

Re: EX4.10 - Transit Priority Measures to Support Scarborough SRT Bus Replacement

Dear members of the Executive Committee,

The closure of the Scarborough RT will make commutes longer for tens of thousands of Scarborough residents.

We are writing to express our concern that your commitment to transform the Scarborough RT corridor into a dedicated busway no longer seems to be a priority. A busway would save transit users time in each direction (up to 10 minutes saved, according to an [April 2022 TTC report](#)). This adds up to 20 minutes more time spent commuting each weekday, or 1 hour and forty minutes per week.

The Scarborough RT (Line 3) will be replaced by bus service on November 19, 2023. The Scarborough Subway Extension is scheduled to open in 2030. But what if it takes much longer?

Scarborough transit riders will be taking slower replacement buses for at least 7 years until the SSE is complete. And, the TTC has reduced bus service across Toronto due to budget cuts.

In 2022, the TTC Board voted to convert the Scarborough RT rail corridor into an off-street busway, so buses don't get stuck in traffic. 70 buses per hour are required to replace RT service during rush hour. Replacement buses will need to run on the street on Kennedy, Midland and Ellesmere for 2 years until the busway is completed (see maps below).

We, the undersigned organizations, urge you to:

1. Fund the conversion of the Scarborough RT corridor into a busway. This plan was recommended by TTC staff and adopted by the TTC Board in April 2022 and will save precious time for transit users, up to 10 minutes in each direction.

There is a precedent for the City funding and building temporary busway: The City of Toronto funded 50% of the cost to construct the York University Busway, which was in operation for 8 years to speed up commutes for York students, between 2009-2017. Part of the busway is still used today by the 939B Finch bus. If the TTC could build a busway for York University students for 8 years, why can't they build one for Scarborough?

2. Implement the strongest possible priority measures on the street for replacement buses while this busway gets constructed, including:

- Red bus-only lanes on the street;
- A dedicated left-hand turn from Ellesmere onto Midland for buses travelling southbound. Riders should have the most direct route possible, but the current staff proposal (Fig 7) for buses to make a U-Turn on Midland to get to Ellesmere adds time and inconvenience.
- Enough capacity at bus stops for all the riders using replacement buses and riders using existing bus service on Kennedy, Midland, and Ellesmere;

- Reducing congestion at intersections by continuing red bus-only lanes up to the intersection, which would require adding a separate turning lane for other vehicles;
- Enable Transit Signal Priority measures that are fully active so buses don't get stuck at intersections;
- Ensure that bus stops are fully accessible. There is an opportunity to make stops level with buses, which would allow users with wheelchairs, strollers and other devices to more easily and quickly board buses.

The following measures would also support greater connectivity in Scarborough:

3. Secure bicycle and walking paths along the decommissioned Scarborough RT corridor for better connectivity. While red RapidTO bus lanes allow for bicycles, they do not replace safe, dedicated infrastructure for bicycles and active transportation.

4. Secure full provincial funding for a flat fare in Toronto, to unlock more transit access in Scarborough with free transfers between TTC and GO.

5. Reverse TTC service cuts and fund more frequent transit service in Scarborough.

6. Fully fund the Eglinton East LRT to connect Kennedy Station to Malvern via UTSC and Centennial Morningside Campus

7. Support public green space along the Scarborough RT corridor, including the preservation of the iconic concrete structures so this historic landmark can be used by the public

Sincerely,

- Rhoda Potter, Agincourt Village Community Association
- Tima Shah, Centennial College Student Association Inc.
- Khadidja Roble, Scarborough Campus Students' Union
- Camilla Singh, Scarborough Civic Action Network
- Shelagh Pizey-Allen, TTCriders

