

# Welcome

### **Etobicoke Greenway Project Community Open House #2**

### We are here to provide an update on:

- What's involved in rebuilding and energizing the line
- Feedback and input on what we've heard to date
- Our commitment to reimagine the corridor
- The Class Environmental Assessment process

Your input has played a vital role in shaping the project to date, and we will continue to listen and collect feedback.







# We keep the lights on

We energize life for people and communities, helping Ontarians live a better and brighter future. We distribute power to Toronto Hydro to help keep the lights on for homes and businesses in your community.

#### **Ontario Power Generation and Private Generation Companies**



**Renewable Generation** 



#### **Toronto Hydro**







# Local energy partners

Building infrastructure to meet the energy needs of today and tomorrow involves a number of partners, including:



The Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) oversees planning to ensure electricity



TORONTO HYDRO®

### needs are met both now and in the future.

Builds, owns, operates and maintains transmission and distribution electricity facilities across Ontario.

Builds, owns, operates and maintains its distribution electricity facilities within the City of Toronto.



Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks



Legislative authority for environmental assessments in Ontario.

Regulates the electricity market in Ontario, including electricity rates.





# Project details

To ensure energy is available when and where it's needed, Hydro One is proposing to rebuild an existing 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission line into a 230 kV line between the Richview and Manby Transformer Stations.

This 6.5 km hydro corridor is a critical electricity highway serving west and central Toronto, and currently includes two 230 kV lines that are energized and one 115 kV line that is non-energized.

This project was identified in the Toronto Integrated Regional Resource Plan, led by the Independent Electricity System Operator with input from Toronto Hydro and Hydro One, to support economic growth, transit initiatives and electrification.

In June 2022 we began the Class Environmental Assessment process and expect the line will be energized in 2026.







# Etobicoke Greenway Corridor



#### Map Legend







## What is a Class **Environmental Assessment?**

This project is subject to the Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) for Minor Transmission Facilities (Hydro One, 2022), in accordance with the Ontario

Environmental Assessment Act. This process ensures that transmission projects that have a predictable range of effects are planned and carried out in an environmentally acceptable manner.

As part of the Class EA process, all project planning will be shaped by:



Engagement with government agencies, residents, interest groups, elected officials and Indigenous communities



### Collection of natural and socio-economic data



### Hydro One's Class EA is available at: HydroOne.com/ClassEA





## **Environmental considerations and studies**

**Ecological Land Classification** 



#### Hydro One's Class EA is available at: HydroOne.com/ClassEA





# Project milestones

June 2022 Notice Of Commencement

### July 2022

Community Open House Series #1

### August 2022

Corridor Walks, Community Workshops & Ongoing One-On-One Meetings

### November 2022 Community Open House Series #2

### **Early 2023**

Draft Environmental Study Report Release for Public Review and Comment

### May 2023

Final Environmental Study Report Submission

#### 2023

OEB Section 92: Leave to Construct Approval Submitted

### 2023

Community Open House Series #3

#### 2024

**Construction Begins** 

### 2026

Line Energized





# **Community outreach to date**



#### **4** Notices

to ~10k addresses

**2 Open Houses** with ~70



### Engaged

local Conservation

#### participants

Authority, elected officials and key stakeholders



Heard and interacted with more than 275 community members



**2 Community Workshops** with ~40 participants



**1 Virtual Meeting** with ~1.1k participants



#### **5 Community Walks**

with ~100 participants

#### Key areas of feedback:







# Environmental mitigation measures

Based on community feedback, we are considering several mitigation measures for the project, including:

- Utilizing several unique measures to help preserve trees and vegetation
- Developing a shared vision to reimagine the corridor
- Planning enhanced corridor restoration in regulated areas
- Applying erosion and sediment controls, where required
- Employing dust control measures during construction
- Installing measures to help divert stormwater run-off, where applicable
- Completed health and safety modelling







# **Construction activities to remove the line**



Remove vegetation and required structures or objects to establish



construction areas





Install temporary gravel construction areas at each tower and at six locations for wire installation equipment



Install temporary wood poles near existing towers and over dense vegetation for construction activities



Remove existing tower structures





# **Construction activities to rebuild the line**



Install tower foundations to support new tower

structures





Trim vegetation, with minimal removals, to install wires



Install new transmission towers and wires that can carry a voltage of 230 kV



Make upgrades within the stations to connect





Prepare the line for energizing by trimming or removing additional vegetation



Remove temporary access roads and restore work areas





## Tower details

Over the last months, our team has refined our proposed tower design. To support the new 230 kV line, the new towers will be:



- Constructed within a few meters of existing locations
- Slightly taller or similar in height to those on the west side of the corridor
  - Generally, range in height from 135 ft and 160 ft
- Similar in footprint to the lattice structures on the west side of the corridor
- More compact design with narrower

arms than the west side of the corridor

To help preserve dense vegetation and mature trees in and near Echo Valley Park, we are proposing to install four taller towers, up to 180 ft.

#### **Proposed Towers**





# Preserving vegetation

For this project, we will be utilizing a number of unique measures to help preserve vegetation throughout each stage:

Typical	Etobicoke Greenway
Approach	Project

<section-header></section-header>	Remove all vegetation under and near the power lines for access.	<ul> <li>Use aerial construction methods.</li> <li>Strategically place temporary access roads to avoid vegetation.</li> <li>Install wood poles near dense vegetation to support installing the new wires.</li> </ul>
Tower Design	Use standard design and height.	<ul> <li>Use towers with narrower arms.</li> <li>Build taller towers to preserve dense and</li> </ul>



mature vegetation in and near Echo Valley Park.

#### Future Maintenance

Remove all vegetation that would pose a risk to the electrical system.

 Complete annual assessment of tree health and growth, and maintain as required.



Through these measures, it is anticipated that 2/3 of the trees will be saved.





# Upcoming vegetation work

To prepare for construction and energizing the line, vegetation trimming and removal will be completed in three stages:



#### **Stage 1: Preparing for construction**

Remove vegetation at and near tower bases and construction areas.

### Stage 2: Stringing the line

Selectively trim and in limited instances remove vegetation under and near the power lines.

### Stage 3: Energizing the line

Selectively trim and in limited instances remove vegetation on the edge of the corridor.

#### Future maintenance work

Once the line is energized, crews will return annually to perform routine maintenance to ensure trees and vegetation remain within a safe distance from the power lines.





# **Reimagining the corridor**

Hydro One is committed to investing in the corridor so it can be enjoyed by the community once the project is complete.

We have developed a preliminary design concept that balances public input with Hydro One's technical and safety

#### considerations.

The concept features 4.5 km of trails with meadows, pollinator plantings, trail amenities and five frequently mown spaces for recreational activities within the 70-hectare greenspace.







# Reimagining the corridor – what we heard

Through open houses, community walks and workshops we heard:

- The corridor is currently used for walking, running, dog walking, birdwatching and recreational enjoyment
- There is strong interest in making the corridor publicly accessible
- There is support for a design that includes trails, open spaces and other amenities

### The key considerations we heard include:

- Locating the trail in the middle of the corridor and not near adjacent properties
- Placing amenities and activities near roads
- Planting pollinators to provide more privacy
- Garbage pick-up and long-term maintenance should be considered





# Reimagining the corridor – proposed greenway features

#### Path

• A 3 m wide path will be

located along 4.5 km of the corridor

 The path will be located between the 230 kV lines on the west side of the corridor

### Naturalized Meadows

- Open meadows will be located along the path





to encourage a more naturalized landscape through seeding with a native species "meadow mix" to enhance biodiversity and habitat

 Naturalized meadows feature low-maintenance species including native grasses, wildflowers





# Reimagining the corridor – proposed greenway features

#### **Meadow Rooms and Buffers**

Five 'meadow rooms' consisting of frequently mown areas

that encourage a variety of recreational uses - from dog areas to casual sports - will be located along the path

 Mown buffers are frequently mown strips located beside trails and at the perimeter next to adjacent properties







# Reimagining the corridor – proposed greenway features

#### **Pollinator Planting**

• Two areas near Mimico Creek will be planted with native

### wildflowers and pollinator plants

- Pollinators will also be planted under tower bases next to paths
- Pollinator plantings attract insects and animals that are fundamental to pollination

### Amenities

- Trail markers and signage will be located at segment thresholds
- Seating and garbage cans will be located primarily at road crossings and meadow rooms







# Health & safety in the corridor

Hydro One has a dedicated team that regularly monitors global studies around electric and magnetic fields (EMF) and ensures that our infrastructure is built and maintained following best

practices and industry standards. We look to Health Canada, the World Health Organization and the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection, for guidance on EMF and our approach.

Based on global studies which have and continue to be regularly monitored, Health Canada and the World Health Organization indicate that members of the public do not need to take precautions to protect from fields produced by extremely low frequencies such as transmission lines.

Hydro One has completed modeling which confirmed that once the line is energized the fields produced will remain within a safe level.





# Next steps



Continue to listen to community feedback and answer questions.



Prepare a draft Environmental Study Report which will be shared for a review and comment period.





Continue to plan for the design and construction for rebuilding the line and reimagining the corridor.







# Thank you for coming

Please fill out a comment form before you leave, or send us your comments afterward.

Join our project contact list to receive important updates.





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www.HydroOne.com/Etobicoke

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