

Toronto Reference Library Capital Renovation – Update

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| Date: | April 20, 2009 |
| To: | Toronto Public Library Board |
| From: | City Librarian |

SUMMARY

To provide the Board with an update on the renovation of the Toronto Reference Library.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact beyond what has already been approved in the capital budget.

DECISION HISTORY

The Toronto Reference Library renovation is a multi-year capital project approved by City Council as part of the Library's capital budget. The project requires an estimated \$34.2 million investment to renovate the entire building over a five year period 2008-2012. The project is funded by \$14.2 million in the capital budget, \$10 million secured from the Province of Ontario by the Toronto Public Library Foundation and \$10 million to be raised through the Foundation's private sector capital campaign.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

The next phase of construction will be highly visible and likely to draw more attention than work undertaken to date.

COMMENTS

There are two significant construction expansion components in the TRL renovation plan. The first of these is the new event space that is currently under construction on the north side of the building over the administrative office area. Construction of this major new facility is expected to be substantially complete in June 2009. A formal launch is anticipated in September with an active program plan for the fall.

As work winds down on the event space, construction will begin on the project's second major construction component: creating the new glass entrance cube; expanding the

Yonge Street façade west to eliminate the colonnade; and, constructing the glass Browsersy at the north end of the building. As TRL will remain open during the renovation, this work must be achieved in three phases.

In the first phase, to begin early summer, the doors on Yonge Street opposite Yorkville Avenue (currently not in use) will be retrofitted to serve as the library's main entrance during the construction of the glass entrance cube. As soon as the new temporary entrance is ready, it will be put into operation and hoarding will be erected around the current entrance and along Yonge Street up to the Yorkville entrance and on the main floor interior. Services on the main floor will be realigned, relocated or temporarily reduced in size to accommodate the construction. The one service closure during this phase will be the TD Gallery. This phase of construction will achieve a new, enlarged gallery, a café and library gift shop as well as renovations to the Digital Design Studio and Friends' used book store.

The final phase of this project element will complete the Yonge Street expansion north of the Yorkville doors and the Browsersy. This work will be undertaken when the new entrance cube is in operation and the Yorkville doors are no longer required.

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SIGNATURE

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