



Tuesday, March 9, 2021

Mayor Tory and Toronto City Council
12th floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

RE: MM28.37 Scarborough Transit Options Feasibility Request

Dear Mayor Tory and Members of City Council:

On behalf of the Scarborough Civic Action Network (SCAN), a non-partisan network that aims to support civic engagement across Scarborough to address inequities, we urge you to vote in favour of MM28.37 Scarborough Transit Options Feasibility Request to ensure all options are explored to cope with the loss of the SRT when it is decommissioned in 2023 and mitigate the impact of the shutdown of the SRT on Scarborough transit riders.

In addition, when planning options to replace the service of the SRT, SCAN urges City Council to ensure the implementation of a robust public consultation process, one that includes Scarborough transit riders directly impacted by the shutdown of the SRT as they will be able to provide the most informed perspective of effective service replacement options. As well, we advocate for public consultation that actively reaches out to transit users in convenient and meaningful ways.

SCAN also calls for a public consultation process that focuses on planning that will maximize connectivity (i.e. transit riders' access to transit service) and minimize travel times including wait times. Scarborough transit riders have to deal with some of the longest travel times in the city, largely due to a lack of rapid transit options, as well as inconsistent, overcrowded, and under-resourced bus service. Shutting down the SRT will mean even an even bigger deficit when it comes to TTC service in Scarborough and thus, effective planning and coordination will be essential for ensuring Scarborough transit users can travel reliably and efficiently.

Furthermore, the shutdown of the SRT will mean more inequity. As you know, Scarborough is a region of Toronto that is home to many racialized and low-income communities with many individuals who rely on TTC for essential travel. Indeed, during the COVID-19 pandemic, many bus routes in Scarborough have remained overcrowded. The shutdown of the SRT will mean low-income racialized communities will unfairly bear the burden of the impending transit service deficit and longer travel times which will invariably have impacts on their everyday lives. Moreover, we know that bus service will be inevitable and essential for replacing the service of the SRT.

To ensure fairness for Scarborough transit riders, transit equity measures will be needed including:

- A 3-hour transfer or other fare options in light of the additional travel burden for Scarborough transit riders
- An informed plan to ensure efficient bus travel including bus lanes and reduce crowding

We encourage you to provide direction as soon as possible so that impactful measures can be put in place in a timely manner so that when the SRT shuts down, Scarborough transit riders are not left waiting yet again.

Sincerely,

Chelsea Goldie Braun
On behalf of the SCAN Stewardship Group