

GO News

GO Transit's newsletter for customers

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Union Station Revitalization It's time for you

IT'S TIME
FOR



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IT'S TIME FOR



FOR

It's time for you. Imagine a train station that's bright and airy, allowing thousands of passengers to easily pass through on a daily basis, getting to and from destinations quickly, comfortably, and effortlessly.

A world-class city deserves a world class station. GO Transit is excited to announce that we are moving forward with an extensive project that will revitalize Union Station – maintaining the historical significance of the building, while creating a better commuter experience for you.

IT'S TIME FOR **CHANGE**

It starts from the top

The most noticeable aspect of the Union Station revitalization project will be the natural light streaming through the **new roof** and **glass atrium** that will be built over the passenger platforms and railway tracks. The intricate and stylish new roof is the symbol of the dynamic changes that will happen to this metropolitan transit hub that sees you and hundreds of thousands of your fellow passengers each day.

Your experience and improving services are the key driving factors for this extensive revitalization project that includes not only the train roof, but the passenger platforms and waiting spaces. This revitalization project will also help ease the future transportation demands of the generations to come.



Future glass atrium at Union Station.

Top five improvements

- A brighter train shed structure to replace the one you see everyday.
- A glass atrium bringing a sense of light and openness down onto your platforms.
- Many new staircases and elevators, allowing you to move with ease.
- New electrical and communication systems to improve service reliability and keep you informed.
- A facility meeting modern standards and with amenities that will make your travel experience comfortable.

Obviously, such a major project does not come without its obstacles. GO Transit faces two major challenges to modernizing and upgrading Union Station:

1. Union Station and the railway corridor were built in the 1920s and have not been upgraded in over 80 years; and
2. This project is being done in a very narrow transportation corridor, and must be handled in a way that will allow GO Transit passengers to continue using the service daily until construction activity is complete.

Union Station and the train shed roof were built nearly a century ago and over the past decades have deteriorated. The station now struggles to meet the demands of GO Transit's current ridership and we're expanding service.



IT'S TIME FOR ACTION



The train shed rehabilitation will include the installation of a glass atrium over top of the tracks and restoration of the remaining east and west portions of the shed, including a green roof. The glass atrium will allow natural light to reach all customers on the platforms, bringing a newfound brightness into Union Station, while still protecting you

from the elements. Louvers in the glass box will have the ability to open and close, increasing the overall air circulation. At night time, the glass atrium will illuminate the sky and provide a renewed focus on this historical landmark.

You can expect new staircases, additional vertical access points, and an overhaul of the look and feel of the platforms and station concourses.

The project also includes some demolition, repair, and reconstruction of the train shed structure, while ensuring refurbishment of elements of heritage value.

The remaining portions of the roof will be made 'green' and covered with low maintenance plants that will improve water runoff and reduce heat build up.

This extensive construction project will take place over the next five years and will also include:

- Replacing the smoke ducts over the tracks in keeping with the historical design.
- Replacing the roof material and improving drainage and waterproofing.
- Cleaning and restoring the steel structure.
- Replacing existing tracks.
- Improving the lighting system and signs.

Once complete, you will have many more stairs and elevators to choose from, dramatically improving the vertical access between the platforms and the concourses, and making it easier for you to get around.

The work we're undertaking will be transformational but we know it will take time and change to get there. Let's look at what you can expect over the next several years.

Five years of construction

What to expect?

This complex construction project is designed to take at least five years to complete, due mainly to the fact that we do not want to disrupt your regular GO service during this time.

To minimize service disruptions and inconvenience to you throughout the construction period, only small portions will be completed at a time. This will be carried out by taking two tracks out of service at a time for approximately six to eight months. During each phase, the contractor will complete work on the roof, make



For information or assistance look for our friendly Customer Care Coordinators in the GO concourse.

improvements to the platforms, and provide openings for the new staircases and elevator shafts that will be built by the City of Toronto as part of their own revitalization project. (http://www.toronto.ca/union_station/)

Construction will begin on the south side of the shed and over the next several years will progress to the north end of the building. During this time, you will see platforms, stairs, doors and tracks cordoned off. For your safety, the construction zone will be separated from passenger platforms. When the rebuilding of each area is complete, the track will be reinstated and the work will shift to the next two tracks and adjacent platform. This necessary separation will give the contractor the ability to easily move equipment and materials back and forth, without disrupting train traffic.

Throughout the construction period, platform changes will become more frequent and you will likely experience changes to your regular travel routine. GO Transit will continue to keep you updated on the progress and do our best to minimize disruptions to your commute. We recommend that you monitor the platform screens in the concourse for your train departure.

During the construction phase and onwards, we are committed to providing clear and user-friendly signage to help you navigate in and around Union Station. This signage will notify you of platform closures and navigation routes or different travel options, and will be updated as each phase of the construction project takes place.

Platforms 26 & 27

Helping you through the construction

Trains arriving at Union Station are very tightly scheduled, especially during the morning and evening rush. The new platforms 26 and 27 were built to accommodate the trains that will be displaced from the tracks that are out of service during the construction period.

- These platforms help to offset and ease the impact of construction, and allow us to maintain our schedule.
- Without these two platforms, GO would have to reduce service during construction.

Planning ahead is just one of the reasons GO has started its revitalization efforts at Union Station. As demands increase for more service, GO will now have the capacity to meet a growing ridership and increased service.

Get to know platforms 26 & 27

These new platforms include:

- New double doors at access points (Winter 2009).
- A snow melt system with sensors and embedded heating devices.

You can help!

Throughout the construction, platforms for train arrivals and departures will regularly be adjusted to accommodate the difference stages of construction.

- We ask that you please stay in the concourse and wait for your platform to be announced. Staying in the concourse until your train has been announced is critical to ensuring that the passenger platform area remains safe, as there will be construction going on around you, accompanied by dust and noise.
- To help ease your commute, GO also recommends that you board the train at your departure station near where you would like to exit upon arrival at Union Station. For example, if you would like to exit Union via the Bay Street Teamway, then position yourself at the east end of your train when you board.

We want to provide you with the ultimate customer experience. We want you to have pride in choosing GO. This construction project will not be easy, will not happen over night, but will be worth it.



Early construction at Union Station.

It's time for history remaking

- The train shed was designed by American architect Abraham Lincoln Bush and is one of only two of that design remaining in Canada. The other Bush-designed train shed can be found in Winnipeg.
- The building has received historical designation by Parks Canada. Both the east and west ends of the roof will be preserved, showcasing the unique lattice-work of angled steel.
- The train shed was built in 1929-30 and was the final phase of the Union Station construction project that began in 1913, but was delayed at the start of the First World War.
- On August 6, 1927, Edward, Prince of Wales, officially opened Union Station. The Prince of Wales was also issued the first ticket sold at Union Station for travel from Toronto to Alberta. Train service began on August 11, 1927.

Tell us what you think and visit our Union Station Revitalization webpage at gotransit.com

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