



July 20, 2020

Mayor Tory and Members of Toronto City Council
City Hall
100 Queen St. W. Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

RE: [EX15.1 - Eglinton East Corridor - Priority bus lanes](#)

Scarborough Transit Action (STA) and Connect Sheppard East (CSE) is a coalition of volunteer grassroots advocacy organizations working to improve transit in Scarborough, especially in our underserved neighbourhoods.

We commend you for advancing bus-only lanes along the Eglinton East LRT route to November of this year. We support this initiative as an interim step to achieving the Eglinton East LRT and the rapid transit network that Mayor Tory promised Scarborough.

We are encouraged that bus-only lanes along Finch East and Lawrence East are being prioritized as well but we need them sooner, not two years from now. And we also want bus-only lanes on Sheppard East and Markham Road. Bus-only lanes and more service are needed to prevent dangerous overcrowding and long travel times.

Scarborough residents have faced numerous delays to rapid transit lines. With Bill 107, the province has added another ten year delay to the Scarborough subway extension. When the SRT breaks down we will be without any rapid transit beyond Kennedy Station. Bus-only lanes are a cost effective solution that will provide a much needed network, especially for our mostly racialized, essential, front line workers, elders and students.

Bus-only lanes benefit both drivers and riders. They don't slow down traffic each time they pick up or drop-off passengers the way regular buses do and because they move faster, they encourage more people to leave the car at home.

This initiative is a good start but we encourage you to do it right. The climate crisis and Covid-19 pandemic demand nothing less than a bold and timely response to the transit deficit in our outer neighbourhoods.

Sincerely,



Brenda Thompson
Chairperson Scarborough Transit Action

Jennifer Robinson
Connect Sheppard East