



June 18, 2025

Mayor and Council Members
City Council
Toronto City Hall- Council Chambers
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Re: East Mall Bus 111 Route Public Consultation

Dear Mayor and Members of Council,

In late May 2025, the TTC suddenly placed tree protection hoarding on private and city property in anticipation of construction of four new bus pads in front of homes on Beaver Bend Crescent, a quiet local residential street in the West Deane Park neighbourhood of Etobicoke Centre – Ward 2. This came as a surprise to many, since there is no existing TTC bus service on the street.

After repeated inquiries to the TTC, on June 13th, I was advised that the southbound direction of TTC route 111 East Mall is to be permanently re-routed off the main street and into the residential neighbourhood because the three adjacent existing bus stops on The East Mall did not meet new accessibility standards.

This bus route has served the community for nearly 45 years with few complaints. The neighbourhood residents are shocked by this change and have brought forward many very good questions, and safety and operational concerns. The new bus route winds down narrow streets and through the pick-up and drop-off area of Josyf Cardinal Slipyj elementary school. Neither the local community or the school have been consulted or even received general communications from the TTC about the change.

In just four days, a resident petition with over 300 signatures has been created to demand a pause to this work and community consultation. Regrettably, the hasty project commencement and the information vacuum has caused this to occur.

Residents have asked for answers to their questions, and an opportunity to suggest improvements to the plan. This is more than reasonable, considering that it is they themselves that use the three stops in question. Moreover, this is a broader issue that affects the school, and all transit riders on the route since the bus diversion causes a longer travel time for passengers headed to the subway station terminus.

The purpose of this motion is to require that the local residents and the school have the opportunity to be consulted on the proposed changes to the bus route and their stops, and to provide their input and local knowledge before advancing the construction. Some good ideas have already come forward, including some that could save time and cost.

Additionally, coordinated work with the City through Transportation Services may ultimately deliver a superior solution that improves transit in the area, and improves existing conditions on The East Mall for pedestrians and vehicles.

The timing of this motion is urgent since construction work is planned to start soon. I recommend that City Council:

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Request the Toronto Transit Commission to pause implementation of the route change to the 111 East Mall bus and associated construction work, to consult with the local community and school, and to develop alternatives or modifications to address concerns.
2. Direct the General Manager, Transportation Services to pause the four permits for new bus pads located within the local streets in the neighbourhood pending local community and school consultation on the proposal.
3. Direct the General Manager, Transportation Services to prioritize a coordinated review of the intersection of The East Mall and West Deane Park Drive to assess the opportunity to install pedestrian crossing protection and safety features, a crosswalk or signal, and to better accommodate a larger bus stop pad, and to seek necessary approvals, including through a report to Council.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Holyday', with a stylized, cursive script.

Stephen Holyday
Councillor
Ward 2, Etobicoke Centre