



Honouring Howard Moscoe

Date: July 22, 2026

To: TTC Board

From: Chief Strategy and Customer Experience Officer

Recommendations

It is recommended that the TTC Board:

1. Approve the naming of the atrium at Yorkdale Station as the Howard Moscoe Atrium, in recognition of his service as the first Chair of the Toronto Transit Commission of the amalgamated City of Toronto and his decades of advocacy for public transit in Toronto, including his sustained efforts to return the *Arc en Ciel* light installation by artist Michael Hayden to Line 1's Yorkdale Station, in principle and subject to:
 - a. Consultation with the family of Howard Moscoe and receipt of the family's written consent, in accordance with the TTC's Commemorative and Honourary Recognition Policy; and
 - b. Consultation with the artist, Michael Hayden, regarding the association of his work with the commemoration, and confirmation that the naming and any related signage are consistent with the artist's moral rights and with the terms of the applicable restoration agreement.
2. Delegate authority to the Chief Strategy and Customer Experience Officer to complete the consultation with the family of Howard Moscoe and with the artist, Michael Hayden, to obtain the family's written consent and to confirm the artist's position on the association of his work with the commemoration, and, upon completing those steps, to finalize and implement the naming; and, if the family's consent is not obtained or the artist's rights cannot be satisfactorily addressed, to report back to the Board with alternative options for commemoration.
3. Direct staff to confirm the funding, implementation, and ongoing maintenance arrangements for the recognition prior to installation, consistent with the Commemorative and Honourary Recognition Policy.

Summary

At its June 3, 2026 meeting, the TTC Board directed staff to report to the July 22, 2026 Board meeting with recommendations on options to commemorate former TTC Chair Howard Moscoe and his contributions to the Toronto Transit Commission, including consideration of a commemorative naming, and further directed that staff consult with the family of Howard Moscoe and relevant local stakeholders in developing the

recommendations. Mr. Moscoe, a former Chair, Vice-Chair, and Commissioner of the TTC, passed away on May 23, 2026 at the age of 86.

Following a review of commemoration options, TTC staff recommend a commemorative naming: the naming of the atrium at Yorkdale Station to the Howard Moscoe Atrium – the space that will once again house Michael Hayden’s *Arc en Ciel* light installation. This site was selected based on its visibility, its direct connection to Mr. Moscoe’s life and work, and feasibility for naming.

After the TTC removed the original *Arc en Ciel* installation in the 1990s, Mr. Moscoe championed its return for years and was instrumental in advancing its restoration. The reinstatement has been supported through a combination of funding sources, including contributions from the TTC and the City of Toronto, spanning both the earlier reinstatement effort and the current installation together with development funds directed through the local Councillor’s office and approved by City Council. Naming this space provides a meaningful and visible way to recognize Mr. Moscoe’s contributions and legacy.

Implementation will include internal and external communications, on-site recognition through signage and/or plaque(s), and a formal unveiling event, anticipated to be completed in 2027, reinforcing the TTC’s commitment to honouring those who have shaped the transit system.

Background and Analysis

About Howard Moscoe

Howard Moscoe (born November 28, 1939 and died May 23, 2026) was one of the longest-serving figures in Toronto municipal politics and transit governance. Before entering public life, he worked as a high school art teacher in North York, where he served as president of the North York Teachers’ Federation and as a governor of the Ontario Teachers’ Federation.

Mr. Moscoe served as an elected member of North York, Metro, and Toronto Councils for 32 years. He was first elected to North York City Council as an Alderman in 1978, served as a City Controller from 1985 to 1988, and was a Metro Toronto Councillor representing North York Spadina from 1988 to 1997. Following amalgamation, he served four consecutive terms on Toronto City Council from 1998 to 2010, representing North York Spadina from 1998 to 2000 and Eglinton-Lawrence from 2000 to 2010.

Mr. Moscoe served on the TTC Board from 1992 to 2006, holding the roles of Commissioner, Vice-Chair, and Chair over his 14 years of service on the Commission. He was Chair from 1998 to 2000, the first Chair following the amalgamation of the City of Toronto, and again from 2003 to 2006. During his first term as Chair, the TTC completed the extension of the Queens Quay streetcar line to Exhibition Place, which opened in 2000, began construction on Line 4 Sheppard, and started building the Transit Control Centre at Hillcrest Complex. In his second term, he helped the TTC introduce its 2003 Ridership Growth Strategy – a guiding document for transit investment in the decade that followed, which saw the system grow ridership to more than half a billion riders annually.

As Chair, Mr. Moscoe championed transit expansion, ridership growth, and accessibility improvements, including for Wheel-Trans customers. During his second term as Chair, the TTC approved the procurement of the Toronto Rocket subway trains, manufactured in Thunder Bay, Ontario, which serve Lines 1 and 4. Throughout his career, he was a tenacious advocate for tenants, people experiencing homelessness, transit riders, and people living with disabilities.

Connection to Yorkdale Station and *Arc en Ciel*

Arc en Ciel, by artist Michael Hayden, was installed along the glass roof of Yorkdale Station in 1978. The work consisted of 158 coloured light tubes that pulsed in sequence as trains entered and departed the station, and it became one of the TTC's most beloved works of public art. The installation was dismantled in the mid-1990s after water damage to its transformers, when funding for repairs was not allocated.

Mr. Moscoe campaigned for years to bring the artwork back. In 2010, as a former Chair, he made a deputation to the Board seeking approval to reinstate the artwork at no cost to the TTC, which was approved, and he helped negotiate an agreement under which Oxford Properties, owner of Yorkdale Shopping Centre, would fund the restoration. The installation, recreated with modern LED technology, is being restored because of his persistence, with reinstallation to follow structural and skylight repairs at the station. Naming the atrium that will once again house *Arc en Ciel* in his honour creates a direct and enduring link between Mr. Moscoe's legacy and a space he personally fought to revive.

Mr. Moscoe's connection to the surrounding community extended beyond transit. As the local City Councillor, he brought the community arts organization, Art Starts, and its programming to the neighbouring Lawrence Heights and Neptune communities, near the station and atrium, supporting access to the arts in these communities. In 2010, Art Starts worked with local youth to create community murals on the support pillars beneath the Allen Road adjacent to Yorkdale Station, including the work titled, *Love or Love*, near the Ranee Avenue entrance.

Commemoration Options and Selection Rationale

Consistent with the Board's direction to consider options to commemorate Mr. Moscoe, including a commemorative naming, staff assessed the following in alignment with the TTC's Commemorative and Honourary Recognition Policy:

1. **Commemorative naming (recommended):** TTC staff conducted a review of TTC properties to identify spaces suitable for naming.
2. **Other forms of commemoration considered:** Consistent with the Board's direction to consider options to commemorate Mr. Moscoe, staff assessed two potential locations for a commemorative naming. The first was the atrium at Yorkdale Station, the space historically home to the *Arc en Ciel* installation. The second was the plaza adjacent to the station. Staff recommend the atrium. Its defining feature, the *Arc en Ciel* installation that Mr. Moscoe worked to return to the station, gives the atrium a direct and specific connection to his contribution that the adjacent plaza does not share. The atrium is also a sheltered, high-traffic space with strong day-to-day visibility for customers, supporting the recognition's purpose.

Staff assessed the proposed recognition against the eligibility and assessment criteria of the Commemorative and Honourary Recognition Policy and confirmed that: Mr. Moscoe made an exceptional and enduring contribution to public transit in Toronto, to the TTC as an institution, and to broader public outcomes, including accessibility; there is a clear and meaningful connection between his contribution and the proposed form and location of recognition, given his direct role in the restoration of *Arc en Ciel*; the proposal aligns with TTC values and strategic priorities; and the proposal presents no reputational, equity, operational, or safety concerns.

Candidate naming sites were assessed against the following criteria, which reflect the Guiding Principles (section 4) and the Eligibility and Assessment Criteria (section 5) of the Commemorative and Honourary Recognition Policy:

- **Visibility and impact:** The site should be a space frequently used by TTC customers and employees or visible to the public to maximize recognition.
- **Symbolic connection to Mr. Moscoe's legacy:** The location should align with his contributions to public transit in Toronto, and ideally be a space directly associated with his work.
- **Feasibility:** The site must allow for naming without operational disruption and comply with TTC policies.
- **Public interest and significance:** Recognition must serve the broader public interest, be rare and reserved for exceptional contributions of lasting importance, and maintain operational integrity, including safety, accessibility, and wayfinding clarity.
- **Consultation:** Per the Board's direction, input from the family of Howard Moscoe and relevant local stakeholders, in addition to TTC leadership and relevant departments.

Based on the application of the selection criteria and consultation, the Yorkdale Station atrium was selected as the recommended site for a commemorative naming.

Recommended Site to Name

The recommended TTC space to name is the atrium at Yorkdale Station, the vaulted space beneath the station's glass roof that historically housed *Arc en Ciel* and is being prepared for its restored return. Yorkdale Station, which opened in 1978 and received a Governor General's Award for Architecture in 1982, is a high-traffic station on Line 1 serving Yorkdale Shopping Centre and the surrounding community. It is also connected to the Yorkdale GO Bus Terminal. The station serves the Lawrence Heights and Lawrence Manor communities associated with Mr. Moscoe's decades of service on North York, Metro, and Toronto councils. At the time of his retirement in 2010, he represented the western portion of Eglinton-Lawrence.

The atrium is not currently named after an individual, and its defining feature – the restored *Arc en Ciel* installation – is returning as a direct result of Mr. Moscoe's advocacy. The combination of public visibility, symbolic connection, and historical alignment supports the suitability of the Yorkdale Station atrium as the recommended location.

Policy Alignment

The TTC's Commemorative and Honourary Recognition Policy applies to commemorative and honourary recognition placed on TTC-owned or TTC-controlled property, including permanent or semi-permanent plaques, inscriptions, or similar markers. The proposed naming is eligible under the policy as it constitutes honourary recognition within the scope of the policy and, as outlined in the eligibility assessment above, satisfies the relevant eligibility and assessment criteria. While the policy does not govern the naming of stations, routes, or assets governed by separate TTC policies, it provides that all naming requests for TTC assets that are commemorative or honourary in nature shall be assessed in accordance with the policy, in alignment with Policy 14.1.1 (Identification of Routes, Stations and Stops) and Policy 13.6.0 (Naming of Buildings). The proposed naming does not rename Yorkdale Station and does not affect wayfinding. As the request originated from the TTC Board, final approval authority rests with the Board, consistent with the policy.

Any signage or plaque associated with the naming will credit Michael Hayden as the artist, identify the work as *Arc en Ciel*, and will present the recognition as honouring Mr. Moscoe's role in the restoration and return of the installation, and not as authorship of the artwork.

Consultation for this naming has been voluntarily modelled on the community partner framework set out in the TTC's station naming policy, including engagement with local businesses and institutions, civic and cultural groups, elected officials, TTC staff, and the Advisory Committee on Accessible Transit (ACAT), in addition to the Moscoe family as directed by the Board.

Consultation Summary

Internal staff consultation on the proposed commemoration has been completed. Staff across various groups within Strategy and Customer Experience, Engineering, Construction, and Expansion, Operations, and Legal were engaged on the proposed naming and on the two candidate locations, the atrium and the adjacent plaza, and staff support the atrium as the recommended location for the reasons set out above.

The family has been made aware of the proposed naming and is considering it. In accordance with the TTC's Commemorative and Honourary Recognition Policy, the family's written consent will be obtained before the naming is finalized or implemented; the outcome of that consultation will be reported to the Board or addressed under the delegated authority set out in the recommendations.

Consultation with the artist, Michael Hayden, has been undertaken with respect to the association of his work with the proposed commemoration; and confirmation that the naming and any related signage are consistent with his moral rights and the applicable restoration agreement will be completed before finalization. ACAT will be consulted with respect to the accessibility of any signage or recognition in the space.

Implementation Plan

The TTC will implement a phased communications approach to support the naming of the Yorkdale Station atrium in honour of former TTC Board Chair Howard Moscoe.

Ahead of the official unveiling, a leadership-led corporate message will be shared with employees to provide context and explain the rationale for the naming. This pre-event communication will be reinforced through internal channels, such as digital screens and the employee newsletter, as well as external and customer-facing channels given the public nature of the space.

The naming will be formally recognized through an on-site event, with remarks highlighting Mr. Moscoe's contributions and legacy, with the Moscoe family and former colleagues invited to participate.

Following the event, the TTC will continue to cascade communications across the organization to ensure consistent use of the new name over time.

Physical recognition will be implemented in accordance with the Commemorative and Honourary Recognition Policy. Plaques or markers will comply with TTC design specifications, including the standard 30-inch by 30-inch size, the TTC logo, and presentation in English unless otherwise approved, and will be located having regard to customer safety and emergency access, accessibility, clear passenger movement, and avoidance of confusion with wayfinding and customer information. The naming will be recorded in the TTC's centralized registry of approved commemorative and honourary recognitions.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Matters

Honouring Howard Moscoe recognizes a public servant whose career was defined by advocacy for equity-deserving groups. As TTC Chair, he pressed for accessibility improvements for Wheel-Trans customers and people living with disabilities, and throughout his council career advocated for tenants, people experiencing homelessness, and rent-geared-to-income housing.

Naming a prominent public space in his honour reinforces the TTC's commitment to recognizing leadership that advanced inclusion, accessibility, and fairness in public transit, and signals to employees, customers, and communities that such service is integral to the TTC's identity and legacy.

Corporate Plan Alignment

This initiative aligns with the TTC Corporate Plan by supporting priorities related to employee engagement, organizational culture, and inclusion, and puts the plan's Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (EDIA) principle into action through recognition of leadership that advanced accessibility and equity in the transit system.

Recognizing Mr. Moscoe's contributions strengthens organizational identity, fosters a stronger connection to TTC history for employees and customers, and supports the ongoing commitment to recognition and public pride in the transit system.

Financial Impact

The estimated cost to name the Yorkdale Station atrium is \$6,000, including materials for signage and labour for production and installation.

Consistent with the Commemorative and Honourary Recognition Policy, funding, implementation, and maintenance arrangements will be confirmed prior to installation.

Funding to complete the naming and ongoing maintenance arrangements will be requested as part of the 2027 operating budget submission and is subject to annual budget approvals by the TTC Board and City Council.

The Interim Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

Contact

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Attachments

Attachment 1 – [Decision History: TTC15.20 - Commemorating Former TTC Chair Howard Moscoe](#)