



Scarborough Community Renewal Organization

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Attention: Jennifer Forkes
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March 1st, 2017

Re: EX23.1 Next Steps on the Scarborough Subway Extension

Dear Executive Committee,

The Scarborough Community Renewal Organization (SCRO) is committed to creating and realizing bold visions for Scarborough. We are a multi-stakeholder group of community volunteers seeking to *Renew Scarborough* through advocacy and action. SCRO recognizes that there are several building blocks for encouraging a community such as Scarborough to grow and become a vibrant place – and that a key component is access to fast and reliable public transit.

Scarborough needs a fully integrated transit system that includes the subway, light rail, buses and Go Transit. SCRO agrees with the City of Toronto Staff Report¹ that the optimized solution for Scarborough includes:

1. Extension of the Bloor-Danforth Subway to Scarborough Centre from Kennedy Station;
2. Extension of the Crosstown East Light Rapid Transit Line (LRT) to the University of Toronto Scarborough Campus (UTSC);
3. Smart Track; and
4. Rapid Transit on the Sheppard East Corridor.

We agree that the cornerstone for the Scarborough additions is the extension of Line 2 (Bloor-Danforth) subway from Kennedy to Scarborough Centre. This improvement will provide an all-weather, reliable and no-hassle connection that will boost Scarborough's image and make a statement that Scarborough is open for serious business. For many years, it seems that investment in Scarborough development has stalled, and we need to find ways to attract new businesses, and provide greater opportunities and jobs for residents.

SCRO is also pleased to see that the Staff Report has included an assessment of the economic and social impacts of the proposed solution, as these factors have often been excluded in many previous technical reports on transportation system additions. The Extension of Line 2 to Scarborough Centre promises to be a catalyst for economic growth to *Renew Scarborough*. We agree with the Institute for New Suburbanism² that:

¹ City of Toronto Staff Report: Scarborough Transit Planning Update. January, 2016. Available at <http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2016/ex/bgrd/backgroundfile-87737.pdf>

² Institute for New Suburbanism Assessment of the Scarborough Transit Plan, January, 2016. Authored by Dave Hardy, R.P.P. Available at: <http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2016/ex/comm/communicationfile-58604.pdf>

- The advancement of higher order transit connections (Bloor-Danforth Extension, Smart Track extension and Crosstown East extension) will increase density and attract employers to the **Kennedy Mobility Hub** (Kennedy & Eglinton). Redevelopment of the Kennedy Station Area as a nodal town centre employment area would be desirable. These investments are long overdue; and
- Advancing the connection of the Bloor-Danforth Subway to the **Scarborough Centre Station** is essential to the overall economic, residential and cultural aspirations of suburban residents in Scarborough and the Eastern GTA (eastern York and Durham Regions). The Subway Stop at Scarborough Centre will stimulate considerably more investment in the area and result in social, cultural and economic benefits for all of the City of Toronto and the Eastern GTA.

SCRO strongly endorses the City’s recommended options detailed in Executive Agenda Item 23.1. We feel that the following aspects are essential for the Scarborough Subway project and must be considered:

- **The subway should be constructed in a way that leaves the option open for future extensions (e.g. to Sheppard), or additional stops at important locations (e.g. Danforth & Eglinton, McCowan & Lawrence).** We feel that even if intermediate stations are not constructed as part of the immediate extension program, engineers should be required to conduct the geotechnical investigations that would protect for the addition of desirable future stations, i.e. the boreholes drilled for the geotechnical studies along the route should provide assessment information regarding future stations.
- **Given our interest in economic development around the Scarborough Centre subway station, we strongly endorse the Triton Bus Terminal option at an investment of \$0.187B.** It is important that the land above the Subway station remains available for development of corporate headquarters, municipal buildings, a living arts centre, or other uses that can create economic opportunities and jobs. The economic stimulus that can result from development of these lands has the potential to generate tax revenue for many years.

The Scarborough Subway (Line 2 extension) is an essential step towards better transit in Scarborough. SCRO will also continue to advocate for funding of the Crosstown East LRT extension, Smart Track and Rapid Transit on the Sheppard East Corridor. Each of these projects will move residents faster, and more reliably, ensuring that they spend less time commuting and more time with their families.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our views on this important decision. We believe that the recommended improvements to transit in the Scarborough area will not only raise Scarborough’s economic and social potential, but they promise to open new channels for doing business with the City of Toronto as well.

Sincerely,



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Mimi Lau
 Chair, SCRO Suburban Planning Committee