The 29-kilometer Don Valley Parkway is one of three major expressways running through the City of Toronto. Its first 7 kilometers were constructed in 1950 and reconstructed in 1962. The road was extended by 22.9 kilometers in 1957.

The expressway was designed as a deep-strength asphalt pavement that would accommodate high traffic volumes. The Parkway’s pavement structure includes a base layer of 80 mm (3.14 inches), a binder layer of 170 mm (6.69 inches), and a surface course of 50 mm (1.96 inches).

Since its construction, the road has undergone resurfacing in the 1970s and the 1990s; each time there was approximately 80 mm milled and replaced. Each resurfacing has lasted 18 to 20 years. Today the road is handling an average annual daily (AADT) traffic count of between 80,000 and 100,000 vehicles, with a total of 1.2 to 1.3 million equivalent single axle loads (ESALs) each year.