

Piling for Support of Excavation at the Gerrard Portal

Expected start date: As early as July 4, 2025

Expected duration: 12 months

Hours of Work: Monday to Friday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.



What is happening?

- The former Riverdale Shopping Centre is the site of the Gerrard portal and future Gerrard Station. This portal is where Ontario Line trains will move from surface tracks to underground tunnels.
- The next phase of work will involve preparing the Gerrard portal site for excavation and the eventual construction of the tunnel boring machine launch shaft.
- Work will include the relocation of underground utilities and sewers, drilling piles and the installation of excavation supports along the perimeter of the site.
- Note: Piling for the future Gerrard Station will take place closer to the Gerrard-Carlaw intersection. This work will start later this year, and a separate notice will be distributed prior to work starting.

Work completed to date

- Removal of vegetation and trees from the site and surrounding areas.
- Geotechnical investigations conducted at the portal site and along the Pape Avenue corridor.
- Full interior and roof abatement (removal of sensitive materials) prior to structural demolitions.
- Most structural demolitions of the former Riverdale Shopping Centre buildings.

What to expect

- Demolition work will continue through to late summer 2025. The areas that have been dug up for demolition will be backfilled. Rollers and compactors are used to compact the soil during backfilling to ensure stability and prevent future settling.
- Vibratory compaction will only be used if necessary to ensure the ground is adequately compacted and safe for future work and structures.
- Once complete, crews will continue site preparation, relocating telecommunications, hydro lines and sewers within the site boundaries to allow for safe excavation.
- Crews will also begin drilling piles to support excavation (as early as July 4, 2025).
 - Drilling piles involves using large drills to create vertical holes in the ground.
 - Steel reinforcement cages are inserted into the drilled holes to provide additional strength and stability.
 - Finally, concrete is poured into the holes, securing the piles in place. Temporary casings are used during drilling.
- Noise, vibration and dust from trucks and heavy construction equipment is expected as crews drill piles. Noise, air quality and vibration monitors will be in place. These devices will help us identify any issues early and take corrective actions as needed.
- Signage and safety barriers will be in place to delineate work zones.
- Work will take place during weekdays from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturdays 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Timing of construction is subject to weather conditions and unforeseen circumstances.

Traffic and pedestrian impacts

- No road, lane, or sidewalk closures will be required during the support of excavation stage.
- Trucks will use the existing driveway of the former Riverdale Shopping Centre that faces Carlaw Avenue.
- Trucks will enter and exit the work site following approved hauling routes on Gerrard Street East and Carlaw Avenue and will be guided in and out of site by flagpersons.
- There will be no impacts to TTC bus or streetcar service from this work.

What's next?

Once excavation supports are installed, soil will be removed, and concrete slabs will be poured to build a launch shaft to support tunneling activities and launch two tunnel boring machines. Two tunnels will run from the Gerrard portal going north along Pape Avenue to the Minton Place Portal at the Don Valley.

We will continue to assess impacts and provide neighbourhood notices in advance of any work to keep you up to date and informed. For more information about upcoming work, please see metrolinx.com/ontarioline or sign up for the e-newsletter.

About the project

- 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.

Contact us:

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

Write to us at: ontarioline@metrolinx.com

Find us on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram: [@ontarioline](https://www.instagram.com/ontarioline)

Visit the website: www.metrolinx.com/ontarioline

Visit our community offices:

Riverside:

770 Queen St. E, Toronto, ON, M4M 1H4

General hours:

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

Thorncliffe Park:

East York Town Centre

45 Overlea Blvd., Toronto, ON M4H 1C3

Unit 153 (across from the Rogers store)

General hours:

- Monday to Friday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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

本通知提供简体中文版。如需获取, 请发送电邮至 ontarioline@metrolinx.com。

本告示有繁體中文版本。請發送電郵至 ontarioline@metrolinx.com 索取副本。