

May 5th, 2008

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

RE: REPORT ON DECLARING TRANSIT AN ESSENTIAL SERVICE IN TORONTO

Dear Colleagues:

I am writing to request that the following recommendations be added to the soon to be forthcoming report regarding declaring transit an essential service in the City of Toronto.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) That the report to be prepared by the City Manager specifically include the following:
 - a) The approximate cost to the City of Toronto's economy per day of a full scale transit strike (prepared in consultation with Economic Development)
 - b) The estimated environmental damage caused by a full-scale transit strike (prepared in consultation with the Toronto Environment Office)
 - c) The expected impact on congestion and transportation services of a full-scale transit strike (prepared in consultation with Transportation Services)
 - d) The expected impact on emergency services of a full-scale transit strike (prepared in consultation with Toronto Fire, EMS and the TPS).
 - e) An analysis of the importance of reliability in the transit system, (prepared in consultation with the TTC).
 - f) The effect of a full-scale transit strike on the entire GTA transit network, including GO, Viva and Mississauga Transit.
 - g) An analysis of other major North-American Cities and whether their transit systems are essential services.
 - h) A comparison of the compensation for TTC drivers and maintenance workers to other major North American Cities and GTA municipalities.
 - i) An outline of the process and timelines by which Council and the Province could most quickly implement this legislation.

- 2) That the report also specifically discuss the feasibility of:
 - a) Declaring Wheeltrans, main routes or other specific parts of TTC operations, alone an essential service.
 - b) Including in potential Essential Service legislation a provision that compels any arbitrator to take into consideration TTC's limited ability to pay, as well as recognition that TTC revenues are derived primarily from the farebox and that it is in the public interest to keep transit affordable.
- 3) That the report come back to the Executive no later than the September 2008 meeting as a deputation item.

Thank you for your consideration of this item and I hope that the Committee adopts these motions.

Sincerely,

Cesar Palacio
Toronto City Councillor
Ward 17 – Davenport