To the City Clerk:

Please add my comments to the agenda for the March 20, 2024 City Council meeting on item 2024.MM16.7, Exploring Innovative Adaptive Reuse of the Scarborough Rapid Transit Elevated Guideway and Assets - by Councillor Jamaal Myers, seconded by Councillor Paul Ainslie.

I understand that my comments and the personal information in this email will form part of the public record and that my name will be listed as a correspondent on agendas and minutes of City Council or its committees. Also, I understand that agendas and minutes are posted online and my name may be indexed by search engines like Google.

Comments:

Dear Members of Toronto City Council

On behalf of The Centre for Active Transportation, I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for motion **MM16.7**, focusing on the exploration of adaptively reusing city infrastructure for the creation of a linear park and active transportation corridor along the Scarborough Rapid Transit (SRT) line. This motion represents a significant step forward in addressing the needs of our community and enhancing the livability of Scarborough.

The proposed initiative holds immense promise for transforming the elevated right-of-way portions of Line 3 into a vibrant and accessible public space that not only serves as a recreational amenity but also addresses critical transportation challenges faced by Scarborough residents. With the longest TTC commutes, inadequate biking infrastructure, and alarming rates of pedestrian fatalities, this community urgently requires innovative solutions to improve mobility and safety, public space and quality of life.

By repurposing existing city infrastructure to establish a linear park and active transportation corridor, Toronto can provide residents with safe and convenient access to essential destinations, including jobs, housing, cultural attractions, shopping centers, and green spaces. This holistic approach to urban development will foster connectivity, promote physical activity, and enhance the overall quality of life for residents across Scarborough.

As we embark on this journey, it is essential to prioritize sustainability and community engagement. Toronto should be considering the environmental implications of our actions, particularly in terms of climate emissions and carbon budgeting, to ensure that our efforts contribute to a more resilient and equitable future for all. Additionally, involving the public, and local community and input will be instrumental in shaping a vision that reflects the diverse needs and aspirations of our community. We commend the leadership of councillors who are bringing this motion forward and initiating a dialogue around the potential of adaptively reusing city infrastructure for the benefit of all residents. Thank you for your commitment to advancing the well-being of Scarborough, Toronto and the community at large, We hope that the City Council recognizes the urgency of addressing these critical issues and prioritizes the exploration of adaptive reuse for the creation of a linear park and active transportation corridor in Scarborough.

Sincerely,

David Simor Director The Centre for Active Transportation (TCAT) Clean Air Partnership 364-401 Richmond Street West Toronto, ON M5V 3A8

Email: <u>dsimor@cleanairpartnership.org</u> | 416-418-4995 Websites: <u>tcat.ca</u> | <u>completestreetsforcanada.ca</u> | <u>www.cleanairpartnership.org</u>

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