

Ward 22, St. Paul's

City Hall, 100 Queen Street West
2nd Floor, Suite B26
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2

Tel: 416-392-7906
Fax: 416-392-0124
councillor_matlow@toronto.ca
www.joshmatlow.ca

**Chair & Members**

Government Management Committee
10th Floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen St. West
Toronto ON M5H 2N2

June 26, 2012

Re: GM 15.19 - Changes to the On-Street Parking Machine/Meter Rates

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

I am writing to request that the Committee consider the accompanying recommendations requesting that the proposed new fees generated by increased parking rates be dedicated to enhancing TTC bus service.

Torontonians are passionate about their city and committed to improving its services and infrastructure. While no one enjoys paying additional taxes or fees, there is a greater level of acceptance if the new revenue is specifically directed toward an important public amenity with a measurable level of improvement as a result of the increased funding.

The Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) adopted service reductions to 41 bus routes across the city on February 2nd, 2011. These local bus routes were the only transportation option for many seniors, students and workers. Many residents in my community, and across the city, relied on these buses to go grocery shopping, travel home from work, visit family and friends or attend religious services. Also, I believe that this measure could be compromising the safety of individuals, including seniors, traveling after dark that cannot afford a taxi and are left with long walks to their home without this service they once relied on.

The TTC estimated the savings stemming from their February 2011 decision to be \$6.5 million annually. The \$4 million in additional fees to the Toronto Parking Authority from GM 15.19 would likely be adequate to restore service to the cancelled bus routes with higher ridership numbers, while also enhancing service to overcrowded routes.

Recommendations:

1. City Council request the City Manager to direct the Toronto Parking Authority to dedicate the estimated \$4 million in additional fees stemming from the increase recommended in GM 15.19 to the Toronto Transit Commission.
2. That funding in recommendation 1 is used to restore service to bus routes with higher ridership numbers that were cut on February 2, 2011 and enhance bus service on overcrowded routes or support other operational priorities as determined by the TTC.

Sincerely,

Josh Matlow
Toronto City Councillor
Ward 22 – St. Paul's