City Council

(Deferred from February 2, 3 and 5, 2021 - 2021.MM28.37)

DM30.7	ACTION			Ward: All
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Scarborough Transit Options Feasibility Request - by Councillor Josh Matlow, seconded by Councillor Paul Ainslie

* City Council on February 2, 3 and 5, 2021 added this Motion to the agenda. City Council subsequently deferred this Motion to the March 10, 2021 meeting. * This Motion is before Council for debate.

Recommendations

Councillor Josh Matlow, seconded by Councillor Paul Ainslie, recommends that:

- 1 City Council request the City Manager to report to the June 1, 2021 meeting of Executive Committee on options for Scarborough transit that includes a:
 - a. technical assessment of moving forward with the Scarborough Light Rail Transit, including length of construction time and new platform location at Kennedy Station;
 - b. feasibility study and cost estimate of converting the elevated Scarborough Rapid Transit structure to an above-grade Bus Rapid Transit; and
 - c. feasibility study and cost estimate of removing the elevated Scarborough Rapid Transit structure and operating a Bus Rapid Transit at-grade.
- 2. City Council request the Toronto Transit Commission Board to release the "Integrity Assessment for Life Extension/Continued Operation" report by Bombardier, in partnership with WSP Canada Inc. and CH2MH, referenced in the Fleet Life Extension Line 3 Scarborough report to the Toronto Transit Commission Board on May 8, 2018 to City of Toronto residents as a public attachment to the aforementioned item on the Toronto Transit Commission's website.

Summary

The Toronto Transit Commission has informed the residents of Toronto that the Scarborough Rapid Transit – Scarborough Line 3 – will no longer run past 2023. This is 3 years sooner than what City Council was previously told and would leave Scarborough residents on long bus rides for 7 years if the province builds the still unfunded Scarborough Subway on time.

The Toronto Transit Commission has estimated that the discontinuation of Scarborough Rapid Transit service will result in a loss of ridership due to an eighteen minute average increase in commute time. It is estimated that this inferior service will cost over \$300 million in additional capital and operating costs. Further, the Toronto Transit Commission states that the increase in buses will cause traffic delays and impacts on local residential neighbourhoods.

Given the significant impact this discontinuation of service will have on Scarborough residents, and the City as a whole, it is incumbent upon City Council to explore every option to mitigate the impact of this service disruption. That's why, given new information, this Motion requests the City Manager to provide a technical assessment of the Scarborough Light Rail Transit, and options to use the existing Scarborough Rapid Transit right-of-way to run a faster, more efficient bus service.

This Motion also requests the release of a Bombardier report from 2018 on the Scarborough Rapid Transit that is critical for City Council and the public to have access to given the Toronto Transit Commission's announcement that Scarborough Rapid Transit service is being discontinued in 2 years.

This Motion is urgent given the significant impact to the City's transit operations by the projected discontinuation of the Scarborough Rapid Transit as detailed in the Toronto Transit Commission report entitled "Scarborough Rapid Transit Life Extension Project Options Analysis" just released and, as a result, the considerable work required of Staff that this Motion proposes.

Background Information

Item DM30.7