



January 19, 2021

Deputation to Federal Scarborough Caucus – Virtual Pre-Budget Consultation

Good afternoon, Scarborough Members of Parliament.

My name is Larry Whatmore. I am the president of the Scarborough Community Renewal Organization. SCRO, as we call it, is an organization of engaged volunteers that works to connect, promote, and renew Scarborough, so Scarborough can be strong and prosperous.

I am here today to speak about public transit. Specifically, the Eglinton East Light Rapid Transit project, which has been part of the Scarborough transit plan for many years but which is presently on hold, struggling for funding.

That's where you can help.

Reviving Scarborough's economy post-COVID will be of paramount importance for us all. One way of doing this is through bold investments in transit infrastructure which will stimulate economic activity and improve the quality of life for many Scarborough residents.

The Eglinton East LRT is such a project. Designed to connect Kennedy subway station to University of Toronto Scarborough and then to Malvern, this has the potential to be transformative for Scarborough.

Recently, we deputed to the City of Toronto Executive Committee, asking the City to consider redeploying the \$800 million public transit levy originally intended for the Scarborough subway to the Eglinton East LRT, as seed money for this initiative. But that won't be enough. Federal dollars in support of this \$4 billion project will be needed. We would propose that the federal government work with the City so that at least 50% of the cost of this project could be funded by federal infrastructure funding.

Think of the spin-off benefits: Construction jobs for thousands of Scarborough residents, some of which could be done through a community benefits agreement. Development renewal along the transit line. A huge boost for U of T Scarborough and Centennial College, where thousands of students arrive by public transit. Transit equity for Malvern, which relies heavily on public transit and whose residents endure punishing commute times to places of employment in Scarborough and in the city. Also, fast, reliable transit supports your government's climate change policy objectives.

Thank you for your time and attention.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Larry Whatmore', with a long, sweeping underline.

Larry Whatmore
President
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