

Executive Council Dec. 10. 2024 Item 19.6 Assessment of Scarborough Rapid Transit Adaptive Reuse and Next Steps

Dear Mayor Chow and Executive Council,

The reuse of the SRT Corridor could gentrify and highly invigorate Scarborough. Our Agincourt Village Community Association as well as many other community associations and residents will continue to advocate to maintain the elevated portion of the SRT and connect Scarborough Civic & Town Centre along the entire SRT corridor to Kennedy Subway Station.

I wish to make three points:

The Scarborough Skyway would provide a fully off-street pedestrian and cycling pathway to connect Scarborough neighbourhoods, provide communities with greenspace and public realm amenity space, and serve as a safe active transportation corridor.

1. This **off-street pedestrian and cycling pathway** would not impact any City streets and would support the City's Transform TO and congestion management goals. It would allow for connections to local businesses, Meadoway Trail, Toronto Zoo, Rouge Urban National Park and neighbourhoods. It would provide access at Midland/Ellesmere station for residents in Northeast Toronto who are cut off from cycling south by the 401. The Midland SRT Station is easily accessible as it is just south of Sheppard and 401. We miss that station stop!
2. The Scarborough Skyway would provide **greenspace** for the residents of the intensified Scarborough Civic Centre condominium developments. 15,000 people! As has happened with the West Toronto Railpath the **public realm amenity space** would lend itself to small business, art installations, local artisans, pops, etc. It would become a destination for tourists, local residents and even a destination for Toronto downtown residents to enjoy the multi-cultural aspects of Scarborough.
3. The Scarborough Skyway must include the raised portion from Midland Avenue to Scarborough Town & Civic Centre in order to serve as an active **transportation corridor**. It would provide safe pedestrian and cycling access in an area of Toronto that needs alternatives to vehicle transportation.

Please consider the "future use" of this existing raised significant structure before demolition. The SRT corridor is a critical link connecting neighbourhoods. Let's not lose sight of an asset that would "open up" Scarborough and benefit all who live here, visit here and explore here!

Much more community consultation, and study are essential to this "future use".

We trust that City Staff will realize how important the Scarborough Skyway is to Scarborough residents.

Respectfully,

Rhoda Potter, President Agincourt Village Community Association
Member of Scarborough United Neighbourhoods.