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TTC Board

RE: Right to Ride Campaign: Letter of Support  
July 9, 2020

To Whom It May Concern;

I am writing to you on behalf of Centre for Immigrant and Community Services (CICS) to express our support for better bus service for Scarborough.

As we continue to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic and take steps towards recovery and reopening, this means three main things for Scarborough:

1. **Bus-only lanes.** Our organization supports the TTC's plan to fast-track bus-only lanes on Finch Ave East, Eglinton Ave East and Lawrence Ave East, and also urges you to implement additional transit priority on Markham Road and other crowded routes. In Scarborough, owing to urban planning and design, people have to travel long distances to access employment, community services and basic needs. Bus-only lanes on these major routes will greatly improve the mobility of Scarborough transit riders especially in outer areas like Milliken, Malvern, Agincourt North, Steeles L'Amoreaux, Kingston-Galloway, and Scarborough Village.
2. **More buses on major routes.** Owing to physical distancing measures to reduce the possibility of transmission of COVID-19, more buses are necessary to meet ridership needs. As we reopen the economy, we need to significantly increase the number of buses in order to keep people safe from COVID-19. Right now, there's crowding on buses and people in Scarborough often have to wait as multiple buses pass them by. More buses will require funding support from the provincial and federal governments, as well as moving forward with purchasing more TTC buses.
3. **Better safety measures on buses.** People need clear guidelines for physical distancing measures on buses and a clear commitment from the TTC to oppose racism and oppression on the TTC including equity measures to make buses a safe and accessible space for all.

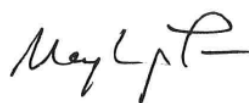
As you know, most Scarborough transit riders heavily rely on bus service. Respecting the right to ride for Scarborough transit users means ensuring we have a bus system that meets their needs, rights and expectations.

CICS supports the motion to fast-track the implementation of bus-only lanes and we hope on July 14, 2020 that the TTC Board will vote to approve this motion.

CICS also hopes the TTC Board will take steps to get more buses on major routes for Scarborough and to implement better safety measures.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to hearing back from you.

Sincerely yours,



Moy Wong-Tam  
Executive Director