

December 10, 2024

Mayor Olivia Chow and members of the Executive Committee

Re: EX 19.6 - Assessment of Scarborough Rapid Transit Adaptive Reuse and Next Steps

Dear Madam Mayor Chow,

We are writing this letter on behalf of ACSA Community Services organization. Our organization has been serving Scarborough residents for over 50 years and operates a plethora of programs that address the complex issue of food insecurity, EarlyOn children's programs, supporting marginalized and vulnerable families across Scarborough. ACSA supports Homeless and Street Outreach programs that span across Scarborough and parts of North York. We are the first point of contact and resources for our newest citizens to our City and serve Newcomers as they embark on their settlement journey. These programs represent a small portion of the work we do as ACSA's work is rooted in the community and works alongside residents to shape neighbourhoods that reflect the diversity of Scarborough and the strength and resilience of its residents.

With respect to the SRT Corridor, we are in favour of turning this transit corridor into a linear park. Finding new space for parks in an increasingly dense city is a challenge and the possibility of converting the corridor into an iconic linear public park and mobility space is a brilliant demonstration of city building that aims to make the creation of complete cities closer to reality. Council has already diligently voted to explore the feasibility of this project back in 2013 and again in 2022. By creating a linear park, residents would have better access to culture and entertainment, shopping, green space, and housing options built along the corridor. Let us continue with this forward thinking and make this a reality for our Scarborough.

Advocating for the park/trail/bike path will benefit all people of Scarborough and in particular newcomers who call Scarborough home, individuals and families that will benefit from spaces to enjoy with their families and enjoy the benefits of incorporating nature and green spaces into urban centres. Many of the families served by ACSA Community Services do not have access to parks, cottages or even vehicle transportation. A community park along the SRT corridor would be ideal

location not only in the summer but to stroll the grounds in the winter as well. Additionally, decommissioned stations could be used to display, promote, and share our heritage, highlight recipients of the Scarborough Walk of Fame and provide Scarborough's culinary delights for our community residents to name a few ideas. What a legacy this would be for you, Mayor Chow and this council, to leave for Scarborough.

Rail Corridor in locations such as Atlanta, New York and Mexico have been a tremendous success. And in some cases, affordable housing is located near the park for easy access for the residents to enjoy.

We strongly encourage the City of Toronto to conduct community engagement and consultation so that you can hear our need to use this infrastructure for the good of the community.

Respectfully,

Lee Soda

Manny Sousa

Lee Soda

Manny Sousa

Executive Director

Chair, Board of Directors

ACSA Community Services

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