

The Gardiner Tsunami

The untold story of how repairs to the Gardiner Expressway are drowning the City's ability to properly maintain and invest in the rest of Toronto.



GARDINER REPAIRS ARE DISTORTING THE NUMBERS

The City's 10 year Capital Plan includes a strategy to maintain the city's infrastructure in a State of Good Repair. Having a growing backlog in your state of good repair means critical infrastructure is falling into greater and greater disrepair. This year's backlog sits at 9.6%.

In 10 years, the City says it plans to reduce the backlog to 6.5%.

2016

9.6%
backlog

2026

6.5%
backlog

Looks like the City's making good progress and chipping away at its backlog, right?

Let's look closer...

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GARDINER GETS FIXED, BUT EVERYTHING ELSE FALLS INTO DISREPAIR

What would the State of Good Repair backlog look like now, and in 10 years, if we took out the repairs for the Gardiner Expressway?



2016

4.9%
backlog

2026

7%
backlog

What does this all show? It shows that the \$3.6 billion budget for Gardiner Expressway repairs, which recently grew by a billion dollars due to the hybrid option backed by Mayor Tory and his allies, is causing the repair backlog for the rest of Toronto infrastructure to grow even worse.

The numbers look even more bleak when we look at the backlog in specific areas.

TTC

Toronto's public transportation system is already coming apart at the seams due to underfunding and overcapacity. The outlook for the repair backlog in 10 years is simply astounding.

2017

\$23 million



2026

\$482 million

LIBRARIES

The Toronto Public Library system has for years borne the brunt of repeated cuts to its operating budget. It already has an enormous backlog to its infrastructure repairs, but look at the grim outlook in 10 years.



2016

\$60 million

2026

\$137 million

TORONTO COMMUNITY HOUSING

In 2013, Toronto Community Housing reported that its 10 year State of Good Repair backlog was \$2.6 billion. Although the City has made significant investments, necessary federal and provincial investment has not been secured and the housing units are still being closed.

2013

\$2.6 billion

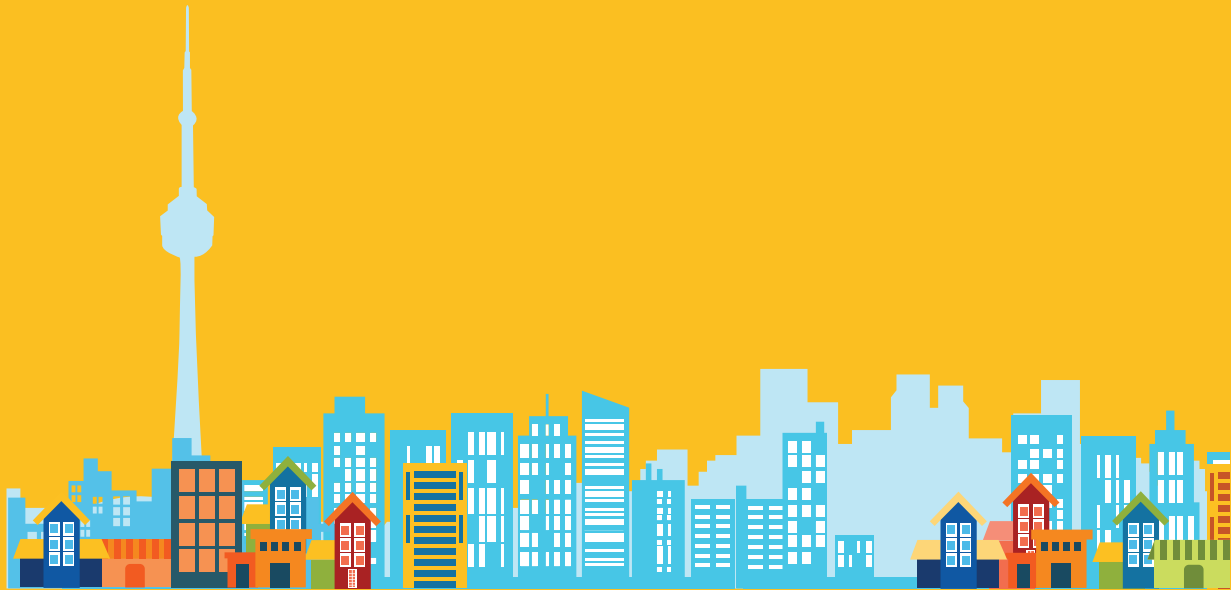
2026

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HERE'S THE QUESTION:

If Council reconsidered the at grade boulevard option for rehabilitating the eastern portion of the Gardiner, what other critical infrastructure could we afford to repair?



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SOURCES:

2017 Preliminary Operating Budget and 2017-2026 Capital Budget & Plan, City Manager's Presentation, pp. 67-69.

10-year capital plan (2016). Toronto Community Housing (2016)
<https://www.torontohousing.ca/capital-initiatives/capital-repairs>.