

Year in review: The Finch West LRT project gains momentum in 2019



What is the Finch West LRT?

The Finch West LRT is a light rail transit project that will bring 11 kilometres of modern, reliable rapid transit to northwest Toronto. It will have 18 stops, including 16 surface stops, plus an underground interchange station at Finch West subway. A below-grade terminal stop at Humber College will connect to other local transit services like GO, Miway, Viva, and Züm. The Finch West LRT will provide rapid transit for the Jamestown, Rexdale and Black Creek neighbourhoods, as well as vital connections between communities and supporting growth in northwest Toronto.

Underground Utility Relocation

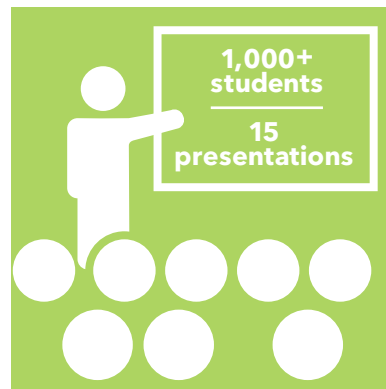
After 18 months of work, Metrolinx completed the relocation of oil and gas pipelines across the project corridor.



Before getting shovels in the ground for the start of major construction, there's lots of work to do on the 11-km, 18 stop Finch West LRT project. From designing each station, stop track and facility, to relocating utilities above and underground, to assessing and protecting the environment, as well as removing street furniture (i.e. bus shelters, medians, traffic signals) to make room for the LRT route.

2019 Achievements:

As 2019 comes to a close, let's look back at our key accomplishments and activities to inform the public while getting shovel ready.



Student Engagement

With our Transit in Your Community program, we reached at least 1,000 students. Through 15 presentations, we talked transit, built and painted trains and tracks, or recited 'Region United' with spoken word artist, Wali Shah in classrooms, libraries and auditoriums across Finch West to increase youth's understanding of the importance of transit in their community.



Community Connection

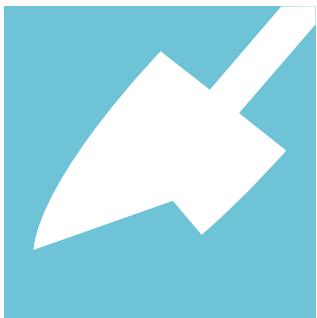
From greeting early morning commuters to attending local festivals to connecting with local businesses and social enterprises, the Finch West LRT team connected with more than 9,000 people at almost 220 community events and meetings. We also rolled out the new Alstom LRV mock-up, built locally at the Brampton Alstom facility, all to increase awareness of the project and what to expect in 2019.



Building it Forward

Together with local organizations, we collaborated, planned and hosted or participated in five workshops, training sessions and networking opportunities to support local business owners and residents.

We also encouraged local residents to support local businesses through postcards, newspaper advertisements and social media stories. Billboard advertising is helping to inform the community of the start of construction.



Protecting the Natural Environment

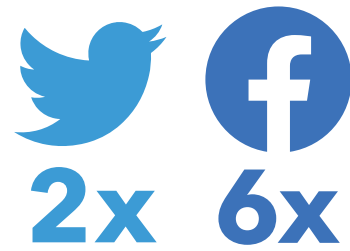
We're committed to protecting the natural environment where we build. At green sites being used for the LRT project, we discourage birds from nesting in active construction zones by establishing new habitats nearby to attract them to safer habitats.

Breaking Ground

In Fall 2019, we kicked off major construction works by:

- Excavating and pouring foundation for more than 13 footings on the 10,000 square metre maintenance and storage facility, located at York Gate Blvd. and Finch Ave. West.
- Constructing temporary work sites beside the Highway 400 bridge to allow us to build two new bridge decks off the highway with minimal disruption to traffic. Each deck will be 40-metres long by 25-metres wide and each will weigh 15,000 tonnes. Combined, they're about one-third as heavy as the CN tower or 286 blue whales.
- Starting road widening activities to make way for the under ground Finch West station, emergency exit, tracks and other required infrastructure.

Construction of the Finch West LRT line will continue in winter 2020.



Social and Digital Links

Through the Finch West LRT's social media platforms, we shared project and community focused stories. Since the start of the year, we've seen a 46% increase in followers on Twitter, Instagram and with e-newsletter subscribers. Facebook followers have increased by almost six folds.

Stay in touch at:



www.metrolinx.com/finchwestlrt
finchwest@metrolinx.com



416-202-6500

**Community Office:
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Hours of Operation:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 9 am - 5 pm
Tuesday, Thursday: By appointment

