



May 01, 2023

Toronto Council Executive Committee
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON, M5G 1P5
Canada

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

Members of the Executive Committee,

The Toronto Youth Cabinet strongly supports a conversion of the Line 3 corridor into a busway. Furthermore, we firmly believe that a strong prioritization of bus transit, in particular the running of buses in dedicated bus lanes along the Kennedy and Midland couplet are key to ensuring the quality of transit rider's experience in the interim.

Established in 1998 by Toronto City Council, the Toronto Youth Cabinet is the official youth advocacy body to the city. We are a youth-led organization that promotes youth participation in municipal affairs and policy developments. In May, we will be celebrating 25 years of youth-led initiatives and achievements such as pushing to keep TDSB pools open to the public in 2002, bringing financial literacy to the high school curriculum in 2016, and most recently in 2021, making feminine hygiene products available and free in all publicly funded schools across Ontario.

Currently, buses were planned to run alongside mixed-use transit during the interim period. 66 buses plus spares are planned to be put into service. The replacement service is planned to operate better than one bus per minute. While Transit Signal Priority is planned to be implemented for the interim couplet, without dedicated bus lanes, buses will ultimately bunch up and get stuck in traffic.

As can be seen in RapidTO's Eglinton East Bus Lanes project in 2020, bus lane implementation has the potential to bring numerous benefits to transit riders throughout Scarborough, chiefly by allowing for shortened transit times and more reliable bus service for thousands of TTC customers. In a similar vein, the TYC strongly believes that the TTC's replacement busway project set in motion in April of 2022 has the potential to help alleviate congestion of bus routes and provide more reliable, efficient and dependable transit to riders in the estimated 7 years between the completion of the busway and the opening of the Line 2 extension.

Bus lanes along the interim couplet will greatly improve travel times for Toronto's students, particularly for those commuting to the University of Toronto's Scarborough Campus, and Centennial College's Progress and Morningside Campuses. Secondary Students from schools such as David and Mary Thompson C.I, Winston Churchill C.I, and St. Joan of Arc Catholic Academy, will also benefit from the increased reliability and accessibility of the network.

The Toronto Youth Cabinet also strongly urges collaboration between the Toronto Transit Commission and the Provincial Ministry of Transportation to ensure the approximately 60 million dollar capital funding required to construct the grade separated busway in the Line 3 corridor is fulfilled. It is essential the busway is constructed and is in operational service by 2025. Riders should not be put through and endure the interim solution for the entire duration of the Scarborough Subway Extension project. Scarborough deserves equitable investment in public transportation.

As the replacement for the Scarborough RT undergoes construction, it is important to ensure that efficient bus infrastructure is present for riders in the meantime. As such, The Toronto Youth Cabinet is proud to support the inclusion of dedicated Rapid-TO lanes as a part of the interim solution. Additionally, the Toronto Youth Cabinet requests collaboration between the Province and the City to ensure the successful construction and implementation of the Line 3 corridor busway.

Sincerely,

The Transit Working Group of the Toronto Youth Cabinet