



Sociology

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

S C A R B O R O U G H

March 20, 2024

TO:

Toronto City Council
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, Ontario
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FROM:

Paty Romero-Lankao, Ph.D. (she/her)
Canada Excellence Research Chair in Sustainability Transitions
Associate Director of Climate Positive Energy
Professor Department of Sociology
University of Toronto Scarborough

SUBJECT

Public and User Consultation to Identify Options for The Scarborough Rapid Transit Adaptive Reuse

The Scarborough Rapid Transit (SRT) offers a one-in-a-century opportunity for the City of Toronto to kickstart multiple TransformTO-related sustainability policies. It can help mitigate emissions and improve people's health and quality of life. It can provide spaces like stations and bus stops where economic, cultural, and recreational services and activities can thrive. It can provide options to foster transit, biking, walking, ridesharing services, and electric scooters, which are crucial to achieving sustainable and efficient mobility.

The Canada Excellence Research Chair (CERC) in Sustainability Transitions can effectively contribute to Councillor Myers' motion by organizing listening sessions with different users, particularly underserved communities. These sessions can help identify transportation options tailored to different mobility needs and explore the co-benefits of creating spaces for multiple economic, cultural and recreational activities.

As CERC Chair, I will bring my international experience in addressing various transportation, equity, and sustainability issues in North America, Latin America and Asia to identify actionable options for the adaptive reuse of the SRT. For instance, I have created tools for different populations to benefit from transportation and sustainability Transitions. I co-led the LA100 Equity Strategies project through community engagement strategies, aiming to transition Los Angeles to 100 percent clean energy while addressing energy injustices for underrepresented populations. To address structural inequalities, I developed a framework and equity strategies, such as multiple multimodal transportation options, charging infrastructure, community solar, and electric mobility solutions. I have also developed techniques to address transportation inequalities within and across cities. This

work provided insights to recommend tailored strategies for different groups of users and built environments (e.g., shared last-mile mobility options for the urban underserved), emphasizing the need for user-centric and public investments to foster transportation equity.

I look forward to collaborating with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paty Romero-Lankao', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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