

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you very much for being with us here today.

On behalf of the City of Ottawa and my colleagues on City Council, I am delighted that you could join me today to attend this historic moment which marks the start of construction of the Confederation Line tunnel.

Now, I don't have to tell my colleagues up here but the Confederation Line is the biggest and most complex project our City has undertaken.

It will change the face of our City much as the Rideau Canal did two centuries ago.

I wish to thank all our residents and all our businesses for their patience and support cooperation throughout these essential works.

We're doing our best to mitigate the impacts of construction and on that note I am pleased to report that the tunnel excavation method and machines we are using will enable us to build the tunnel with a minimum surface impact and we see one of these machines right behind us.

I am pleased to announce today that next week, the City will release details of a naming competition for students to name the three road header machines that will be carving out the tunnel... and this is one of the road header machines.

The competition will be open to grade 4 students across the City as these students will be entering high school the year the Confederation Line enters service.

Our youth represent the future of our City and the Confederation Line will be an important part of the legacy that we will all leave for them.

Let me once again thank my colleagues on City Council.

This is a very proud moment for us all at the City of Ottawa we've sorry... It's a little emotional because it's a wonderful project that we have taken the time and effort to consult our community, to work with professionals and our staff. And it's the combination of a lot of hard work on the part of a lot of people, including all my predecessors Bob Chiarelli and Larry O'Brien and previous councillors who worked on this.