



Deputation to City of Toronto, Executive Committee - December 10th 2020

Re: Item EX 19.5 – Update on the City’s Transit Expansion Projects

Support for the Eglinton Avenue East Light Rail Transit project

From: Larry Whatmore, President, Scarborough Community Renewal Organization

Good morning, all. My name is Larry Whatmore. I am the president of the Scarborough Community Renewal Organization. SCRO is an organization of engaged volunteers that works to connect, promote and renew Scarborough, so Scarborough can be strong and prosperous. We seek to renew Scarborough on multiple fronts, including strong and inclusive neighbourhoods, vibrant arts & culture, an enhanced natural environment and opportunities for economic prosperity right here in Scarborough.

I am here today to bring a Scarborough voice in support of the approval and funding **of the Eglinton Avenue East LRT from Kennedy Station to University of Toronto Scarborough and from there to Malvern**. We believe this should be a priority project for the City of Toronto because it offers significant social and economic benefits.

We support this project for the following reasons:

1. **It advances the City’s Strong Neighbourhoods Strategy.** The route outlined in the staff report benefits 7 out of the 8 Neighbourhood Improvement Areas in Scarborough, where more than 50% of trips to work are made by public transit. The LRT will bring faster and more reliable transit to our residents and shorter commutes, whether they work in other parts of Scarborough or across the City.
2. **It aligns with the ambitious growth plans of University of Toronto Scarborough**, one of Scarborough’s most important anchor institutions, and will reduce the commuting time of many of UTSC’s 14,000 students.
3. **It addresses a significant public infrastructure deficit in Scarborough.** This project, together with the Scarborough Subway, will provide the critical infrastructure needed to serve as a catalyst for economic prosperity in Scarborough generally and in northeast Scarborough in particular.
4. **It provides economic benefits** to Scarborough businesses and residents, especially our youth. We support the City’s efforts encourage the provision of local employment opportunities for young people as part of the construction of public infrastructure projects like this one.

In short, the Eglinton East LRT will help create the conditions to enhance the social and economic health of Scarborough.

Thank you Mr. Mayor for your support of this project and we agree with you: the Eglinton East LRT will be a game changer by connecting parts of Scarborough to each other and better connecting Scarborough to the rest of the City. And thank you to the Executive Committee as well for this opportunity to bring voices from Scarborough today. We believe this project will be a great legacy for this Council.

Thank you. I am happy to take any questions.

Larry Whatmore
President
Scarborough Community Renewal Organization