

To: Mayor Tory and City Councillors

Re: Member Motion MM28:37 Scarborough Transit Options Feasibility Request

Dear Mayor Tory and Councillors,

We are writing in support of the motion MM28:37 Scarborough Transit Options Feasibility Request, moved by Councillor Matlow and seconded by Councillor Ainslie. It is regrettable that the transit plan for Scarborough did not realistically address the state of the Scarborough RT. This motion could be the last chance that council has to mitigate the impending disaster posed by its shutdown for residents, transit riders, and the City at large.

Shutting the SRT down seven years before the planned subway extension is built means that residents face the prospect of even longer commutes and more vehicles jostling for space on streets that are already congested, polluted and unsafe. This motion is needed to protect and preserve the SRT corridor for rapid transit in Scarborough. It affects the lives of 35,000 daily riders as well as the hundreds of thousands of people who use our streets every day. It is imperative that the city retain safe, dependable, and emission-free rapid transit to replace the SRT. The City must give Scarborough the respect we have been promised by examining all rapid transit options for this important corridor.

- We need rapid transit that meets our needs and also responds to the climate emergency. This means: transit that helps us get around quickly in Scarborough and that enhances the safety of our streets;
- Recognition of the importance of rapid transit in connecting our highly racialized neighbourhoods, the unequal impact of COVID-19 on our communities, the need to build equity; and
- The options considered must use zero emission technology. It is appalling that Scarborough has the highest greenhouse gas emissions from personal vehicles. The most recent data shows Toronto's greenhouse gas emissions are going up, not down. The City must urgently address emissions from transportation; the City must examine this issue with a climate lens.

For too long, transit in Scarborough has been neglected. This motion gives Council the opportunity to take leadership, retain this critical right of way for rapid transit and address the needs of Scarborough residents. Our safety, our climate resiliency, and the dignified and equitable treatment of our community are the urgent reasons why council must pass this motion.

Yours sincerely,

Scarborough Transit Action

SCARBOROUGH
TRANSIT*ACTION*

This letter has been signed in solidarity with the following Toronto organizations:

- TTCriders
- Black Planning Project
- Green Neighbours 24 (ward)
- Scarborough Food Security Initiative
- Toronto Environmental Alliance
- ClimateFast
- Seniors Climate Action Now

CC: Councillors Matlow and Ainslie