



Ontario Inc.No.553426
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LAKSHMI NARAYAN MANDIR
HINDU CULTURAL SOCIETY
हिन्दू संस्कृति संस्था
SCARBOROUGH, ONTARIO

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April 8, 2019

Dear Mayor Tory & Executive Committee,

I write today as a Scarborough advocate, resident and community leader with urgent concern about City transit planning for Scarborough. As a Trustee of the Lakshmi Naryan Mandir located in Ward 25, Scarborough – Rouge Park, we represent voices of over 3,000 members of the Scarborough-Hindu community.

Having been a resident of Scarborough for over 30 years, I have had the privilege to raise a family and run a business in this community. A point of contention for my family, business, community and I has been the extremely frustrating and poorly integrated public transit network. Scarborough is geographically the largest part of the city and home to 630,000 Torontonians. While home to over half a million people, it has been repeatedly over looked in transit investment.

We believe the debate for what kind of transit is necessary in Scarborough does not need to be time-consuming and divisive. Connecting Scarborough Town Centre to the existing subway as an express line to help people move to and from the downtown core, along with continuing the Eglinton cross-town to meet the needs of residents of east-Eglinton via light rail makes sense and will develop new multi-regional transit hubs leading up to Malvern Town Centre. Planning staff confirm that most transit trips originating in Scarborough terminate either in Scarborough or in parts of the city outside of downtown. Both of these projects are urgently needed and both need to be fully planned.

We understand that the financial requirements for comprehensive transit may exceed what we are able to afford today. But this should not stop the City from planning what's right. Successful transit systems around the world develop master-plans for their system and build one stop at a time. Though this approach is not the fastest, it does bring predictability, which allows for better certainty in the planning and development communities.

On behalf of residents of Scarborough, I urge you to approve and allocate dollars for a wholesome approach to transit planning for this part of the City that includes the approval of the Eglinton-East LRT. By executing this approval, plans will finally allow both businesses and residents of Scarborough to have some comfort and assurances about how Scarborough will develop and grow.

Sincerely,

Ashwani Bhardwaj
Hindu Cultural Society
Lakshmi Narayan Mandir