2025

TTCWatch: Your Guide to Toronto Transit

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Intended Audience: Toronto Transit Riders

New to TTCWatch

6/16/2025

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Contents

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Introduction

TTCWatch is an iOS app designed to help you navigate the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) system. Whether you're a daily commuter or a first-time rider, understanding the app's layout and features helps you move through Toronto with ease.

What is TTCWatch?

TTCWatch provides real-time arrival estimates for streetcars and buses using live GPS tracking. It brings order to your commute by allowing you to pin specific stops, check nearby arrival times, and instantly view the routes you ride most often. The app also displays live service alerts for disruptions affecting the city's streetcars, buses, and subway lines. The TTC does not offer an official app with these features.

Unlike other transit apps, TTCWatch is:

- Free to download and use.
- Easy to navigate.
- Built specifically for the TTC network.

As the most widely used Toronto-specific transit app, thousands of riders rely on TTCWatch for accurate, up-to-date information during their commutes.

Getting started with TTCWatch

Before using TTCWatch, make sure that your device meets the requirements. If it does, then download the app from the App Store.

Technical requirements for TTCWatch

TTCWatch runs on a range of Apple devices:

- iPhone, iPad, and iPod Touch (iOS 12.0 or later)
- Mac (macOS 11.0 or later and Apple M1 chip or later)
- Apple Vision (visionOS 1.0 or later)
- Apple Watch (watchOS 5.0 or later)

Note: TTCWatch requires an internet connection to display real-time arrival data and 16.6 MB of storage.

Downloading TTCWatch

To download TTCWatch

1. Open the App Store on your iOS device.
2. Search for TTCWatch.
3. Tap **Get** to install the app.

TTCWatch tabs overview

TTCWatch features five main tabs, each serving a specific purpose with its own set of features:

- Map: View real-time vehicle locations and upcoming arrivals.
- Nearby: View estimated arrival times at stops closest to you.
- Pins: Save frequently used stops for easy access.
- Alerts: View service disruptions and route changes.
- Settings: Adjust app preferences and features.

Exploring the Map tab

After downloading the app, the Map tab opens as the default home screen. The map shows every bus and streetcar stop in the city of Toronto, including select routes into Etobicoke and East York.

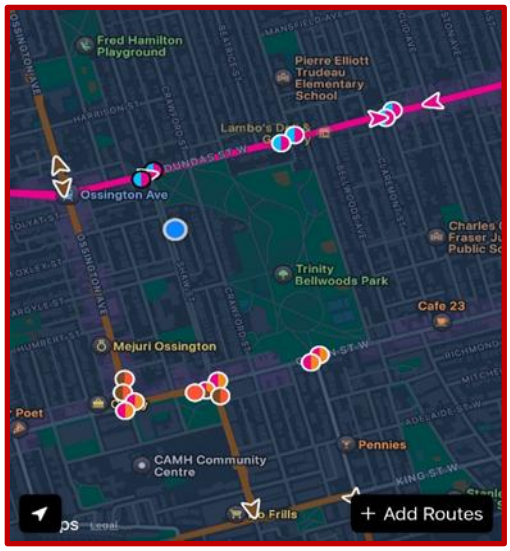

Figure 1. The Map tab shows TTC stops (circles) and vehicles in motion (arrows). At the bottom of the map screen, you'll find the location arrow icon and the Add Routes icon.

Navigating the map

Navigate the map and check route information using these motions:

- Drag to move around the city.
- Pinch to zoom in and out.
- Tap the stop icons (multi-colored circles) to view upcoming estimated arrival times.
- Tap the vehicle icons (arrows) to track moving streetcars and buses.

Note: Circular stop icons display estimated arrival times for all routes serving that stop. Arrow-shaped vehicle icons show real-time GPS updates for vehicles in motion.

Using the Map tab tools

The Map tab includes two key tools:

- Location arrow icon: Tap the location arrow in the bottom left corner of the Map tab screen to re-center the map on your current location.
- Add Routes: Tap Add Routes to open the Routes screen and manage which routes appear on your map.

Note: When you zoom into a specific area on the map, all routes in that area appear by default. Add Routes controls which routes remain visible when you zoom out.

The Routes screen includes three tabs:

- All Routes: A complete list of TTC bus and streetcar routes. Tap the plus icon (+) next to a route to add it to your map. Tap the star icon (★) to mark it as a favorite.
- Showing: Routes currently visible on your map (you've added them with the plus icon).
- Favorites: Routes you've starred for quick reference. Favorited routes appear here but do not display on the map unless also added with the plus icon.

Tip: Tapping the plus icon displays a route's stops and vehicles on the map. Tapping the star icon marks a route as a favorite without showing it on the map. Favorited routes appear in the Favorites tab but stay hidden on the map unless you also add them using the plus icon.

Checking estimated arrival times with the Nearby tab

The Nearby tab uses your current location to display estimated arrival times at the TTC stops nearest to you.

For each stop, the app displays:

- The Route name and direction.

- A red timer counting down to the next vehicle's estimated arrival.
- A list of the next five estimated arrival times.

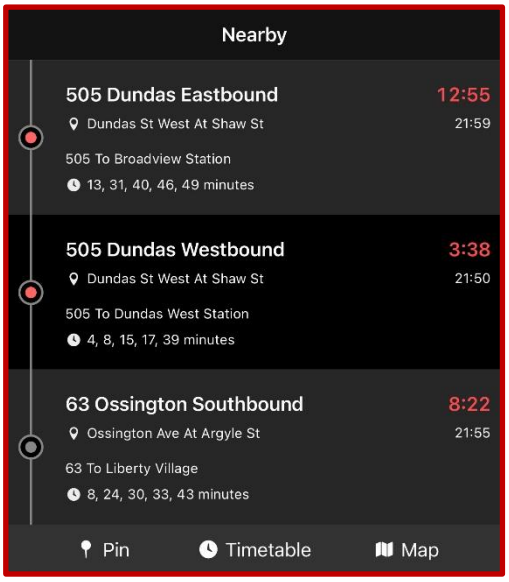

Figure 2. The Nearby tab lists TTC stops with estimated arrival times based on your location.

Example: On a typical afternoon in Trinity Bellwoods Park, the Nearby tab shows:

- 505 Dundas Eastbound & 505 Dundas Westbound
- 501 Queen Eastbound & 501 Queen Westbound
- 63 Ossington Northbound & 63 Ossington Southbound

Note: Routes with no active service (such as late-night routes that aren't currently running) appear at the bottom of the list without any times listed.

Tip: Make sure to enable location services. The Nearby tab won't work without permission to access your location.

Saving and managing stops in the Pins tab

The Pins tab lists the stops (and their routes) that you have pinned. Until you pin your first route, it only displays the message: "Try pinning your favorite stops to see them here."

Once you start pinning stops, Pins becomes your personalized list of route-stop pairs.

Note: The Pins list has the same format as the Nearby tab. It shows the route name, direction, countdown timer, and the next five arrival times.

Pinning a stop from the Map tab

To pin a stop from the Map tab

1. Navigate to the stop icon you want to pin.
2. Tap the stop icon.

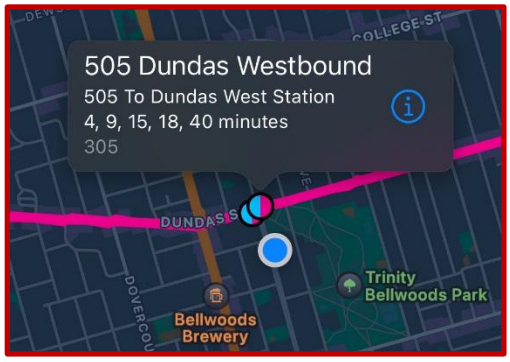

Figure 3. Tap a stop icon to see an information box with estimated arrival times for routes servicing that stop.

3. Tap the information box.
   A menu screen with route options containing information about each route appears.
4. Tap the route option of your desired stop.
   A sub-menu appears with Pin, Timetable, and Map options.
5. Tap **Pin** in the sub-menu.

Pinning a stop from the Nearby tab

To pin a stop from the Nearby tab

1. Tap the route option for the stop and direction you want to pin.
2. Tap **Pin** in the sub-menu.

Tip: If you use both directions of a route, you'll need to individually pin each stop.

Managing and removing saved pins

You can edit your Pins tab at any time.

Removing pins

To remove a pin

1. Open the **Pins** tab.
2. Tap the pinned route option you want to remove.
3. Tap **Pinned** in the sub-menu.
   This removes the pin for that stop from your list.

Tip: Your saved Pins aren't across devices. If you use TTCWatch on multiple devices, set up your saved pins separately on each one.

Monitoring disruptions with the Alerts tab

The Alerts tab shows all ongoing service disruptions announced by the TTC, including:

- Subway closures (planned and unplanned)
- Bus and streetcar route detours
- Other service interruptions (such as collisions, construction work, and water main breaks)

The Alerts tab keeps you informed about delays, so you can change your route if needed.

Viewing active alerts

Check the Alerts tab before commuting to avoid unexpected delays, especially if estimated arrival times on your route seem unusually long.

To view active alerts

1. Tap the **Alerts** tab in the navigation bar.
   The Service Alerts tab displays.
2. Scroll through the list to check for current service issues.

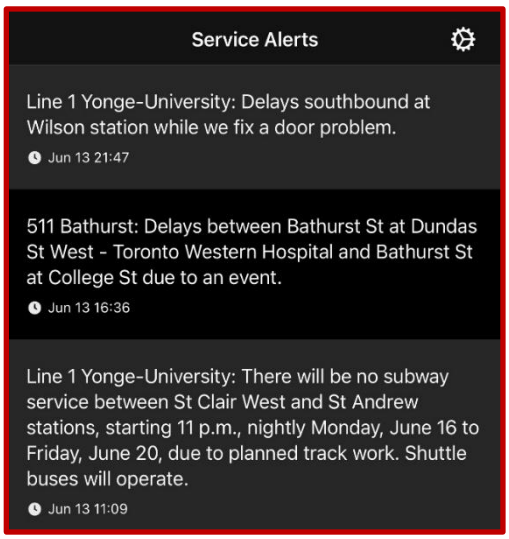

Figure 4. The Alerts tab shows recent TTC disruptions in reverse chronological order.

Adjusting your settings

Use the Settings tab to control features like notifications and display preferences.

Managing notifications

The **Enable push notifications** toggle turns notifications on or off.

If enabled, select which notifications you want to receive:

- Subway lines
- Streetcars
- Buses
- System-wide interruptions
- Elevator alerts
- Custom routes

Note: Use the Enable sound toggle to turn alert sounds on or off.

Choosing your default tab

Select which tab you want TTCWatch to open at startup:

- Map
- Nearby
- Pins
- Alerts
- Remember last used tab

By default, TTCWatch opens to the Map tab unless you choose a different option.

Exploring additional settings

These optional settings control how TTCWatch displays information and manages updates:

- Show Countdown: Turn on to display estimated arrival times as minutes remaining instead of clock time.
- Always Show Stops: Turn on to display every stop of a route on the map, even if no vehicles are active.
- Update Route List: Tap to refresh route data after TTC service changes.
- Remove Ads: Tap to make a one-time $2.99 CAD purchase that removes ads from the map and menu screens.
- Restore Purchases: Tap if you've paid to remove ads but still see them.

Accessing external resources and leaving feedback

At the bottom of the Settings tab, you'll find links to official TTC resources and options for submitting feedback.

TTC resources

TTCWatch provides two shortcuts to the official TTC website:

- Subway Lines: Opens the TTC subway schedule page.
- TTC Mobile Website: Opens the TTC mobile homepage.

App feedback

TTCWatch provides three ways to share your feedback:

- Rate TTCWatch on the App Store
- Like TTCWatch on Facebook
- Email feedback through your mail app