

Union Pearson Express: Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Union Pearson Express?

The Union Pearson Express is an express rail service connecting Canada's busiest transportation hubs, Union Station in downtown Toronto and Toronto Pearson International Airport. Construction is already underway, and is expected to be complete in 2015.

When can I ride the Union Pearson Express?

The Union Pearson Express will be ready to carry our first guests in time for Toronto to host the Pan Am and Parapan Am Games in the summer of 2015.

Will I be able to use my PRESTO card on the Union Pearson Express?

Yes. Because we want to make travel easy for our guests, the Union Pearson Express will use a wide array of ticket purchase options including PRESTO.

Why does Toronto need a shuttle between the airport and downtown?

The Union Pearson Express will address a significant gap in airport-to-downtown travel in Toronto. Each year an estimated five million people travel between downtown Toronto and Toronto Pearson International Airport. With this number expected to grow to nine million by 2020, the Union Pearson Express is expected to remove 1.2 million car trips annually while offering a critical transit alternative for quick and easy access to Toronto's downtown core and Toronto Pearson.

How long will the trip between Union Station and Toronto Pearson be on the Union Pearson Express?

Each one-way trip on the Union Pearson Express will take approximately 25 minutes. With vehicles departing every 15 minutes, the Union Pearson Express will be the fastest and most reliable means to the airport.

Where will the Union Pearson Express stop?

In addition to Union Station and Terminal 1 at Toronto Pearson, the Union Pearson Express will only make two additional stops at Bloor and Weston GO Stations.

How much will a trip on the Union Pearson Express cost?

As it's still a few years from launch, the fare has not yet been set. The Union Pearson Express however will be priced competitively and offer value to its guests.

Who operates the Union Pearson Express?

The Union Pearson Express is a division of Metrolinx, the Province's regional transportation agency for the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area.

Who is supplying the trains for the Union Pearson Express?

Trains for the Union Pearson Express have been purchased from the Nippon Sharyo, a division of Sumitomo Corporation of America. They are currently being manufactured. The first vehicle is expected to arrive in early 2014.

What type of trains will the Union Pearson Express use?

The vehicles will be Tier-4 diesel multiple units (DMUs). These vehicles are convertible units, and therefore can be converted to electric propulsion and continue to service the Union Pearson Express, if a decision is made to move forward with electrifying the service.

For more information about Metrolinx's electrification project currently underway, please visit www.go transit.com/electrification

Is a new rail line being built for the Union Pearson Express?

The Union Pearson Express will share GO's Georgetown/Kitchener corridor, and construction on the Georgetown South Project began in fall 2010. In addition to supporting the Union Pearson Express, this construction will also provide infrastructure improvements – including future all-day, two-way service – to meet existing GO Transit ridership demand and future growth on the Kitchener line (formerly the Georgetown line), Milton line and Barrie line.

Construction on the three-kilometre rail spur, which will connect the Kitchener line to a new passenger station at Toronto Pearson's Terminal 1, began in spring 2012.

For more information about the Georgetown South Project, please visit www.go transit.com/gts/

How will the Union Pearson Express connect to Toronto Pearson?

A purpose-built elevated spur track is being constructed to link from the shared rail corridor to bring guests directly to Terminal 1 at Toronto Pearson. The spur track is about 3 km long and is 28 meters at the highest point. The spur is being constructed by AirLINX.

If you require additional information, or would like to arrange an interview, please contact our media relations team at: 1-416-874-5974 or 1-416-874-5945.