

Deputation on proposed increase to TTC fares and reduction of service

City Budget Committee
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West, Toronto, M5H 2N2

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The Neighbourhood Group Community Services is a multiservice charity with services across the City of Toronto – child care, home care, employment, housing, youth services, newcomer services and much more. TNGCS purchased \$300K in Presto/TTC fares directly in 2022 for both staff and participants. We provide fares to many participants, as they live in poverty.

The Chair of the TTC mentioned recently that the proposed ten cent TTC fare increase is below the rate of inflation and lower than the increases in minimum wage. However, this fare hike will still be unaffordable for many of our participants as it will be for other low income people and those on fixed incomes. Given the rapid rise in inflation and even with increases to minimum wage, workers are not finding more money in their pockets.



In the lead up to the city election we engaged our participants in workshops to learn about their top city issues. Better transit & lower fares was the second most cited issue across our programs. The chart to the left shows these results.

We are concerned that even with a ten cent fare hike, TTC service will be reduced. This will make it harder for many low-income people to travel to necessary jobs and services. It also makes it harder to meet our

greenhouse gas reduction goals as other people will continue to use cars more when TTC becomes more expensive and unreliable. Paying for TTC constables through this fare increase does not reassure us of a safer or more equitable service. Many of our participants already report being negatively targeted on public transit. The TTC reduced fare pass being extended to low-income people must be the priority. Only adding 8,000 to 12,000 new people into the program is insufficient and we need to expand to support more low-income working people who have been the essential workers of the pandemic.

We urge councillors and the mayor to rethink the ten-cent fare increase and look for other funding options to expand service on the TTC. Transit is an essential building block to support local economies, and affordable and frequent transit can help foster healthier communities and will help Toronto meet its goal to take action on climate change.

Thank you.

Bill Sinclair
President & CEO

