



April 1, 2021

Hon. Catherine McKenna
Minister of Infrastructure and Communities
Government of Canada
180 Kent Street
Ottawa, ON K1P
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Dear Minister McKenna:

Re: Funding for the Scarborough Eglinton East Light Rapid Transit Project

SCRO is an organization of engaged volunteers that seeks to “*connect, promote and renew Scarborough*” so Scarborough can be strong and prosperous within the City of Toronto.

In your January 15 Ministerial Mandate Letter, the Prime Minister included the following:
“As part of Canada’s climate plan, deliver affordable, active and zero-emissions transit options and provide permanent transit funding.”

We believe we have an opportunity that aligns well with this mandate right here in Scarborough: the Eglinton East LRT Rapid Transit Project, connecting Kennedy subway station to University of Toronto Scarborough and to the community of Malvern, one of Scarborough’s most transit-dependent communities.

On January 19, SCRO had the opportunity to speak with your Scarborough caucus and encouraged them to support the construction of this higher-level public transit project during your caucus-level budget consultations. In follow-up discussions with them, it is clear that this project enjoys considerable support within your Scarborough caucus.

On February 19, we wrote to Minister Freeland on the same topic during the 2021 budget consultations.

Two important developments have taken place recently which we believe make this the right project at the right time.

On February 10, the Prime Minister announced that \$14.9 billion will be made available to support public transit projects over the next several years. The Eglinton East LRT project fits this objective very well.

On February 18, the City of Toronto Council authorized that the \$880 million Scarborough Subway Extension levy and the \$357 million Scarborough Subway Extension development charge fund be redeployed to help pay for this project.

That’s a \$1.2 billion commitment! That’s a serious “down payment” by the City of Toronto toward this important initiative, especially during COVID times.

But it's not enough. This is likely to be a \$4 billion project, so federal funding will be needed to make this happen. We would ask that you work with your colleagues at the Province of Ontario and the City of Toronto so the remaining cost of this project can be funded by federal and provincial funding.

The spin-off benefits of this project are enormous:

- 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 major boost for University of Toronto Scarborough and for Centennial College, where thousands of students arrive and leave by public transit.
- Transit equity for Scarborough's Malvern community, which relies heavily on public transit and whose residents endure punishing commute times to places of employment in Scarborough and in the city. Mr. Anandasangaree can speak to this matter with compelling authenticity.

Furthermore, fast, reliable public transit supports your government's climate change policy objectives.

The Eglinton East LRT will be transformative for Scarborough, will stimulate economic activity in the aftermath of COVID and will improve the quality of life of Scarborough's 650,000 residents.

We would welcome the opportunity to speak with your staff and with the Scarborough caucus about this proposal.

Sincerely,



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cc: Hon. John McKay, Scarborough - Guildwood
Hon. Bill Blair, Scarborough Southwest
Gary Anandasangaree, MP, Scarborough - Rouge Park
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Shaun Chen, MP, Scarborough North
Jean Yip, MP, Scarborough-Agincourt
Hon. Doug Ford, Premier
Hon. Caroline Mulroney, Minister of Transportation
Vijay Thanigasalam, MPP, Scarborough Rouge Park
Aris Babikian, MPP, Scarborough Agincourt
Hon. Raymond Cho, MPP Scarborough North
Christina Mitas, MPP Scarborough Centre
Doly Begum, MPP, Scarborough Southwest
Mitzie Hunter, MPP, Scarborough – Guildwood
Mayor John Tory, City of Toronto
Deputy Mayor Michael Thompson, Scarborough Centre
Councillor Gary Crawford, Scarborough Southwest
Councillor Paul Ainslie, Scarborough - Guildwood
Councillor Jennifer McKelvie, Scarborough - Rouge Park
Councillor Cynthia Lai, Scarborough North
Councillor Nick Mantas, Scarborough - Agincourt