

September 9, 2021

Subject: **Metrolinx YNSE Early Works: Continuing Tunnel Vision**

Despite strong community objections, Metrolinx is moving ahead with its Geotechnical Field Investigations, as a step towards the planning and design of the Yonge North Subway Extension. **Wood PLC**, the contractor hired by **Metrolinx** have made drill markings at the following homes (with more markings expected to come within our neighbourhood in the weeks ahead):

Markings found in front or near the following homes:

Banquo Road 15, 18

Kirk Drive 123, 127, 132 (In front of St Anthony's School)

Shieldmark Cres 43, 45

Thorny Brae 30, 41, 39 (at the entrance to Royal Orchard Park path)

New Markings as of Sept 8:

Bay Thorn Drive 269, 261, 235, 218, 204, 198, 192, 186, 179 (at the entrance to Royal Orchard Park path)

Normark Drive (near 235 Bay Thorn)

In places marked for the geotechnical drilling, borehole drilling equipment will park around the marked spot and will drill down a hole to obtain samples of the underground layers (overburden and bedrock). After this drilling the hole will be sealed. The geotechnical drilling investigation is to recognize the type of material that is below the surface and to recognize if aquifers or artesian wells are present and to what depth. This investigation would also include identifying if there are hazardous gases present.

The latest information received by Ward 1 Councillor Keith Irish on timing for geotechnical drilling is as follows (as of Sept 2, 2021):

- Banquo Road (Thorny Brae to Kirk) – Drilling began Sept 8 to October 20
- Thorny Brae (Banquo to Portree) Sept 20 to Oct 10
- Kirk Drive (Shieldmark Crescent to Banquo Rd) - September 24 to October 29
- Kirk Drive (Banquo to Shieldmark) - August 23 to September 27 and October 20 to November 2
- Shieldmark Cres – Drilling began on Aug 30th
- No information received from Metrolinx on the schedule for Bay Thorn or Normark

What you can expect (*notes from Metrolinx*):

“Equipment used will include a drill rig and support vehicles, as well as survey equipment such as cameras and tripods. Drill rigs will be removed from the road after every shift, but storage drums for natural occurring soil and water with no noticeable smell (45 gallons, clearly labelled and sealed) will remain on City property in the boulevard, 2.5m to 5.0m from the curb. These drums will not interfere with garbage/recycling pickup, they will be emptied regularly, and they will be removed after the drilling is done in each location.”

Work hours will be 9:00 am to 3:30 p.m. within the Royal Orchard community, Monday to Friday. Each bore hole will take about two to four weeks to complete. If hours are extended for any reason, further notification will be issued.”

What you can do:

Both Markham and Vaughan City Councils voted against Option 3 and to keep the subway on Yonge Street. Your "Keep the Subway on Yonge" Steering Committee is standing strong and committed to changing the outcome of the YNSE and having a subway alignment that reduces impact to our community as much as possible.

We need **ALL** of our voices together...

- Residents can demand a "traffic control safety plan" and proof that the contractor and all workers have appropriate safety training under the Occupational Health and Safety Act.
- Residents of homes surrounding or close to the drilling sites have the right to request a "Safety Plan" or "Method of Procedure" for the drilling activities.

This drilling will generate impacts to the surrounding area that a Safety Plan needs to address:

- Spills
- Noise & Vibration (typical noise from the drilling work is hammering and diesel engines).
- Potential hazard gases from underground and equipment used
- Traffic obstruction
- Heavy equipment in a residential area
- Drilling waste

We **strongly encourage** you to contact the contractor to request a Safety Plan. This will help you plan for what will be happening in your neighbourhood in the coming weeks and months: several crews will be working in our community; the drilling activity may exceed municipal noise by-laws. The contractor's contact information is:

Siva Nadarajah, M.Eng.
Project Manager / Engineering Analyst
Phone (647) 971-3349
Email siva.nadarajah@woodplc.com

To convey overall concerns with drilling and to ask for more info on Metrolinx "Early Works," you can also communicate with:

The Community Engagement Team at Metrolinx
Phone: 416-202-7000
Email YongeSubwayExt@metrolinx.com

- Residents who are affected should **take pictures of their property** before drilling and file complaints with Metrolinx if there is any suspected damage to the resident's equipment or property. Damage claims are limited to seven (7) days notice with a public agency or municipality after the incident. This means residents must notify the City of Markham and Metrolinx in writing within 7 days if there is any potential damage in order to have legal standing.
- Residents can notify the **Ministry of Labour, Health and Safety Contact Centre** to complain if there is equipment reversing without a spotter or if there is any other potential safety hazard.
Toll free: 1877-202-0008
TTY: 1-855-653-9260

*Thanks for your ongoing support,
Keep the Subway on Yonge Steering Committee*