

December 9, 2020

The Executive Committee,
City of Toronto

Re: Item EX19.5 Update on the City's Transit Expansion Projects

Dear Executive Committee Members,

My name is Moya Beall and I am writing on behalf of Scarborough Transit Action, to urge you to accelerate the planning and construction of the Eglinton East LRT (EELRT) from Kennedy Station to Malvern.

I needn't remind you of the critical importance of this rapid transit line, of how it would connect our neighbourhoods and educational, recreational and healthcare facilities. How it would build equity and transform the day-to-day lives of thousands of residents. Of how it would stimulate development and create walkable communities and safer streets. I needn't remind you of all of this, because this project has come before you repeatedly over the past four years.

It is dispiriting to see the number of times this committee has approved a recommendation advising that staff return with a financial costing for the EELRT and a schedule for construction, only to see it return to you with yet another reason added to delay actually moving forward with the project - for example, a tunnel here, a tunnel there, different phasing. And despite repeated assurances that the EELRT is a priority, no one has ever thought to put it on the city's priority list for federal funding.

The first item on your agenda for this meeting is the Update on Recovery and Building a Renewed Toronto. Moving forward with the EELRT would achieve one-third of the 25 measures that are listed in the December 2020 Status of Recommendations report that is attached to that agenda item - measures that address equity, the climate emergency, resilience, skills and training, mobility for front line workers, and redesigned streets that support bike lanes.

In 2017 your committee approved a motion that the Scarborough Subway Extension (SSE) and the EELRT were to be regarded as one project. But the funding that was committed from all levels of government was always directed to the SSE, leaving the EELRT unfunded. Now that the provincial government has taken over construction of the SSE, there must be a guarantee from you that the money that was collected from the levy on Toronto taxpayers to this Scarborough project, the combined SSE/EELRT, stays in Scarborough, to build rapid transit here.

And finally, we are asking for a commitment from you that the EELRT is the city's primary transit priority.

Yours sincerely,

Moya Beall

Cc: Councillor Jennifer McKelvie