



TRANSPORT ACTION ONTARIO

(formerly Transport 2000 Ontario)

Advocating for Sustainable Public and Freight Transportation
Box 6418, Station "A" Toronto, ON M5W 1X3

2016 01 28

Presentation by: Bruce Budd, Secretary, Transport Action Ontario
Peter Miasek, President, Transport Action Ontario

EX11.5.8

To: Executive Committee, City of Toronto

Re: Agenda Item Ex 11.5, January 28, 2016 "Scarborough Transit Planning Update"

Thank you Mr. Mayor & Members of the Executive Committee for this opportunity,

Active for 40 years Transport Action Ontario is a sustainable transportation policy think-tank and advocacy organization for better urban transit, and intercity passenger and freight transportation. We are pleased to deputize today on the excellent report from staff on improving the transit network in Scarborough. We particularly wish to highlight the two priorities outlined in these reports:

- 1: Support the development of Scarborough Centre as a vibrant urban node
- 2: Support the development of complete communities along the Avenues and improve local accessibility

We strongly support SmartTrack and the Mayor's commitment to use evidence-based decision making. Specifically we are pleased with the recommendations in this report to extend the Crosstown eastward to Kingston Road and north to UTSC, the SmartTrack station at Lawrence East, and rapid transit on Sheppard East assuming it is LRT.

Transport Action Ontario has long held that, given the high cost of transit infrastructure, every effort should be made to maximize the return from investment dollars put into SmartTrack and any new transit project. We are encouraged by SmartTrack's ridership projections, indicating that it can serve as an excellent addition to Toronto's transit network. We note that the SmartTrack corridor passes within two kilometres of the Scarborough Centre precinct, and would ask that an analysis of opportunities for SmartTrack to support Scarborough Centre be pursued by staff through the direction of committee and Council with the following motion:

Executive Committee direct the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning Division, to undertake the technical work necessary to consider the opportunities for SmartTrack to have a role in access to Scarborough Centre in evaluations of the recommended Scarborough transit network, and include any such opportunities in high-level evaluation tables of possible transit solutions for Scarborough against the two transit planning priorities.