



UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO
SCARBOROUGH

DATE: March 20, 2024

FROM:

Sergio Montero, PhD

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TO:

Toronto City Council

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SUBJECT: Support of the *Institute for Inclusive Economies & Sustainable Livelihoods* at the University of Toronto, Scarborough to facilitate a Public Process to Explore the Adaptive Reuse of the Scarborough Rapid Transit (SRT) Infrastructure.

The adaptive reuse of Line 3 assets presents a valuable opportunity to address community needs and environmental concerns in Scarborough, particularly after the decommissioning of the Scarborough Rapid Transit (SRT) service in 2023 and the limited and under-resourced public transit options in Scarborough. By repurposing these assets thoughtfully, we can reduce our carbon footprint and benefit our community by offering better transportation, recreation, and local economic development opportunities.

As Director of the *Institute for Inclusive Economies & Sustainable Livelihoods* and an associate professor of Geography and Planning at the University of Toronto, Scarborough (UTSC), I welcome Councillor Myers's motion to explore the technical and fiscal feasibility of adaptively reusing the existing SRT physical infrastructure and assets. The involvement of diverse perspectives, both technical and community-based, will be needed to ensure that the resulting plan for repurposing this infrastructure is inclusive, sustainable, and reflective of the needs of Scarborough communities. Moreover, it will be crucial to integrate considerations of climate emissions into this decision-making process.

Councillor Myers' motion aligns well with the goal of the *Institute for Inclusive Economies & Sustainable Livelihoods* to create vibrant, sustainable, and equitable local economies in Scarborough. I am enthusiastic and committed to facilitate this process by providing spaces for community engagement at UTSC as well as relevant expertise in transportation, urban planning, and economic development from various professors and experts at the University of Toronto. Additionally, we can provide case study reports and evaluation documents of similar projects that have been recently implemented in other cities in the Americas. In short, through this letter, I aim to extend my support to ensure that the future plans for the SRT infrastructure and assets incorporate community insights alongside state-of-the-art sustainability, urban planning and economic inclusion expertise.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'S' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Sergio Montero, PhD

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