



July 20, 2020

City of Toronto - Executive Committee
10th floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Re: EX15.1 Eglinton East Corridor - Priority Bus Lanes

Dear Executive Committee members,

On behalf of the Scarborough Civic Action Network (SCAN), a non-partisan network that aims to build empowered communities across Scarborough through civic engagement activities that address inequities, I am writing to express support for better bus service in Scarborough.

Through widespread engagement of thousands of community members across Scarborough, SCAN is aware that public transit is a longstanding equity issue for Scarborough residents. The need for better bus service has been a priority issue echoed by communities across the region for many years.

As we move to recovery and reopening, SCAN has initiated and led the Right to Ride campaign to push for better bus service throughout Scarborough by calling for **fast-tracked implementation of bus-only lanes** on priority corridors; **more buses on major routes** to cope with physical distancing measures that will mitigate the transmission of COVID-19, alleviate overcrowding, meet the needs of ridership in a dignified way and help to reopen the economy; and **better safety measures** on buses including a clear commitment from the TTC to oppose racism and oppression to make buses a safe and accessible space for all.

SCAN greatly welcomes the approval of priority bus lanes for the Eglinton East corridor as part of the bus-lane implementation plan. This is a big win for Scarborough and an important step for improving public transit throughout the region.

SCAN also believes this is an important opportunity for city council to do more, faster to improve bus service throughout Scarborough. To that end, SCAN urges you to:

1. Allocate more resources to allow staff to report back much sooner than December 2020 on accelerating the four remaining transit priority corridors (Jane, Steeles West, Finch East and Dufferin). In other words, speed up the study so we can implement the approved bus-only lanes faster. ActiveTO got rolled out in about 2 months and SCAN would like to see a similar timeline for bus-only lanes. Bus-lanes present a cost-effective way to move people faster and sooner. Moreover, bus-only lanes are critical for heavily used, busy routes like Finch Ave East which has the busiest bus route in the city, carrying almost 55,000 people every day (according to pre-COVID-19 data) in order to enable frequent and reliable service.

2. Allocate resources to allow staff to study other busy routes in Scarborough for potentially implementing bus-only lanes or finding other ways to move buses much faster such as bus-only lanes during peak times, bus-only lanes in sections, etc) on Lawrence Ave East, Sheppard Ave East, Markham Road, and other busy and crowded routes.
3. Ensure more buses are available for transit riders in Scarborough to ensure safety, equity, service reliability, economic growth and activity and promote livability for all as we move to recovery. Scarborough needs more buses to deal with overcrowding which in turn will enable people to travel more safely and with dignity. We hope emergency funding from the federal and provincial governments will be dedicated to increasing bus service throughout Scarborough and other parts of Toronto that are highly dependent on buses for public transit.

As you know, a significant number of Scarborough transit riders rely on bus service and better bus service is an essential part of respecting our right to ride.

Moreover, improvements to bus service will benefit the region overall by better enabling people to participate in the local economy, access employment and community resources, decrease environmental pollution, reduce traffic congestion and of course, make public transit a viable alternative to the automobile as the city and region re-opens.

I hope you will approve measures that will do more, faster to improve bus service in Scarborough which is long overdue.

Sincerely,



Anna Kim
SCAN Coordinator

Cc:

Ward 20 Councillor Crawford councillor_crawford@toronto.ca
Ward 21 Councillor Thompson councillor_thompson@toronto.ca
Ward 23 Councillor Lai councillor_lai@toronto.ca
Ward 24 Councillor Ainslie councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca
Ward 25 Councillor McKelvie councillor_mckelvie@toronto.ca
Scarborough Southwest MPP Doly Begum DBegum-CO@ndp.on.ca
Scarborough Centre MPP Christina Mitas christina.mitas@pc.ola.org
Scarborough Agincourt MPP Aris Babikian aris.babikian@pc.ola.org
Scarborough North MPP Raymond Cho raymond.cho@pc.ola.org
Scarborough Guildwood MPP Mitzie Hunter mhunter.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org
Scarborough Rouge Park MPP Vijay Thanigasalam vijay.thanigasalam@pc.ola.org
Scarborough Southwest MP Bill Blair Bill.Blair@parl.gc.ca
Scarborough Centre MP Salma Zahid salma.zahid@parl.gc.ca
Scarborough Agincourt MP Jean Yip jean.yip@parl.gc.ca
Scarborough North MP Shaun Chen Shaun.Chen@parl.gc.ca
Scarborough Guildwood MP John McKay (Liberal) john.mckay@parl.gc.ca
Scarborough Rouge Park MP Gary Anandasangaree Gary.Anand@parl.gc.ca

