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Toronto City Council
City Hall
100 Queen St. W.
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Subject: Support for IE19.XX and the Ellesmere Complete Street Project in Scarborough

Dear Members of Toronto City Council,

I am writing to you today to express my strong support for the adoption of IE19.XX and the recommendations to advance the improvements proposed in the Ellesmere Complete Street project in Scarborough.

The Ellesmere Complete Street project will bring much-needed safety enhancements to a busy and often dangerous arterial roadway in Scarborough. It is alarming that certain segments of Ellesmere currently lack sidewalks on both sides—this project will address these gaps by adding sidewalks, improving pedestrian safety and accessibility. Additionally, more crosswalks will allow residents to cross the road safely, while improved intersection designs will help curb speeding and enforce safer turning practices. Furthermore, the introduction of physically separated bike lanes will enable people to use bicycles, scooters, or other micro-mobility devices safely to reach key destinations such as universities, colleges, hospitals, and businesses along Ellesmere Road.

As a professor at Centennial College, I do experience daily the unsafe traffic conditions of high speed on both Morningside and Ellesmere, which makes crossing these streets unsafe, particularly for students trying to catch the bus in either direction.

Beyond safety, this project will play a crucial role in reducing traffic congestion by providing people with safer and more sustainable transportation options. As our city continues to grow, offering viable alternatives to car dependency is essential, particularly as institutions expand their campuses, repurposing parking lots for more efficient land use. Encouraging alternative modes of transport will alleviate pressure on our roadways and contribute to a more efficient and connected city.

The Ellesmere Complete Street project is part of a broader, integrated network that enhances mobility across Scarborough and beyond. It will close a major gap in the Meadoway trail, bringing Toronto closer to achieving a continuous, dedicated walking and cycling path stretching from the mouth of the Don River to the Toronto Zoo. Additionally, it connects to the Highland Creek Trail, allowing direct access to two GO stations, the Waterfront Trail, and Lake Ontario,

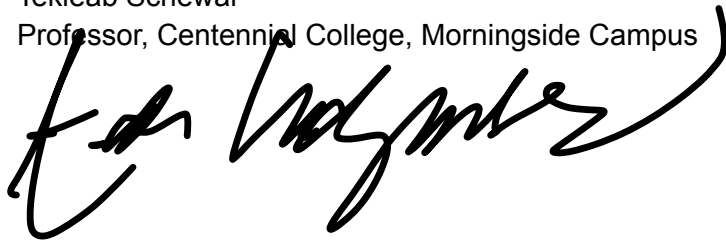
while also linking to the future Scarborough subway extension and Scarborough Town Centre. These connections will significantly improve accessibility within Scarborough and across the city.

Furthermore, this project will contribute to Toronto's smart city urban planning and sustainable design initiatives by promoting walkability, safe public transit, and bicycle use. By encouraging active transportation and reducing reliance on personal vehicles, the project will help mitigate carbon emissions, supporting both Toronto's and Canada's broader efforts to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. This initiative aligns with the city's climate action goals and enhances Toronto's position as a leader in sustainable urban development.

The Ellesmere Complete Street project presents a significant opportunity to create a safer, more connected, and more environmentally responsible Toronto. I urge City Council to adopt IE19.XX and move forward with the proposed improvements to benefit all residents.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Tekleab Schewai
Professor, Centennial College, Morningside Campus

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tekleab Schewai', written over the printed name.