

Union Station – Train Shed Revitalization

Funded &
Underway
Project Profile

Quick Facts

- Union Station is Canada's busiest passenger transportation hub
- Total capital costs: \$270 million
- Union Station passenger traffic is expected to increase dramatically, in the range of 2 to 3 times the levels of 2006 by 2031
- Construction is underway. The atrium is expected to be complete in time for the Pan American Games in 2015, and the project is scheduled to be fully complete by 2016.

The Project

Union Station and the train shed roof were built nearly a century ago and have deteriorated with time. The building struggles to meet the growing GO ridership demands and these improvements will help to make the commuting experience more comfortable and convenient for passengers.

The City of Toronto, along with the TTC and GO Transit are involved in a major, extensive revitalization of Union Station, the busiest passenger transportation hub in Canada. GO Transit is working on making improvements to the train shed and train shed roof, including:

- Replacing the central area of the train shed roof (5,000 square-metres) with a glass atrium. The train shed is 35,000-square metres in total
- Replacing the tracks: Tracks will be taken out of service two at a time, as well as the corresponding platform
- Restoring the section of the train shed over Tracks 1 and 2 to its original condition
- Building new stairs and elevators in concert with the City of Toronto's building revitalization program, improving passenger access to and from trains
- Replacing the roofing material, improving drainage and waterproofing to prevent leakage to the concourses below
- Cleaning and repairing the steel structure
- Replacing old wiring and much of the public communications equipment
- Upgrading stair enclosures to glass structures, except at platform 12/13 where heritage features will be carefully restored to their original finish
- Installing six new elevators on the west side of the shed, and will open with the new York Street GO Concourse, to be completed by the City of Toronto in 2014
- Opening two additional elevators on the east side of the train shed (2015)

The train shed is a designated heritage structure. GO Transit worked with Parks Canada and a heritage architect in the overall design, ensuring that the heritage character of the roof is preserved. The roof will feature an environmentally friendly green roof. The glass atrium will float over the tracks, providing daylight at platform level and a visual connection from the station to the waterfront. It will have louvered panels for air circulation. At night, the atrium will light up with Toronto skyline.

Project Status

The new atrium is being built in sections to minimize disruption to GO's regular rail services. Construction work started in January 2010. All of the steel columns and secondary (framework) steel has now been installed. The atrium structure is scheduled to be complete in 2014 and the balance of the revitalization work, in 2016.

Project Costs

The revitalization of the train shed and the train shed roof is a \$270 million investment supported provincially by GO Transit Capital Infrastructure funding.