



## AMALGAMATED TRANSIT UNION LOCAL 113

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All correspondence should be addressed to the Secretary-Treasurer

February 14, 2023

Via Email

To: Toronto City Council  
c/o City Clerk [clerk@toronto.ca](mailto:clerk@toronto.ca)

### **Re: MPB4.1 section 59 – Operating Budget for Toronto Transit Commission**

The budget proposal before you this week was to be the first to be under the Mayor's direct control through the powers granted to him by the Province. With Mayor Tory's sudden resignation those powers should no longer apply. The TTC operating budget proposed by Mayor Tory will make deep cuts to public transit. Now that it will be the Council's budget, it is up to you to make sure you have the necessary information to make informed decisions.

TTC has not yet told the public – or Council – what the specific cuts will be. All we know is that it includes a 9% cut system-wide including a 25% cut to rapid transit service compared to pre-pandemic levels. Combined with a fare increase, these cuts are a threat to the long-term viability of our transit system. A recent open letter from more than 100 transit and urban researchers noted that these “cuts to service are likely to initiate a ridership death spiral in which long wait time and poorer service leads to ridership drops, which in turn lead to further revenue losses and cuts.”

ATU Local 113 strongly objects to the service cuts. We know from experience that transit cannot cut its way to growth. The only way to attract riders back into the system is by improving service frequency, comfort, and dependability. The choice before you is not between service cuts or increased subsidy, it's between building a system that supports Toronto in the long term, or accepting steady decline, increased congestion, and a less sustainable city.

At its January 9 meeting, the TTC Board was asked to make the details of the cuts public, but nothing has been shared to date. Instead, you are being asked to make these deep cuts across the city without knowing what they are. We believe riders deserve to know if their route is being cut, and that City Council has a responsibility to know the impact of their decisions.

**ATU Local 113 is calling on members of Toronto City Council to require that the proposed service cuts be made public before they consider the budget.**

Our city can only be economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable with the

support of safe and dependable public transit service. These cuts put that at risk and should be reversed. At a minimum, you have a responsibility to your constituents to know what the cuts will be before you vote on the budget.

Our members are ready to work with you to keep Toronto moving. We hope we can count on you to work with us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marvin Alfred". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Marvin Alfred  
President/Business Agent

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