



Attention: Executive Committee

RE: EX 19.5 Update on the City's Transit Expansion Projects - Fourth Quarter 2020

December 11, 2020

Dear Members of the Executive Committee:

On behalf of the Scarborough Civic Action Network (SCAN), a non-partisan, community-driven network that aims to support civic engagement activities across Scarborough to address inequities and mobilize a civic voice for Scarborough, one that is inclusive of marginalized and underrepresented communities and reflective of the diversity of its community members, we are writing in support of the Eglinton East LRT (EELRT).

Through ongoing community engagement over the past four years, SCAN has heard from Scarborough residents that the City of Toronto needs to invest in rapid public transit infrastructure that is responsive to the needs of all regions that make up the City of Toronto including Scarborough which is home to more than 630,000 of Toronto's residents. In Scarborough, there is widespread support for the EELRT. In April 2019, SCAN was a key organizer of the EELRT Town Hall held in Scarborough where over 200 residents attended to voice their desire to see this project move forward.

It is also worth mentioning that in July 2020, SCAN conducted a survey of 200 Scarborough transit riders to obtain community input to inform the Toronto Office of Recovery and Rebuild and more than 67% of survey respondents said that higher order transit development is one of the top three priorities with respect to public transit they would like to see the City work on with the Provincial and Federal governments to support recovery and reopening.

The 24-stop EELRT is an important investment in city building as it would contribute to a long overdue higher order transit network that would reach across Scarborough and serve multiple neighbourhoods including those deemed underserved along with connecting people to employment opportunities, post-secondary institutions and other important opportunities and resources not to mention connecting neighbourhoods in 'transit deserts' like Malvern.

In addition, we strongly urge you to leverage the development of the EELRT to provide as many benefits as possible to local neighbourhoods and communities including job opportunities. SCAN recommends creating a community benefits framework at the earliest stage possible, one that will provide meaningful job and learning opportunities for disadvantaged youth, BIPOC communities, newcomers and other equity-seeking groups. Moreover, SCAN calls for robust inclusive community consultations throughout the process so that the design is informed by the communities impacted by its development.

Investing in the EELRT means investing in the communities and residents in Scarborough and we call on you and City Council to move forward with the development of the Eglinton East LRT as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Anna Kim, Scarborough Civic Action Network Coordinator
on behalf of SCAN's Stewardship Group