

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is Metrolinx expanding GO service?

The Greater Toronto Hamilton Area (GTHA) is growing fast, and while this growth is a sign of success and opportunity, our transportation networks are at their limit. Metrolinx is working to build a regional transportation system that's modern, efficient and integrated, with more public transportation connections to keep GHTA residents moving today and tomorrow.

What is Metrolinx doing in the GTHA?

Expanded GO service is just one part of what is being developed in the Region. Metrolinx is delivering the largest transportation infrastructure program in Canadian history and it will transform the GTHA. To give you a sense of the scope of what is planned, Metrolinx has an ambitious plan that envisions more than 1,200 kilometers of rapid transit – more than triple what exists now – so that over 80 per cent of residents in the GTHA will live within two kilometers of this network. Currently, there are more than 400 rapid transit projects underway, creating enormous economic benefits of 800,000-900,000 person years of employment and an infusion of \$110-\$130 billion to our economy. When complete, the Metrolinx plan will transform the way the GTHA moves.

What specific projects are expected in my community?

In Aurora, Metrolinx is working to create more connections to the entire GO network with faster, more frequent local service. To make this happen, we'll be installing new track, building bridges and tunnels, introducing new trains and constructing a new station at Bloomington Street. Our goal is to bring you 15 minute two-way all-day service between Aurora and Union GO Stations, and 15 to 30 minute service from the new Bloomington GO Station to Union station during the weekday rush hour.

Much of this work is already underway. Planned local projects include:

- New track from Union Station to Aurora GO Station and between Aurora GO Station and Allandale Waterfront GO Station in Barrie for more uninterrupted GO service
- Upgrades to the Aurora GO Station, including the addition of two new pedestrian tunnels
- Widening of the Yonge Street Bridge, including the creation of a multi-modal path connection how to make the bridge a welcoming gateway to Aurora
- Wellington Street Grade Separation to remove the road-to-rail crossing
- Construction of the new Bloomington GO Station
- More capacity on the Viva bus transit network to create additional connections to and from the Barrie GO corridor

When will construction start?

As you've seen, many projects, like the construction of a new pedestrian tunnel at the corner of Wellington Street and the construction of the new Bloomington GO Station, are already underway in Aurora. Some projects, such as the proposed grade separation at Wellington Street East, are in initial project planning stages, with estimated completion dates in 2023.

Will there be disruption to local GO service or road closures during construction?

We know there will be community-level disruption required to build a region-wide, integrated transit network, but at this early stage of the process, it's difficult to determine what the specific impacts of construction may be for all projects. While bringing new levels of GO service to Aurora will create some disruption, we're committed to working with local officials to minimize any inconvenience during and post-construction as much as possible.

Why does Metrolinx need to build new bridges and tunnels?

Bridges and tunnels can be built to eliminate intersections with rail and road traffic and provide more reliable and safe GO service. In some cases, such as Wellington Street East in Aurora, this includes a recommended grade separation. Across the network, we're working with local communities to identify areas that would benefit from this type of infrastructure work in order to meet our goal of bringing 15 minute two-way, all-day GO service to as many communities as possible.

Why is Metrolinx proposing a grade separation at Wellington Street East?

The safety of our customers, workers and the surrounding community is our top priority. As part of planning for this program, we assessed over 50 level crossings in York Region to identify opportunities to grade separate a number of priority level crossings. The Wellington Street grade separation is still in the preliminary stage of planning and we'll be working very closely with the Town of Aurora to ensure that we deliver a project that promotes safety in your communities and respects the heritage elements in the surrounding neighbourhoods while enabling the 15-minute all-day, two-way GO service planned. Construction is not anticipated to start until 2020, with completion in early 2023.

What is Metrolinx doing to minimize the impact of this construction on residents?

Like any other large-scale construction project, expanding GO rail lines, or modernizing and building new transit stations means temporary impacts for drivers, transit users, local residents and businesses, from road and parking lot closures to transit service interruptions and redirection of pedestrian traffic. We're working closely with local communities to understand the impact of construction-related disruption as part of our project planning and are committed to minimizing the impact by providing alternative solutions wherever possible. In addition, each construction contractor must submit a plan to show what measures they will take to make the project as liveable as possible.

What is Metrolinx doing to minimize the impact of this construction on the local environment?

Sustainability is one of the major pillars of the Regional Transportation Plan and part of the Metrolinx mandate. Everything we design incorporates this thinking to keep environmental standards and best practices in mind. An Environmental Assessment is required for all large-scale projects that have potential impact on the environment. These projects require approval from the Government of Ontario before proceeding to the next phase.

When will this new service be operational in Aurora?

New weekend service was introduced this January as part of plans to expand GO train service. The Metrolinx GO Expansion Project is part of a larger Regional Transportation Plan that includes work in the GTHA over the next 10 years. Residents of Aurora will see service improvements over time as new phases of construction are complete, with completion of the final proposed project – a grade separation at Wellington Street East – expected in 2023.

How can I expect to hear about project updates?

We're committed to working with the communities impacted by this transportation infrastructure project every step of the way to ensure we're making the best decisions possible. From planning and design to construction, Metrolinx will meet with elected officials and community stakeholders, host pop-up engagements in the community and share information directly with residents as projects progress.

How can I talk to Metrolinx if I'm concerned?

Public input is an essential part of our work at Metrolinx. To learn more about Metrolinx projects and find out how you can give feedback, please visit www.metrolinxengage.com.

Where can I go for more information?

For information, please visit www.metrolinx.com.