

Submitted by Councillor
Thompson

EX 4.14.47

on March 25, 2015

Replacement of the Scarborough Rapid Transit (SRT) System - Scarborough Councillors' Position -

Scarborough Deserves Adequate Public Transit

Scarborough Councillors have reviewed and considered the TTC's proposal to address the need for a replacement of the Scarborough Rapid Transit (SRT) system now nearing the end of its lifecycle. Scarborough residents are among the heaviest users and supporters of public transit in Toronto. We are committed to ensure that they are served by a transit system that not only meets their needs, but improves access to this vital urban resource and integrates transportation services in Scarborough with an efficient GTA public transit system.

We Support the Proposal as an Interim Solution

We support TTC's recommendation to upgrade the Scarborough RT line to accommodate larger, new generation vehicles. We see this as an interim strategy to address the replacement of the existing RT vehicles that will reach the end of their service life by 2015. We support this recommendation because we recognize that a subway extension to replace the SRT cannot be implemented

within the required timeframe, and the substantial investment needed for such a subway would be better spent on a broad strategy to provide enhanced transit service throughout Scarborough in the interim period.

We Expect Certain Conditions to be Met

We support the TTC recommendation on the condition that the TTC agrees that this interim strategy:

- Includes extending the RT to Malvern Town Centre (Neilson Rd./ Sewells Rd.) in accordance with the already approved Environmental Assessment;
- Includes construction of a new Brimley station;
- Incorporates enhancements that make RT stations climate controlled and more comfortable for transit users and more accessible for seniors and people with disabilities; and
- Includes an implementation plan addressing the provision of adequate transit service for Scarborough transit users while upgrades are under construction.



We Support Integrated Transit That Links Scarborough to the GTA

We support TTC's recommendation to develop an improved, integrated transit strategy for Scarborough that will investigate not only options within Scarborough but also integration and enhancement of transit services between Scarborough and surrounding areas in Durham and York Region. We recommend that, beyond upgrading the SRT, it is vital that the TTC and City staff prepare plans for the extension of the Sheppard subway to the Scarborough Town Centre in accordance with the already approved Environmental Assessment. It is also our expectation that the long-term strategy for transit in Scarborough include the replacement of the proposed RT system when it approaches obsolescence with an extension of the Bloor/Danforth subway to Scarborough Town Centre, and eventually beyond to the eastern perimeter of Scarborough.

We Request the Following Changes to the TTC Recommendation Document

Scarborough Councillors are in agreement that the following changes are needed to the TTC recommendation document:

Recommendations 1 and 2 should be changed to recognise that this project is an interim solution to the pressing need to replace the fleet of SRT cars, which will be at the end of their service life by 2015, and to add system capacity. TTC staff and City staff should work jointly to draw up an implementation and staging plan.

Insert as new Recommendation 3:

“Staff will include a new station at Brimley Road as part of the upgrading of the SRT line, such station to be built substantially in accordance with the findings of the TTC study dated November 2002 and entitled “Brimley Road Scarborough RT Station and Interim Pedestrian Connections Feasibility Study.”

Add as new Recommendation 4:

“Authorise TTC staff, jointly with City staff, to develop funding strategies and an implementation plan as soon as possible, to carry out the staged construction of the Sheppard Subway east from Don Mills station to the Scarborough Town Centre station, and the extension of the new Scarborough RT to Sheppard Avenue and Markham Road; in accordance with the approved Environmental Assessment Study Reports completed over 10 years ago.

Renumber staff Recommendation 3 to Recommendation 5 and amend to read:

“Authorize TTC staff, jointly with City staff, to develop an *Integrated Rapid Transit Plan for Scarborough* to address matters including, but not limited to, the following:

- Extension of the Scarborough RT line beyond Sheppard Avenue into other possible corridors, in addition to the potential use of Markham Road as shown in the Official Plan, Map 4;
- Introduction of a minimum of 40 km of surface streetcar/LRT or Bus Rapid Transit on main corridors such as Kingston Road, Danforth Avenue, Eglinton Avenue East, Sheppard Avenue East, Lawrence Avenue East, Markham Road, and the Finch Hydro Corridor;
- Longer term extension of the Bloor-Danforth subway to Scarborough Town Centre and eventually beyond to the eastern perimeter of Scarborough;
- Other inter-regional and local initiatives to integrate TTC transit service with other transit services including York Region, Durham and GO Transit, to link north and east Scarborough with the adjoining municipalities;

- Creation of an appealing brand name for the new RT system (similar to Vancouver’s Skytrain brand) in consultation with the public.”

We believe that when amended as recommended above, the TTC strategic plan for Scarborough will form the basis for improved, more efficient, essential public transportation services for the people of Scarborough, and the residents of the GTA who rely on public transit.

Per Councillors:

Paul Ainslie
Brian Ashton
Harvey Barron
Gay Cowbourne
Glenn De Baeremaeker
Michael Del Grande
Norm Kelly
David Soknacki
Michael Thompson