with Metrolinx's Subway Station Architecture Design Standard (DS-09), which can be found [here](#).