

NEWS

3 THINGS TO WATCH OVER THE NEXT 4 YEARS OF LRT CONSTRUCTION

LRT PROJECT ANTICIPATED TO BE FINISHED IN 2024

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Major construction for the 19-stop Hurontario LRT is about to get underway in Mississauga and Brampton. The 18-kilometre, \$4.6 billion transit project is expected to be completed by the fall of 2024.

Here are three things to keep an eye on over the next four years of LRT construction.

On time and on budget?

Timelines and costs for the Hurontario LRT have changed since the project was initially announced in 2015, with a \$1.6 billion price tag and a 2018 construction start date.

Subsequent designs of the Hurontario LRT were to cost \$1.4 billion and had a starting target of 2022.

In October 2019, it was announced that international consortium Mobilinx had landed a contract worth \$4.6 billion to "design, build, finance, operate and maintain the new transit project for a 30-year term."

Mobilinx expects the Hurontario LRT will be

finished in 2024, two years later than was previously announced.

Other Metrolinx LRT projects have seen delays with more potentially to come. The Eglinton Cross-town in Toronto was initially planned to be in service in 2021, but is not anticipated to start operating until 2022.

Construction on Hurontario

Prior to the LRT transforming travel on Hurontario Street, construction will change how residents and visitors use the busy roadway.

Based on timelines in Metrolinx's construction schedule, which was published in January 2020, several neighbourhoods along Hurontario will see major work.

The Hurontario portions of Port Credit and Mineola appear to be the most construction heavy over the next four years, with multiple elements adding up to around 61 months of total activity. Major projects include the Port Credit Station near the existing GO station, and a new QEW bridge structure to make room for the LRT.

Medians on Hurontario will be removed, with removal work including the taking down of stoplights on poles and stringing temporary lights on wire where needed.

According to Metrolinx spokesperson Nitish Bis-

sonauth, trees along the Hurontario medians will also be removed during construction, and the transit agency is working with the cities of Mississauga and Brampton on a replant and relocation strategy.

In an email, he also said that during construction there will be lane closures, police directing traffic where stop lights are affected as well as some pedestrian crosswalk closures.

He said that no "sidewalks, bike paths or transit services on the road will be impacted by the work."

"Metrolinx and the Hurontario LRT project constructor, Mobilinx, are committed to safety and reducing the impacts of the construction to the community," he said.

LRV delivery

The LRT's vehicles, which are assembled at Alstom's facility in Brampton, are expected to be delivered and commissioned between fall 2022 and summer 2024, according to Metrolinx's construction schedule.

When the contract with Alstom to produce the trains was signed in 2017, Bissonauth said that the project's vehicle order was reduced from 43 to 28. He said the new arrangement better reflected the "requirement for the Hurontario LRT line and given the larger size of the new Alstom vehicles."