



Executive Committee c/o Cathrine Regan  
Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, Ontario, M5H 2N2

Dear City Council,

I am writing on behalf of Strong Towns Toronto, a local chapter of Strong Towns, a world wide movement that advocates for a bottom-up approach to making our towns and cities stronger, more resilient places. We would like to express our support for the transit priority lanes proposed for Bathurst and Dufferin. The latter of which is often referred to as the "Sufferin Dufferin" due to the incredibly slow buses that are constantly stuck in traffic.

The people who take these transit routes are often spending too much time stuck in traffic, resulting in them being late to work or for appointments. This is precious time that could go towards more important endeavors such as spending time with family and loved ones, or allowing more time for people to get a proper amount of sleep, which would make them more productive at work and at home. I am all too familiar with this, as when I worked at CAMH, my commute was at least two hours each way, largely due to the buses I took being stuck in traffic.

On the other hand, as a resident of Scarborough, while I was saddened by the closure of line 3, I was impressed by the speed that the city took to install transit priority lanes as a way to replace the line which was just closed. This sense of urgency needs to be applied to the Bathurst and Dufferin transit priority lanes, in addition to the other RapidTO transit priority lanes proposed. These proposals would help reduce commute times for thousands of residents in the city, just as they have for the commuters using the already existing transit priority routes.

The city has been bogged down by congestion for far too long for us to spend 5+ years discussing whether these lanes are a good idea. They have been employed elsewhere in the city, and all over the world with minimal issues if any at all.

Additionally, the proposals should not be watered down, especially when we will be hosting a large event with thousands of visitors entering the city in the near future for the 2026 FIFA World Cup. The lanes should extend north of Bloor. Amalgamation happened over 25 years ago, it is long past time to look beyond the borders of our boroughs as a guide for how to plan transit.

Pertinent to this proposal, but also to so many other projects in this city, I wish to remind the city council of the following: you serve all of the residents of Toronto, not the cars, or parking spaces, or only select groups of people in the city. It has been too often the case that proposals get watered down or outright cancelled because of a loud minority. The transit priority lanes have overwhelming support ranging between 68-77% during various consultations.

Please do not forget that these lanes have been promised to the residents of Dufferin and Bathurst, yet they have had to wait years only for a less robust version of what they were promised.

Maintaining the original length of the transit priority lanes and building these transit priority lanes urgently is what the residents of this city deserve and were promised. Toronto deserves more transit priority lanes, and our community will become stronger if they're implemented. Please strengthen and pass agenda item 2025.EX25.4 (RapidTO: Transit Priority on Dufferin Street and Bathurst Street) for the sake of our entire city.

Thank you for your time,

Thaneson Balachandran on behalf of Strong Towns Toronto

Strong Towns Toronto is a grassroots community group advocating for Toronto to become a stronger city, one that is safe, people-oriented, and financially resilient. Our focus has been on replacing the policies implemented as part of Toronto's Suburban Experiment, specifically in the areas of housing and transportation. We are an official Local Conversation within the Strong Towns movement, a worldwide movement which has inspired thousands of its members and hundreds of Local Conversations to work towards the same goals.