



University of Toronto Rocket Riders — The Student Transit Forum

April 8, 2025

Comments on Item 2025.IE20.3, April 9, 2025

Dear members of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee,

As the only student public transit advocacy group at the University of Toronto, St. George campus, we have the honour of representing the interests of students and advocating for their transit-related concerns. We wish to support the calls made by TTCRiders for the implementation of active Transit Signal Priority (TSP) on Line 5 Eglinton and Line 6 Finch West.

In a survey we conducted over the course of three months at the University of Toronto's St. George campus, which received over 200 responses, we found out that 29.5 per cent of students rely on streetcars, for their daily commute. Additionally, 42.4 per cent of students reported being late to varying academic events 1-5 times within the Fall 2025 semester. When asked about the main problems facing the TTC today, an overwhelming 81 per cent of responding students indicated service reliability was among them. We know that a lack of TSP is a major cause for the unreliable streetcar service that so many students experience, with streetcars bogged down at every intersection, causing bunching and exacerbating delays. We hope that the Committee will take steps to ensure that this avoidable scenario will not be replicated on Lines 5 and 6.

When Lines 5 and 6 open, they will inevitably become a key part of many students' commutes. Given what we know about students' concerns regarding service reliability and the extent to which they already rely on unreliable streetcars, we should be seizing this opportunity to make sure that Lines 5 and 6 do not become equally unreliable owing to a lack of TSP. Lines 5 and 6 also have the potential to serve as a controlled and limited trial of active TSP implementation in a Torontonians context, paving the way for the wider adoption of TSP on the streetcar network.

We therefore echo TTCRiders' call for the City to develop TSP to its fullest extent to create the conditions for reliable service on Lines 5 and 6 once opened. Implementing full active TSP creates an opportunity for significantly improved transit reliability on lines yet to open, and sets the stage for meaningful future improvements to existing services.

Yours faithfully,

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