



Scarborough Community Renewal Organization

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Attention: Jennifer Forkes
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Toronto, ON, M5H 2N2
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March 6, 2017

Re: Ex 23.1 Next Steps on the Scarborough Subway Extension

Dear Executive Committee,

The Suburban Planning Committee is a subcommittee of the Scarborough Community Renewal Organization (SCRO). It includes long time Scarborough residents, including retired and semi-retired planning and engineering professionals, as well as, university students who are emerging as young leaders. We support transit development that facilitates creation of neighbourhoods and communities where residents can live, work, and play throughout their life span. We support the fully integrated transit system and optimized solution that the City of Toronto staff proposed for Scarborough. The following adds to the broader SCRO submission.

1) Supporting geotechnical investigations to protect future station stops also protects and fosters future economic development surrounding those stops. For example, a Lawrence East station located at McCowan Road and Lawrence Ave East would serve both Thompson Park and the Scarborough General Hospital. Thompson Park is a major cultural and recreational area where approximately 150,000 visitors attend the Thompson Park Rotary Ribfest; it is often referred to as the largest annual cultural attraction in the Eastern GTA.¹ The Scarborough and Rouge Hospital General Site is a major employer in Scarborough. Additional medical and long-term care facilities located close by also form part of a medical cluster. Remnant land associated with the Gattineau Hydro Corridor, nearby institutions with land holdings and retail plazas also offer opportunities for future growth of medical entrepreneurship at this location.

2) As members of the Local Advisory Committee for the *Scarborough Centre Transportation Master Plan*, we appreciate that many layers of planning work are being coordinated to transform the Scarborough Centre area into an urban centre. Scarborough Centre is an anchor hub with direct connections to the 401 and transit connections to surrounding regions.² It is also one of five urban growth centres in the City of Toronto. The other growth centres include: downtown, Etobicoke City Centre, North York Centre, and Yonge-Eglinton Centre. Scarborough Centre is the ONLY growth centre not serviced with a subway connection, yet being located in the geographic centre of Scarborough it is well situated for access from all four corners of the community.

¹ 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>

² Mobility Hub Profiles, Metrolinx December 2015. Available at: http://www.metrolinx.com/en/regionalplanning/mobilityhubs/2012_Mobility_Hub_Profiles_Combined_EN.pdf

3) Finally, as a result of discussions about cost that occurred around the Suburban Planning Committee table, I would like to encourage the City to continue exploring the powers provided under the City of Toronto Act, 2007 as well as enabling tools that may allow for additional funding options.³ The decisions we make today will drive economic development for the future. For example, millennials like my four cousins, who are young professionals, seek career opportunities and want the vibrancy of an urban core, but love the diversity and space that exists in Scarborough. An integrated transit system and optimized solution would aid in balancing these interests and help them make the decision to continue living in Scarborough.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Mimi Lau
Chair, SCRO Suburban Planning Committee
(647) 500-6619

³ Revenue Tools under the City of Toronto Act, 2006. City of Toronto, January 2016. BN#46 – Jan 18 Accessed at: <http://ow.ly/OXjt309EzrT>