

From: [Shelagh Pizey-Allen](#)
To: [councilmeeting](#)
Subject: [External Sender] Please Support MM5.6: Fine Equity: Balancing Toronto Transit Commission Fare Evasion and Parking Fines
Date: March 31, 2023 10:33:59 AM

Dear City Councillors,

TTCriders is a membership-based organization of transit users. I am writing to express our strong support for MM5.6. Reducing TTC fines is long overdue and would reduce the harms of the current fine structure, which are disproportionately felt by low-income and racialized people.

In 2020, TTCriders conducted an online survey about the impacts of fare enforcement, and we learned that:

- If someone cannot afford to pay the expensive ticket, their ticket goes to collections, which can impact their credit rating.
- Many people lose a day's wages when they choose to contest their ticket, because hearings happen during working hours.
- Reasons for receiving a fine that were reported to us include: broken PRESTO machines or readers, PRESTO card had not reloaded fast enough, inability to reload or purchase PRESTO in person, losing a transfer, and inability to pay due to poverty.

The TTC has reported clear evidence that Black and Indigenous people are grossly overrepresented in TTC enforcement activities, especially Black and Indigenous men. This overrepresentation remains strong across TTC locations, benchmarking techniques and enforcement activities.*

TTC staff have reported numerous times that there are major gaps in the PRESTO resale network in Scarborough and Northwest Toronto. The Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC) wrote to the TTC and Metrolinx in April 2021 outlining their concerns that the use of the PRESTO electronic fare payment system "may present barriers to accessing Toronto's public transit for some *Human Rights Code*-protected groups."** The OHRC letter explained that the PRESTO resale network at Shoppers Drug Marts does not provide "sufficient access to physical locations for purchasing PRESTO fares, **with the most significant gaps occurring in areas where more residents are racialized or experience poverty**, such as North-west Toronto and Scarborough. Physical fare sale locations are also particularly important for people who do not have access to credit cards or the internet and need to buy fares with cash. As well, **needing to travel further distances to buy fares may present challenges for people with disabilities.**"

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Shelagh Pizey-Allen
TTCriders

*https://ttc-cdn.azureedge.net/-/media/Project/TTC/DevProto/Documents/Home/Public-Meetings/Board/2021/April_14/5_External_Presentation_Owusu_Bempah_Wortley_TTC_Racial_Equity_Impact_Assessment_Interim_Report.pdf

**https://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/news_centre/letter-ttc-and-metrolinx-human-rights-code-barriers-linked-presto