



Designating the TTC an Essential Service

Date:	December 1, 2010
To:	Executive Committee
From:	Mayor Rob Ford

SUMMARY

One of my priorities as the newly elected Mayor of Toronto is to improve the services that impact the daily lives of Torontonians. Creating a more accountable and efficient transit system will provide enhanced service while restoring citizens' faith in publicly operated organizations.

The TTC is one of the most widely used transit systems in North America. It carries approximately 1.5 million passengers daily, including 85% of transit trips in the Greater Toronto Area. Hundreds of thousands of Toronto residents rely on the TTC on a daily basis to get to work, school and to perform various other important tasks. Similarly, Wheeltrans is often the only means of transportation for many Toronto residents who are elderly or physically challenged.

Transit work stoppages create an enormous impediment for Toronto residents, both functionally and economically. Passengers are left stranded while millions of dollars are lost in economic activity. Each day of a transit strike also leads to increased greenhouse gas emissions as many residents have no alternative but to rely on automobiles as their primary form of transportation. Designating the TTC an essential service would satisfy a number of statutory requirements, as a work stoppage in Toronto may pose a threat to life, health or safety and may also lead to serious environmental damage.

Presently, a private member's bill is being considered at the provincial legislature that would effectively make public transit across Ontario an essential service. The City of Toronto, due to its size and population, would especially benefit from such a designation. In order to prevent a transit workers' strike that will paralyze Toronto residents and negatively impact their well-being and the City's economic situation, it is incumbent on council to request that the Province of Ontario designate public transit in Toronto an essential service.

RECOMMENDATIONS

I recommend that:

1. City Council formally request the Provincial Government to designate transit in Toronto an essential service.

Mayor Rob Ford