

## AMALGAMATED TRANSIT UNION LOCAL 113

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April 4, 2022

Toronto City Council c/o Toronto City Clerk's Office 13th fl. W., 100 Queen St. W. Toronto ON M5H 2N2 <u>councilmeeting@toronto.ca</u>

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Via E-Mail Only

Dear Mayor Tory & Members of Council,

## Re: CC42.1 – Transmittal of Toronto Transit Commission Update on Cross-Boundary Service Integration

This week, City Council will consider the TTC's Cross-Boundary Service Integration plan, which will allow 905 transit services to collect riders inside Toronto on a few routes as a "blueprint for future integration." Local 113 welcomes any measure to improve service to riders but believes the current plan requires more study and requests that the item be referred to Executive Committee to allow public input. The proposal will only re-deploy a handful of buses but will require, so far undisclosed, legislative changes that could radically weaken the TTC.

The TTC Board decision was to forward the plan to the City of Toronto and Ministry of Transportation in order to "advise of the current legislative barriers within the City of Toronto Act, that prevent the TTC from entering into agreements to coordinate operations within the City of Toronto with other public passenger transportation services." The item before Council recommends requesting the "Ontario Government amend Section 395 of the City of Toronto Act, 2006 to enable cross boundary transit service integration."

Local 113 wrote to the TTC Board outlining our concerns. We subsequently received personal assurances from Mayor John Tory that the City of Toronto would take no action that would threaten the TTC's legal monopoly over transit service.

Why then is the City moving forward with changes to legislation so quickly?

City Council should be able to review proposed changes to the City of Toronto Act before being asked to endorse them and should be aware of the complex issues being created before taking such drastic action. Local 113, therefore, asks that:

- 1. The current item be referred to Executive Committee so that important policy issues be resolved prior to changing legislation.
- 2. The City Manager be requested to write to the Minister of Transportation asking that any legislative changes be deferred until the City of Toronto has clarified its position.

Anyone with even a passing knowledge of the issues TTC is facing knows that there are higher priority service improvements that must be addressed, and many questions answered, before the Cross-Boundary pilot project moves forward. The motions in the attached letter were put before the TTC Board, and Local 113 believes the City should address them before making any changes to legislation.

Also, any changes to legislation could impact any of the 24 cross-boundary corridors, identified in the appended map, that serve some of our poorest and most deprived neighbourhoods. The TTC's current proposal give control of the routes to 905 operators and does not include service level standards. This means buses could arrive less frequently and often full at Toronto's borders, and Toronto councillors will have relinquished the power to improve service for their constituents. Any councillor that votes to push through legislative changes without applying more scrutiny will be putting service to their riders at risk – a fact we will bring to their constituents' attention.

The women and men of Local 113 know what makes transit work and want to work with you provide our riders with the best possible service. We have repeatedly demonstrated our willingness to adapt to changing rider demands and have brought forward innovative ways of improving our work and service to the public.

Ending the City of Toronto Act protections for the TTC without Council oversight, resolution of key issues, and a clear understanding of all the consequences is far to great a risk. We ask, respectfully, that you simply delay implementation until questions are answered. Given that we have Mayor Tory's assurances that he would not put forward changes to the *City of Toronto Ac*t that impacted the TTC's legal monopoly we are confident that you will support referral of this item to Executive Committee.

Yours truly,

Marvin Alfred President/Business Agent

cc: Mayor Tory, City Clerk

Attachment: ATU 113 Letter to TTC Board re Cross-Boundary Service Integration, February 10, 2022

MA:rc

## Appendix: Cross-boundary routes

