

Ontario Line Town Hall - Don Valley West

with  **METROLINX**

Join **Councillor Chernos Lin**
and **MPP Stephanie Bowman**
for a virtual community meeting
to learn about Metrolinx's
Ontario Line and its impacts on
Don Valley West.



City Councillor
Ward 15 - Don Valley West
Rachel Chernos Lin



MPP
Don Valley West
Stephanie Bowman

Land Acknowledgement

The City of Toronto acknowledges that we are on the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples.

The City also acknowledges that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 signed with the Mississaugas of the Credit, and the Williams Treaties signed with multiple Mississaugas and Chippewa bands.

Meeting Expectations

- Respectful comments and questions
- Allow speakers to finish before responding or raising further inquiries
- Please hold questions until the end of the presentations

We're here to listen, share information, and work together to move forward productively.

Meeting Hosts

**City Councillor
Rachel Chernos Lin**

**MPP
Stephanie Bowman**

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Presentation #1: Metrolinx Ontario Line

Speakers

- Saikat Basak, Senior Manager, Traffic & Transportation
- Jim Cumming, Manager, Elevated Guideway & Stations (EGS)
- Phil Rodriques, Senior Manager, Community Engagement

Panelists

- Ligia Saatgian, Director, Elevated Guideway & Stations (EGS)
- John Potter, Senior Manager, Third-Party Coordination
- Easton Gordon, Don Valley Crossing Delivery Manager
- David King, Senior Project Manager, Stakeholders & 3rd Party Management – RSSOM

Presentation #2: City of Toronto

Speakers

- Hafeez Shaikh, Senior Engineer, ECS
- Rubiat Islam, Senior Engineer, ECS
- Nathan Sham– Manager, Traffic Operations

Panelists:

- Amir Gafoor, Manager, Special Projects, ECS
- Christopher Loader, Manager, Standalone Bridges, ECS
- Ellen Leesti, Manager of Strategic Support and Issues Management with ECS
- Derrick Toigo, Executive Director, Transit Expansion
- Navi Tathgar, Manager, Transit Infrastructure
- Kristjan Naelapea, Senior Planner, TTC
- Tom Schwerdtfeger, Program Manager, City Planning

Ontario Line Project

Thorncliffe Park Station & Elevated Guideway

Community Engagement

Ongoing community engagement, outreach, and participation

We have actively engaged with the community to date via various channels including:

- A dedicated community engagement team at East York Town Centre receiving hundreds of visitors monthly.
- Thorncliffe Park Monthly Construction Liaison Committee (CLC) meetings.
- Pop-ups hosted at parks, events, bazaars, and lobbies with hundreds of interactions.
- Regular in-person and virtual engagement with residents, businesses, and elected officials.
- Ontario Line newsletter featuring news, progress, and information to over 9,600 subscribers.

Ontario Line contact information

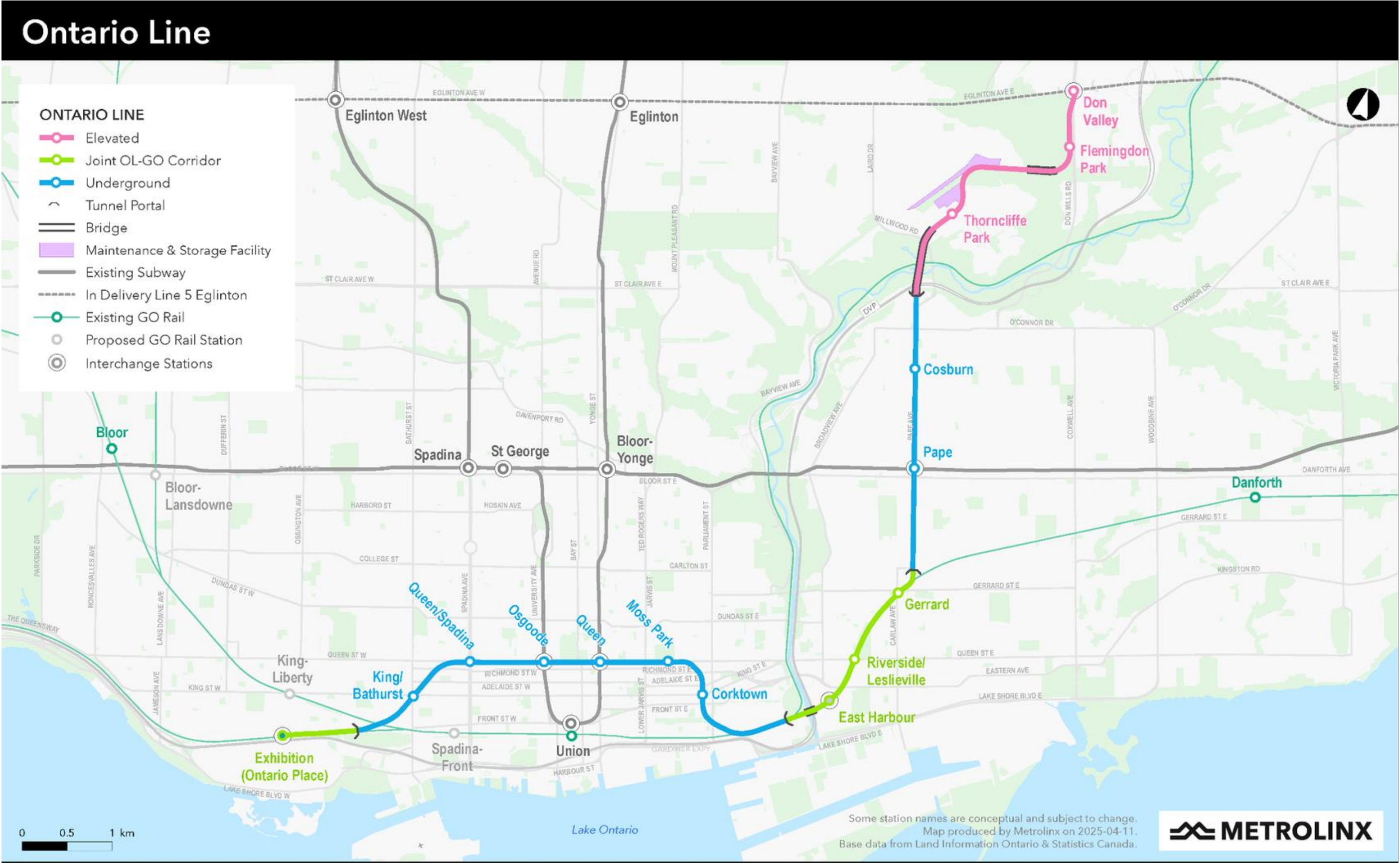
Email us via OntarioLine@metrolinx.com or call us **416-202-5100**.



What we heard from the community

- Asks to better understand what and how we're building.
- Potential direct and indirect traffic impacts.
- Calls for Metrolinx and the City of Toronto to work together on a traffic plan.
- Keeping the community safe during construction activities.
- Potential business impacts.
- Potential rodent increase into residential and commercial/retail properties.
- How Metrolinx-owned properties (scheduled for demolition) are being maintained in the meantime.

Project Map



The Ontario Line



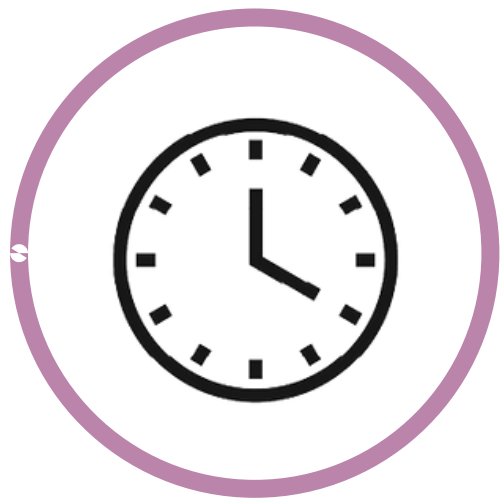
15.6 kilometres



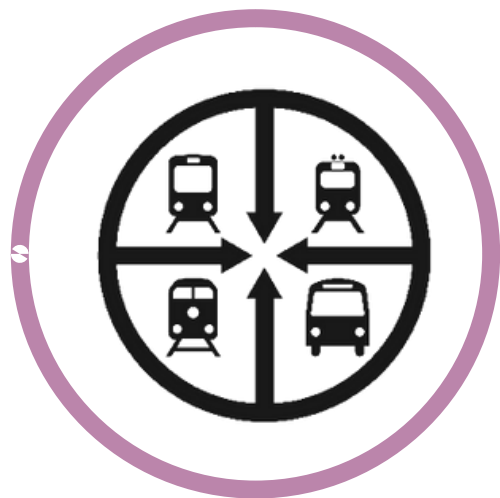
15 stations



388,000 daily boardings



Every 90 seconds during rush hour



40+ connections to other transit options



28,000 fewer car trips on the road each day

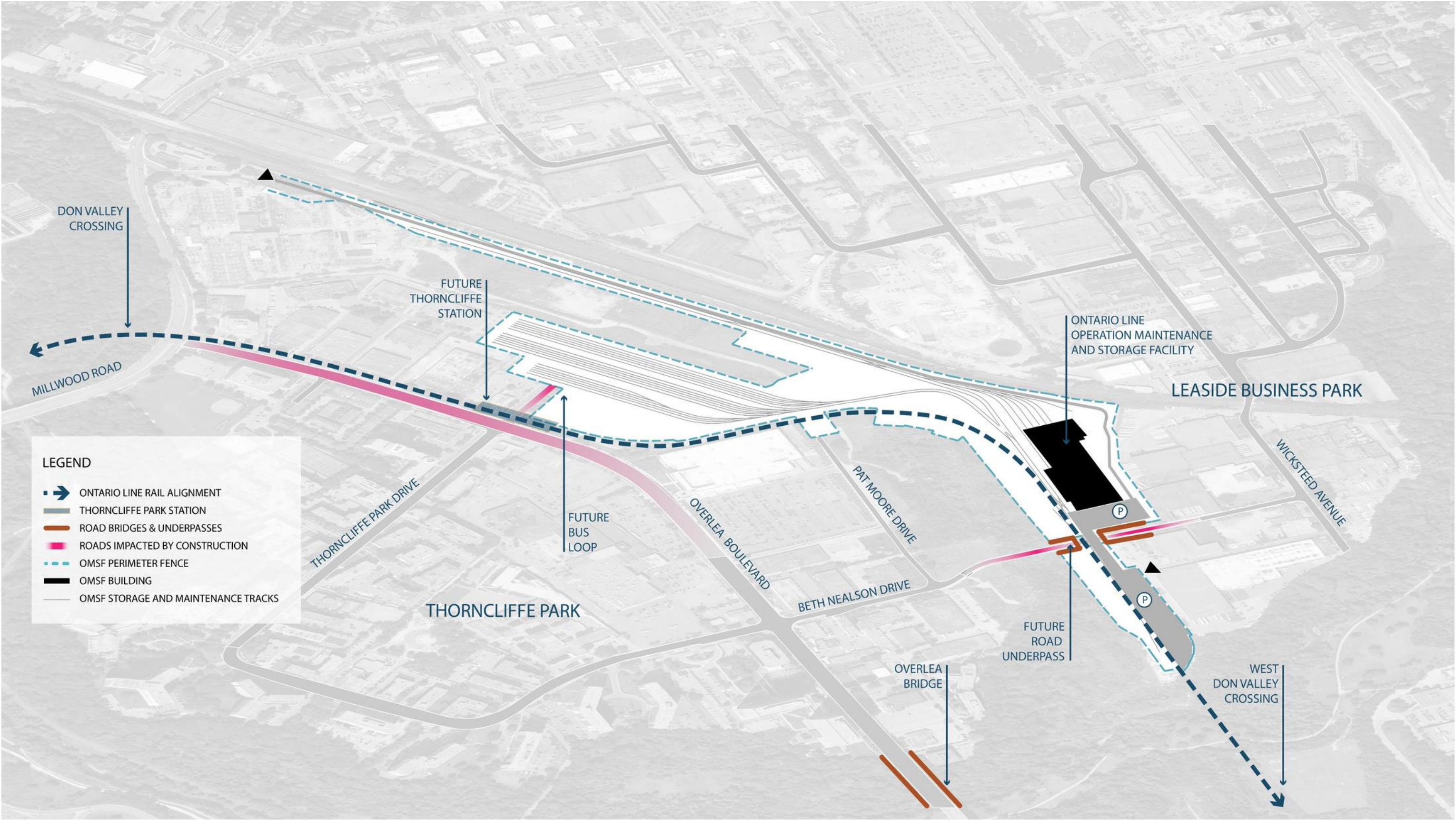


227,500 more people within walking distance to transit



Up to 47,000 more jobs accessible in 45 minutes or less, on average

Overview of Construction in Thorncliffe Park



Thornccliffe Park Station & Elevated Guideway



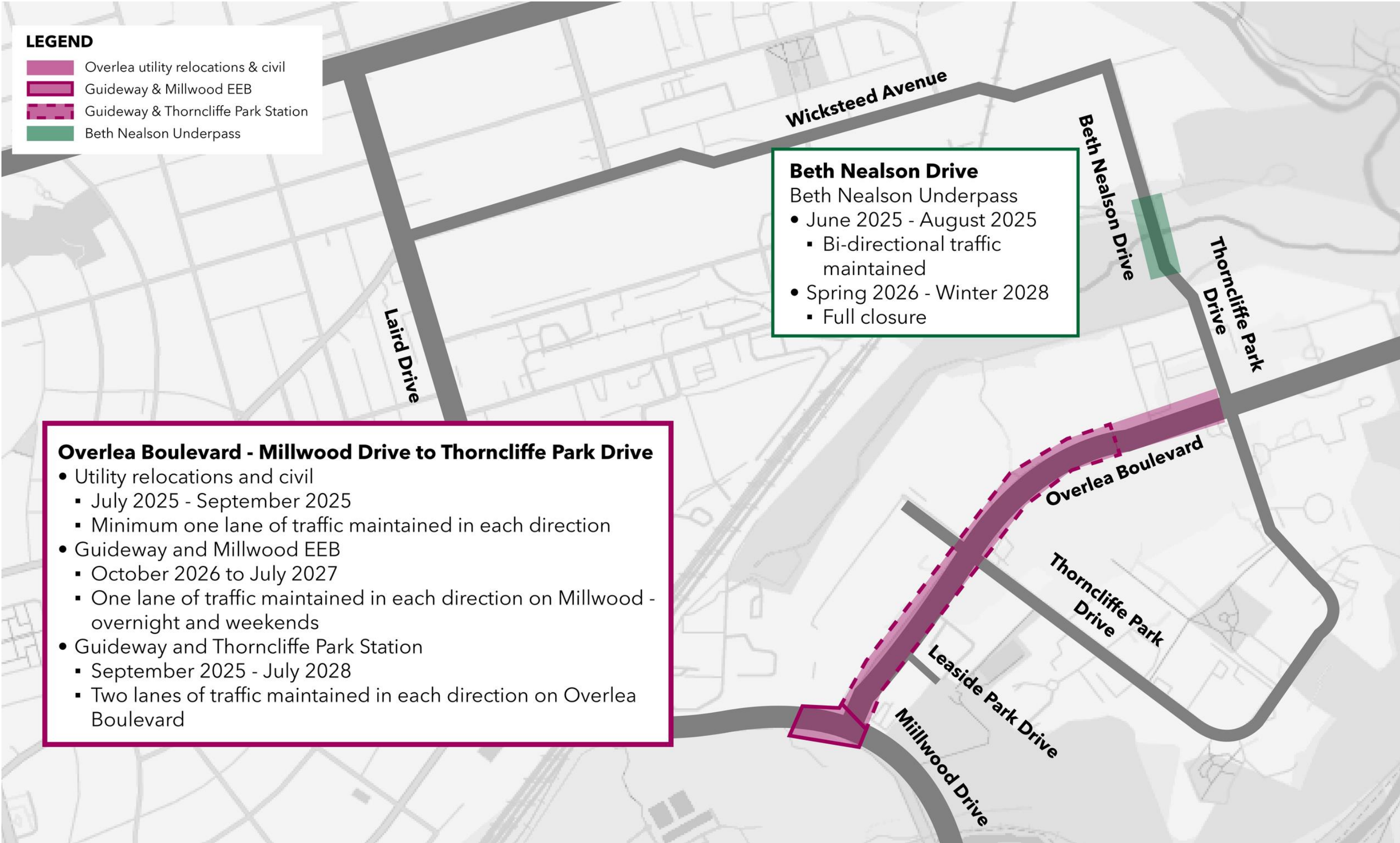
Future Ontario Line station at Thornccliffe Park, looking east from Overlea Boulevard.

Operations, Maintenance and Storage Facility (OMSF)

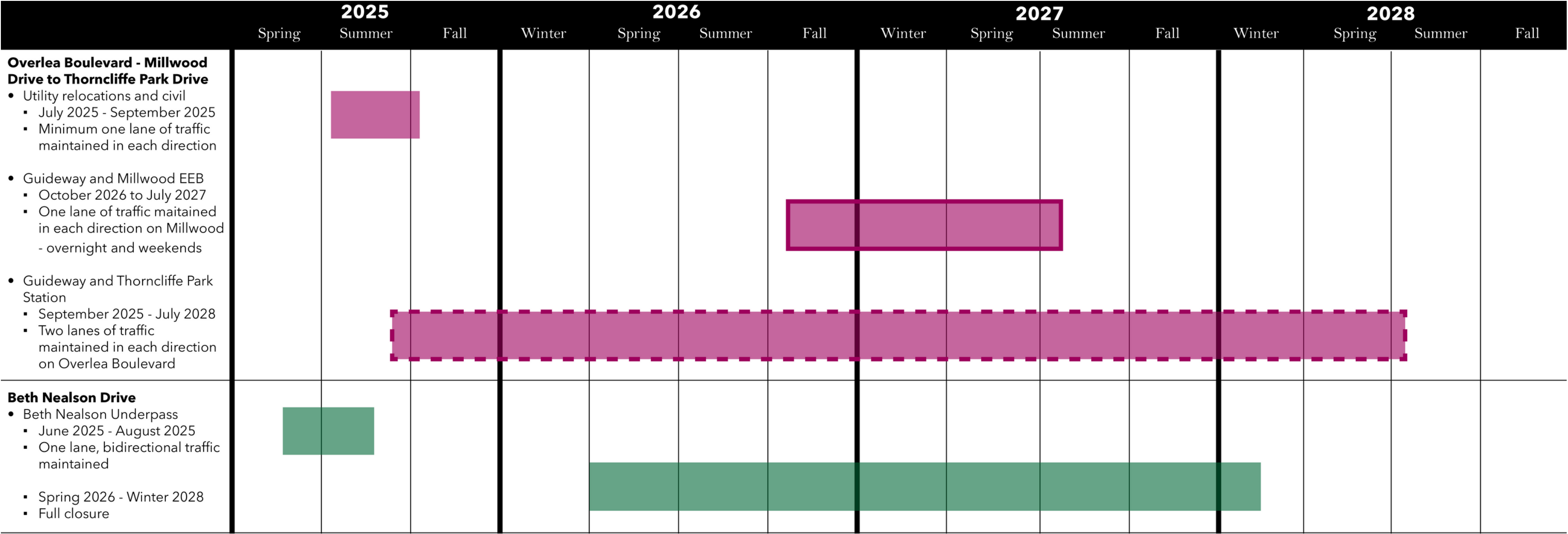


The OMSF will provide train storage and maintenance, and administration and operations offices for the Ontario Line.

Upcoming Works: Advanced Works & Elevated Guideway and Stations



Upcoming Works: Advanced Works & Elevated Guideway and Stations



Key Concerns – Traffic & Public Safety

Concerns	Key Considerations/Impact	Current Initiatives & Next Steps
City of Toronto & Metrolinx (MX) Capital Works Coordination	Perceived lack of coordination between the City and MX, worsened by lane closures that disrupt traffic and hinder emergency services.	MX is coordinating Ontario Line works and optimizing closures by collaborating with the City and stakeholders while providing updates to road users about the construction.
Beth Neilson Underpass & Overlea Bridge Works	Simultaneous closure of Beth Neilson and Overlea, timing of the Beth Neilson full closure and the impact on truck movements during the construction works.	Plan includes staging construction to minimize the Beth Neilson Full Closure duration, reducing overlapping closures of Beth Neilson and Overlea Boulevard at the bridge, and coordinating truck movements with the City during the works.
Emergency Vehicles Access During Beth Neilson Full Closure	Public safety concern of emergency services response times in the landlocked area north of the upcoming Beth Neilson closure and the rail corridor.	MX is working with a contractor to develop a plan to ensure emergency vehicle access and will follow up with local emergency services.

Key Concerns – Traffic & Public Safety

Concerns	Key Considerations/Impact	Current Initiatives & Next Steps
TTC Bus Services during Beth Neilson Closure	Bus services will continue to operate north and south of the Beth Neilson closure, ensuring community needs are met while accommodating pedestrians through bus detours.	The bus detour will efficiently serve both ends of the closure area, and new sidewalks on Wicksteed will accommodate pedestrians.
Traffic Management & Mitigation of Impacts	Need for effective navigation for pedestrians, transit users, and motorists, along with area-wide traffic impact mitigations, coordination between the City and MX on these measures, and the mitigation of impacts for all road users.	Develop and update mitigation plans for pedestrians, transit users, and drivers based on roadway closures, ensuring safety and mobility, and communicate these plans to stakeholders via MX, TTC, and City.
Truck Haul Routes & Safety	Concerns regarding OL construction trucks potentially deviating from designated routes and a need to emphasize the importance of safety and minimizing traffic disruption.	The Ontario Line aims to ensure safe and respectful truck movements through the development and updating of compliant haul routes for construction, in coordination with stakeholders, and adhering to the MX Truck Safety Plan principles .

Key Concerns – Pest Control & Property Maintenance Before Demolition

Concerns	Current Initiatives
Potential increase in rodent activity	Construction projects can disrupt rodent habitats, prompting community engagement teams to assess each situation (with support from the project team) and provide tailored support, including pest control services via a third-party vendor. The goal is to implement effective measures while ensuring that costs remain reasonable for responsible use of public funds.
Maintenance of Metrolinx-owned properties	Site security measures include boarding up buildings and fencing the perimeter to prevent trespassing. Seasonal contractors conduct bi-weekly clean-ups from May to October, using machinery for most tasks, while handheld equipment is reserved for trimming. Recent site visits occurred during the weekend of June 14–15.

Ontario Line Thorncliffe Park Virtual Open House

Hosted by Councillor Chernos Lin

June 24, 2025

Overlea Boulevard and Don Mills Road

Reconstruction of Overlea Boulevard, Charles H. Hiscott Bridge over the Don River and Don Mills Road is planned to keep them in a state of good repair.

As part of this project, there will be changes to the design of the road and the bridge deck to:

- Improve safety for everyone
- Maintain roadways for driving, transit, deliveries and emergency services
- Enhance the public realm for local residents and visitors



State of Good Repair

Charles H. Hiscott Bridge

- Condition survey in 2017 identified the need for replacement
- Interim repairs were completed in 2022 to address critical repairs
- Full replacement is scheduled in 2026 to keep the bridge in working condition and prevent future closures for urgent repairs



Road Reconstruction

- Condition survey identified the need to replace both the asphalt surface and the concrete road base

Bunding road and bridge work, will reduce the overall length of traffic impacts from City construction.



Scope of work

Bridge Reconstruction

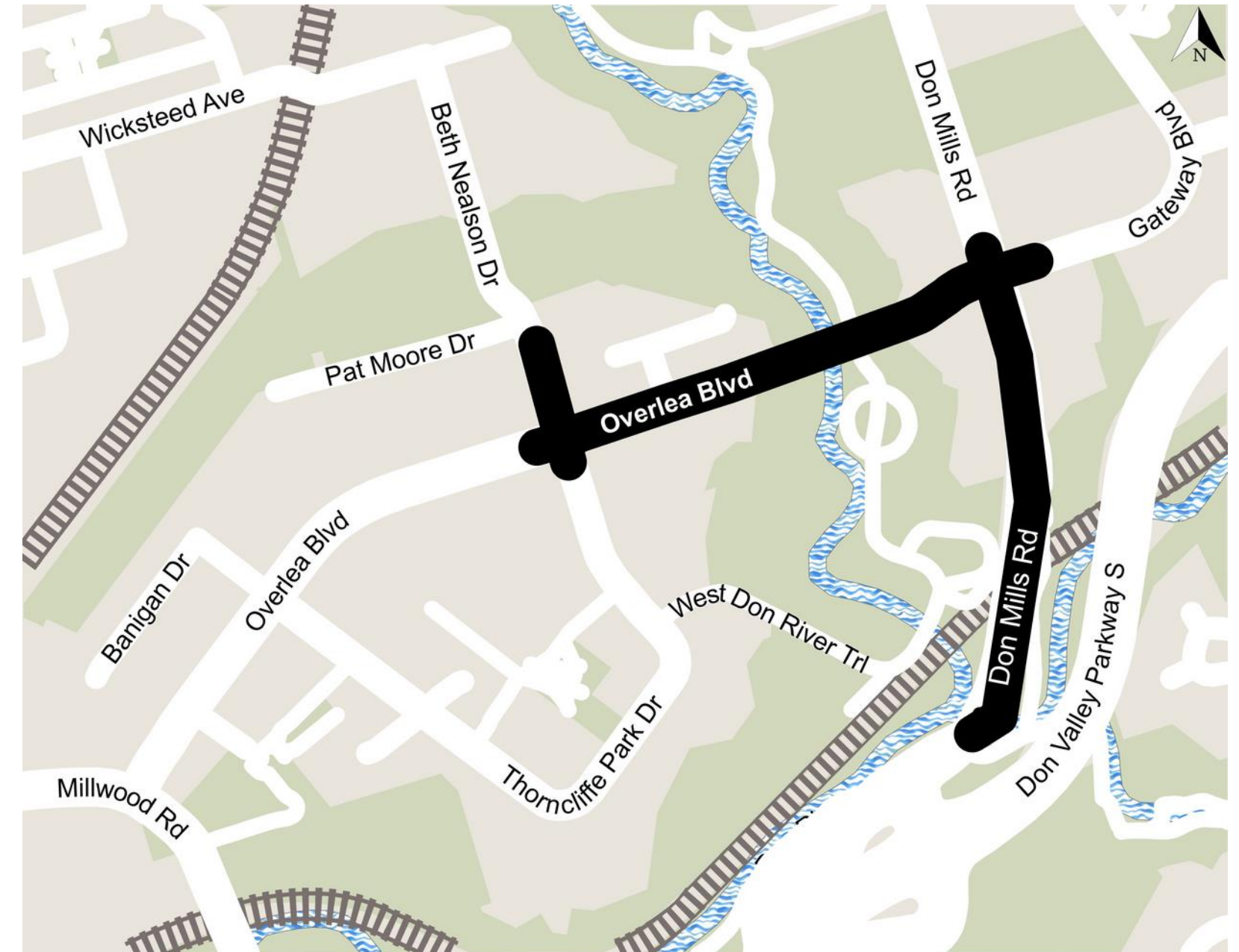
- Bridge deck widening for separated cycle lanes and wider sidewalks
- New enhanced safety barriers on the bridge

Road Reconstruction

- Overlea Boulevard from Thorncliffe Park Drive East to Gateway Boulevard
- Don Mills Road from Gateway Boulevard to Don Valley Parkway
- Thorncliffe Park Drive from Overlea Boulevard to Pat Moore Drive

Bikeway Construction

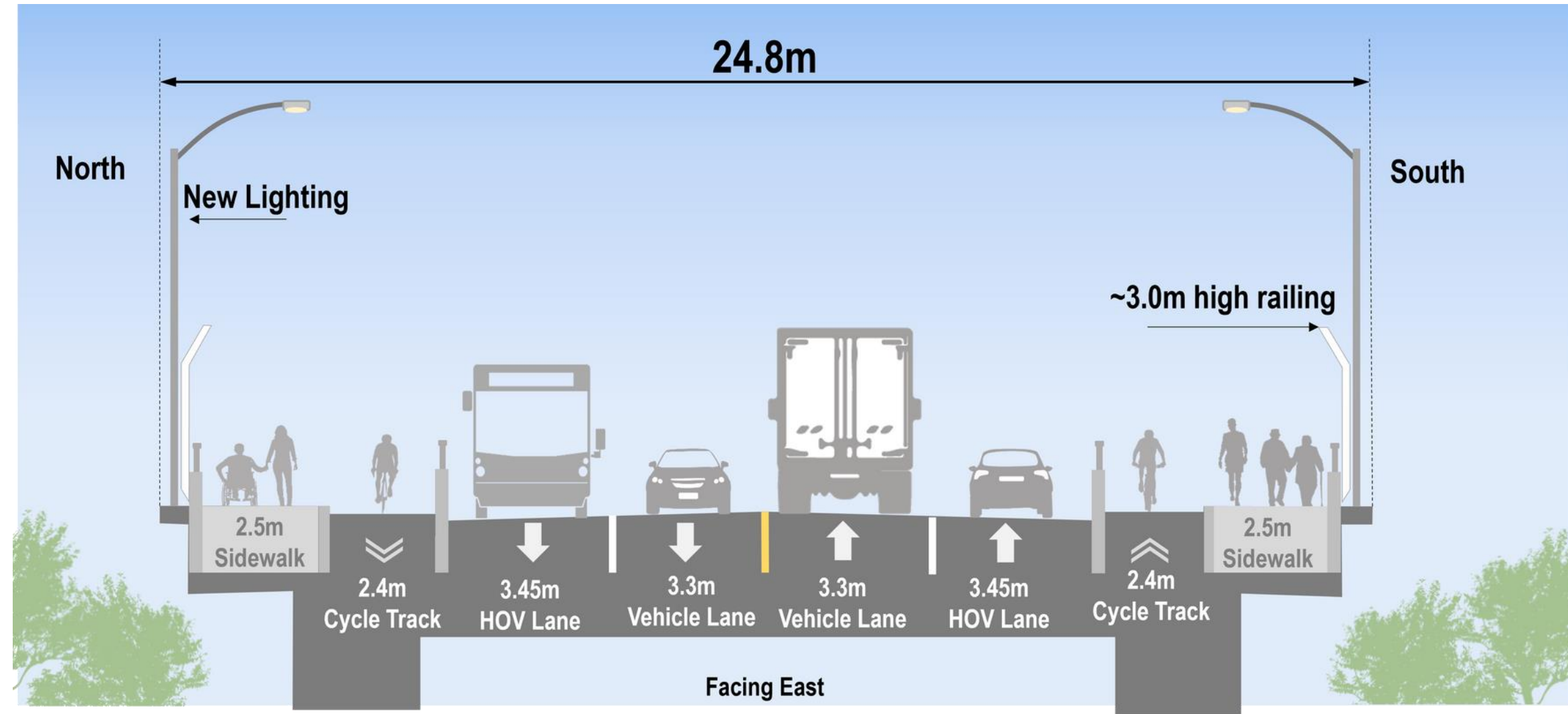
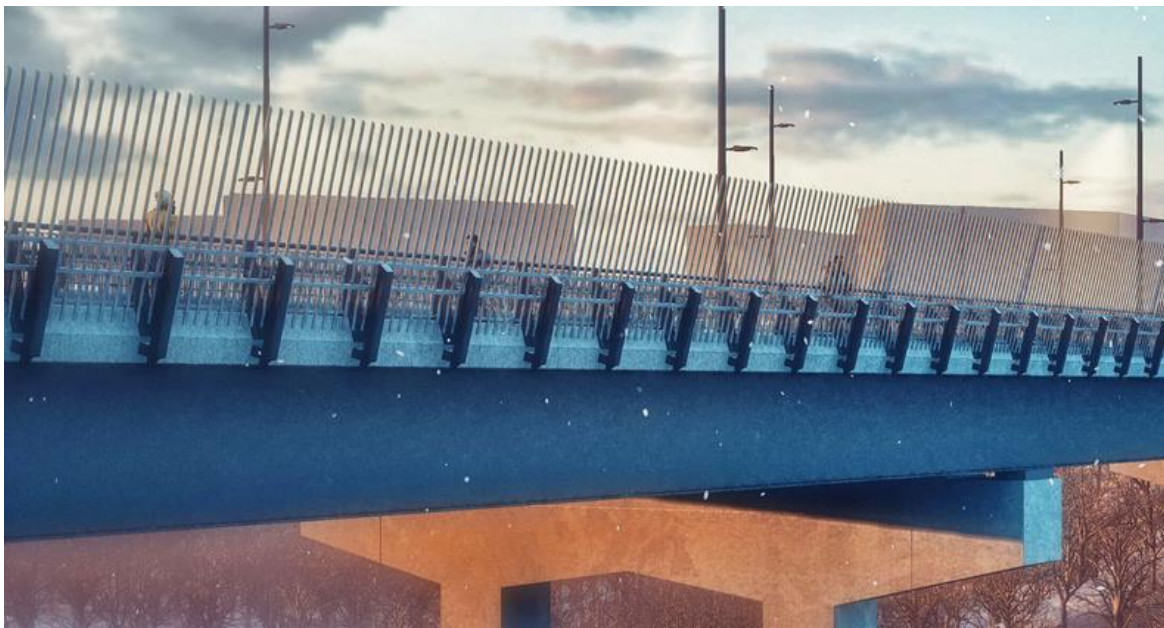
- Cycle track on Overlea Boulevard from Thorncliffe Park Drive East to Gateway Boulevard and on
- Cycle track on Thorncliffe Park Drive from Overlea Boulevard to Pat Moore Drive
- New multi-use trail on Don Mills Road to connect with the Gateway Boulevard and Overlea Boulevard intersection



Bridge Design

The City will:

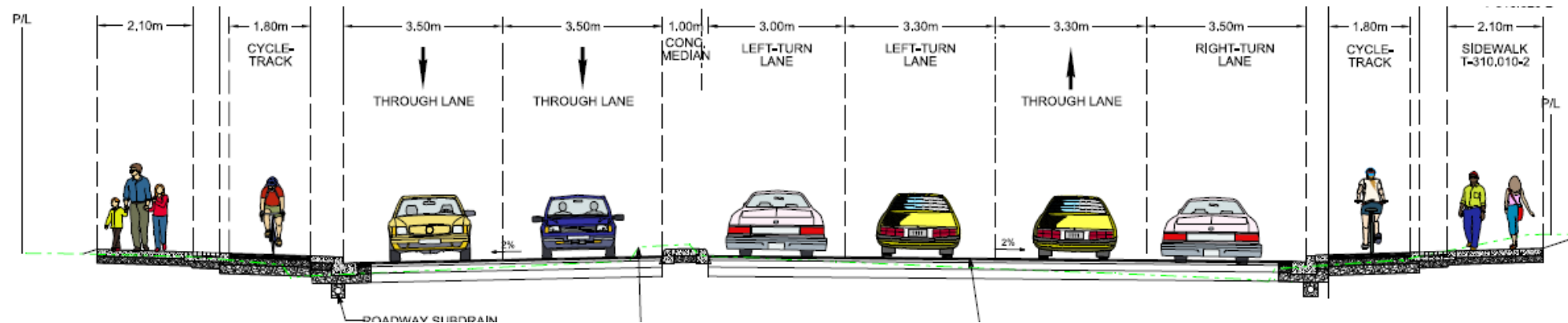
- Fully replace and widen the bridge deck
- Repair the bridge supports
- Widen sidewalks, install cycle tracks and enhance safety barriers on each side of the bridge



Road Design

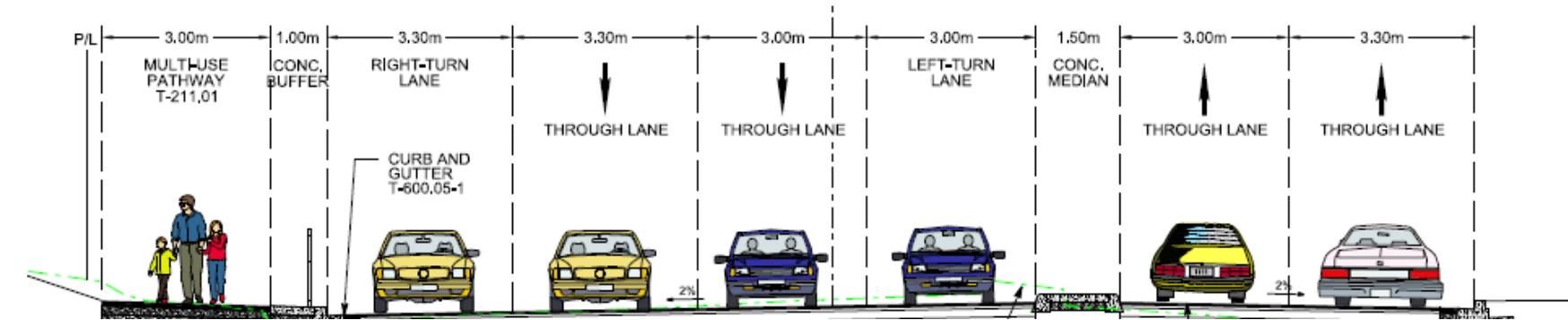
Overlea Boulevard

- Vision Zero safety improvements at intersections
- New cycle track



Don Mills Road

- Extended multi-use trail on the east side providing a connection to Lower Don Trail



Detailed Design

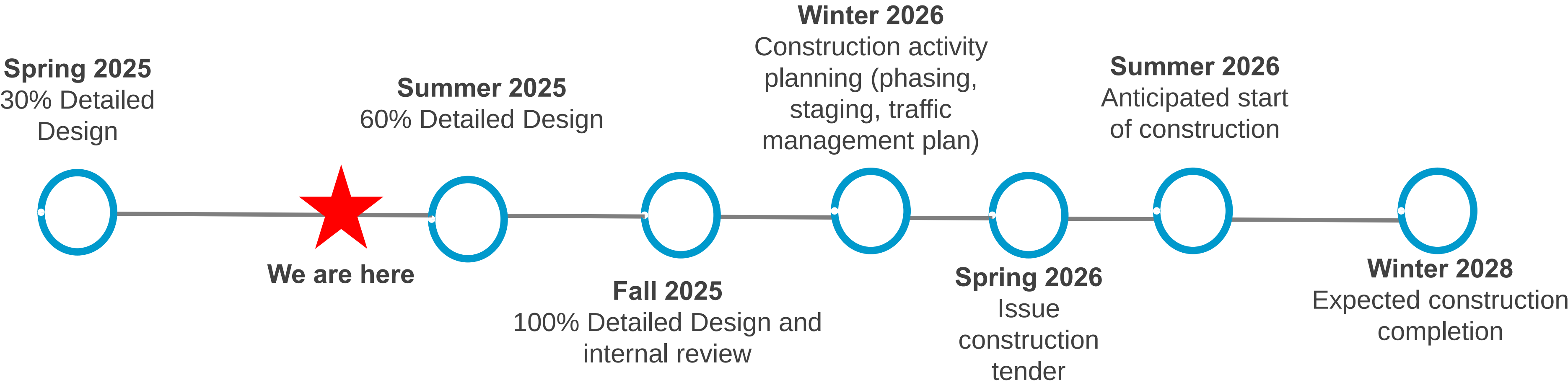
Detailed design is the process where engineers perform analysis and develop technical drawings that are used to plan and carry out construction. It includes:

- Planning for relocation of utilities
- Designing various components of road and bridge structure according to the applicable codes and standards
- Identifying property impacts
- Construction staging and traffic management planning

Detailed design typically takes 12 to 24 months:

- The design and construction plans are developed and reviewed in phases i.e. 30%, 60% etc.
- 100% design includes complete engineering plans, construction staging plans and traffic management plans

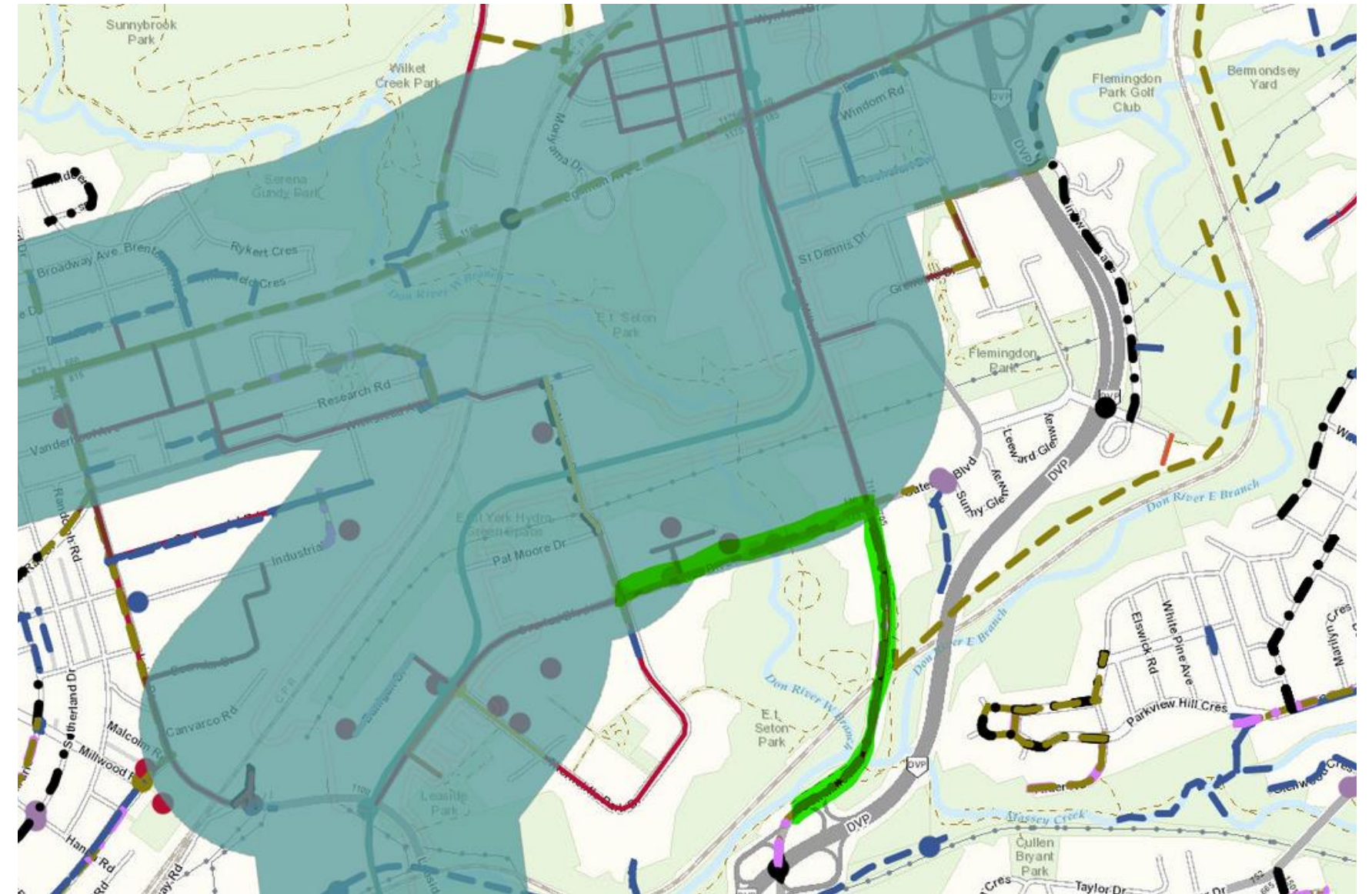
Project Milestones



Traffic Management Plan

Through the detail design process, the City will be working closely with Metrolinx to develop a Traffic Management Plan (TMP).

- The plan will identify how vehicles, transit, pedestrians, and cyclists will travel through and around the work zones safely and efficiently during various stages of construction.
- Road safety, traffic movement, and business access and operations are key considerations in the development of the plan.
- The plan will require review by the TTC and emergency services.



Tools to Manage Traffic

To help manage traffic flow during construction, the City will undertake the following measures:

- Implementation of a signage plan
- Analysis of travel time data
- Adjustment to traffic signal timing
- Temporary removal/bagging of relevant existing road sign restrictions
- Implementation of Paid Duty Officers as well as Traffic Agents, if required, at key intersections during busy periods



Next Steps

- Continue detail design work and construction activity planning
- Establish a Construction Liaison Committee (CLC) and host meetings with key properties (schools, businesses) and groups near the work area to provide updates and respond to issues that may arise through construction
- Host a public meeting to provide the community with additional information ahead of construction, including detailed traffic management plans.

**You can learn more and stay informed by visiting the project website
toronto.ca/Overlea**

