



Deputation to City of Toronto, Scarborough Community Council – September 17th, 2021

Re: SC26.4 – Status Update Report – Coronation Drive Employment Area – Planning & Transportation Review

From: Larry Whatmore, President, Scarborough Community Renewal Organization

Good morning councillors. My name is Larry Whatmore. I am the president of the Scarborough Community Renewal Organization. SCRO is an organization of engaged volunteers that works to connect, promote and renew Scarborough, so Scarborough can be strong and prosperous.

We are happy to participate in the review proposed by staff and we are pleased that staff has specifically noted SCRO as being an important stakeholder in these discussions. Members of SCRO's economic development committee bring expertise in economic and community development, which we believe will help us provide thoughtful contributions to this review.

Our Economic Development Committee has reviewed the Status Update Report. We agree with staff that this review is both important and timely, given the concerns caused by recent development proposals in the area. We also recognize the historical significance of this employment area to Scarborough, which we will want to preserve. So this review will need to balance economic benefits with community compatibility and ensure the protection of the environmentally sensitive areas within this community.

There has been a history of collaboration with residents in this area through community forums and liaison groups. This review can build on the success of those established relationships.

We offer the following comments in support of the process being recommended by staff:

1. SCRO is interested in participating in the Local Advisory Group, as I just noted. We are prepared to support the process through facilitation and engagement and by bringing together the highly engaged community associations in this area and the Scarborough Business Association.
2. Structuring the review into three study areas – Economic Development; Community Planning; and Mobility & Safety – is appropriate. Addressing these themes can enable future business and employment opportunities for this area that respect and include the needs of its stakeholders.
3. Protection of employment lands is important for Scarborough; hence the need for this study. We wish to create the conditions that can enable business opportunities that are compatible with the adjacent residential neighbourhoods and the area's natural heritage features. Let's strive to attract businesses and employment opportunities that are a good fit for this area.
4. A good communications plan will be essential to enable vibrant and thoughtful community engagement and stakeholder support for the final recommendations.

We appreciate this opportunity to provide input related to this important review of the Coronation Employment Area and look forward to participating.

Thank you for your time. I am happy to take any questions.

Larry Whatmore
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