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Premier Ford hints at earlier Windsor hospital build; local taxpayers could pay more

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The site of the new Windsor/Essex Acute Care Hospital is shown on Monday, September 16, 2024.

PHOTO BY DAN JANISSE /Windsor Star

- Ontario's premier says construction on a new Windsor-Essex acute care hospital could begin ahead of schedule — but an increase to the massive project's already hefty price tag might see city and county taxpayers on the hook for more money.
- While celebrating a large donation to the hospital project in Windsor on Monday, Premier Doug Ford indicated he wants shovels in the ground next year for the health care facility at County Road 42 and 9th Concession. That work on the city's southeast side is currently scheduled to begin in 2026.
- "We're on track for the construction contract to be awarded in 2026. That seems a little long, buddy — 2026," Ford said.
- "That's the target, but we're going to do better," Ford continued. "I'm sure we will. We'll go as quickly as possible and cut out all the bureaucracy, get the shovels in the ground."
- David Musyj, hospital project lead and interim president and CEO of London Health Sciences Centre, said residents should expect to hear "some exciting news shortly" about the project's timeline.
- "There's been a lot of talk with respect to moving this sooner rather than later. We just have to go through some procurement processes and get this thing going."
- 'We're going to do better.' Premier Doug Ford speaks during a press conference on Monday, September 16, 2024, at the site in southeast Windsor of the planned Windsor/Essex Acute Care Hospital.
- To date, Ford said, his government has invested nearly \$17 million for "early planning" for the hospital. *The expectation is it's going to be more*
- Musyj estimated hospital construction would be complete in 2030 or 2031, but said a more definitive date would be known once the project has gone to tender.

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