



SHEPPARD EAST VILLAGE BIA
c/o 27 Rosegrove Place, Toronto Ontario M1S 1W5
T: 416.607.5399 * www.sheppardeastvillagebia.com

Memo to: The Chair and Members of the Toronto Executive Committee
From: Ernie McCullough, Executive Director
Re: Agenda Item EX 22.8

We support better transit in northeast Toronto - and have worked closely with Council, the TTC and Metrolinx to help improve its use since Sheppard East Village BIA was established in 2007.

The new Subway station at McCowan + Sheppard will be the end of Line 2 and serve an area different from downtown and many other parts of our city – one that includes the Toronto Zoo and Rouge Urban National Park and is near U. of T. Scarborough, Centennial College and Pan Am Sports Centre. **Current plans include NO commuter parking near the new Subway station.** The rationale is “a desire to reduce dependency on vehicular traffic and promote alternative methods to access transit”.

This will be the only Subway station north of Highway 401 and east of Don Mills Road. This is a large area of Toronto where up to 195,000 people live. Many area subdivisions are a long distance from the station and have no road grids or nearby transit that will effectively connect these people to the Subway. Commuters will also drive to the station from nearby Pickering and Markham.

“The reality of a suburban location such as yours is that parking is also an essential component of the overall design. Local transit is a long way from providing the access needed by all the people that might use the subway – it is going to stay that way for a long time, sorry to say. This doesn’t have to be an ‘either/or’ proposition – do the transit design but recognize that some park + ride is also needed to maximize usage of the subway line and help justify the huge investment involved” - the views of U. of T. Professor Eric Miller, an acknowledged expert on transit in Toronto.

We know it will be one key to achieving better transit use in our part of Toronto. Commuter parking will also ensure drivers do not endanger pedestrians on the nearby streets where children and senior citizens walk or park illegally on commercial properties in our BIA. The absence of any commuter parking is a serious concern to 3 local Community Associations, area officials and political representatives, as well as 550 SEV BIA members and other stakeholders in our community.

Our goal is to increase the number of transit users by getting more cars off nearby roads and highways. There are 4 properties directly across from the station and other nearby properties that would be good for commuter parking - that could also generate potential revenues for Green P Parking and the TTC.

Every commuter who parks is a transit user. Commuter parking at McCowan & Sheppard will help promote transit use and help Toronto achieve its environmental goals.