



December 10, 2020

Executive Committee
City of Toronto

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

Dear Members of the Executive Committee,

I am writing to you on behalf of the [Scarborough Business Association](#), the voice of Scarborough's businesses, to express our support for the Eglinton East Light Rail Transit (EELRT) line, which would run from Kennedy Station to the University of Toronto Scarborough and then to Malvern.

The EELRT presents a once in a generation opportunity to expand Scarborough's rapid transit network while opening up underused land for significant redevelopment opportunities, particularly along Eglinton East, Kingston Road and around the Malvern Town Center. The EELRT would markedly improve the quality of life for Scarborough residents who don't own cars by expanding their options for shopping, employment and leisure activities. This in turn would benefit Scarborough's businesses and entrepreneurs as they would gain access to new customers and employees. Moreover, the University of Toronto Scarborough, Centennial College, and their students, each important catalysts for local economic development initiatives, would benefit from a safe, direct and efficient rapid transit link directly connecting them to several Scarborough neighborhoods and the rest of the city.

The EELRT's construction and operation would create tangible economic opportunities for Scarborough businesses, entrepreneurs and residents, particularly those located in the eight surrounding [Neighborhood Improvement Areas](#) and the community of Malvern. To fully capitalize on the project's economic potential, we strongly encourage that a [community benefits agreement](#), offering procurement opportunities for local businesses and entrepreneurs and jobs and skills training for Scarborough residents, accompany this project.

As the COVID-19 pandemic has permanently changed working conditions in the city, many Scarborough residents that formerly commuted to other parts of Toronto for work now have the option to work from home either a part-time or full-time basis. As the EELRT is the only planned Scarborough transit project that is primarily focused on moving Scarborough residents *around and within Scarborough*, we strongly urge the Executive Committee to support the approval and funding of this route. Moreover, we view the \$800M collected by the city for the Scarborough subway levy, as an important down payment on the EELRT to ensure that this project is viewed by the federal and provincial governments as Toronto's main transit priority.

Sincerely,

Andrea Hazell
President of the Scarborough Business Association

cc: Jennifer McKelvie – Councillor for Ward 25 (Scarborough-Rouge Park)
Cynthia Lai, Councillor for Ward 23 (Scarborough North)

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