

City Council

Notice of Motion

MM35.22	ACTION			Ward: 21
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Mitigating community concerns: Refining the Metrolinx Durham-Scarborough Bus Rapid Transit Proposal - by Councillor Jennifer McKelvie, seconded by Mayor John Tory

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Executive Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor Jennifer McKelvie, seconded by Mayor John Tory, recommends that:

1. City Council request the Executive Director, Transit Expansion Office, and the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning, to request that Metrolinx:

- a. further engage the Highland Creek Community to fully understand, and resolve, their opposition to a curbed centre median for the Durham-Scarborough Bus Rapid Transit;
- b. consider and evaluate design alternatives, without a curbed centre median, for the Durham-Scarborough Bus Rapid Transit along Ellesmere Road from Kingston Road to Military Trail; and
- c. report back to the community on Durham-Scarborough Bus Rapid Transit design alternatives as part of its next phase of community consultation.

Summary

Metrolinx is currently proposing a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) route from Durham region to Scarborough that will connect residents along the corridor with higher order transit, hospitals, academic institutions and employment lands.

Meetings with the Highland Creek Community have identified a number of outstanding concerns with this Metrolinx proposal. Residential homes are located on both the north and south sides of Ellesmere Road throughout Highland Creek. This location (Military Trail to Kingston Road) has been identified as a pinch point in the design, and the installation of curbed lanes along this 2.4 kilometre stretch will block the ability of residents to turn left into their driveways. Members of the community have continually raised their objection to this design, as it would cause unsafe U-turns, push traffic onto local streets, increase travel times and limit emergency vehicle access.

This Motion urges Metrolinx to acknowledge, and further mitigate, the concerns of the Highland Creek community so that this transit project can better serve local residents. Painted bus lanes, or buses and vehicles in mixed traffic, through this area warrants consideration. The Toronto Transit Commission is piloting this approach in the Eglinton-Kingston-Morningside corridor and there is opportunity to learn from this experience.

The City of Toronto is not a co-proponent for this Provincial project. City of Toronto staff have also provided input to Metrolinx regarding the need to acknowledge the local residential context of the Official Plan designated Neighbourhood areas on Ellesmere Road between Kingston Road and Military Trail, and have requested further justification from Metrolinx for requiring a centre median to support the dedicated transit lane for this area.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM35.22