



January 29, 2024

Presentation to the MPP Rick Byers, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Finance

Re: 2024 Ontario Budget Consultations

From: Larry Whatmore, President, Scarborough Community Renewal Organization

Good morning Mr. Byers and Scarborough MPPs. My name is Larry Whatmore. I am the president of the Scarborough Community Renewal Organization, an all-volunteer organization that strives to bring thoughtful advocacy to Scarborough civic affairs.

My comments today focus on the need for bold investments in public transit in Scarborough. There are three projects in play at this time where your government's financial participation can make a significant difference.

Eglinton East Light Rapid Transit Project

The first is the extension of the Eglinton East Light Rapid Transit line, from Kennedy subway station to the University of Toronto Scarborough campus and then to Malvern. This project is in the design phase, including a Transit Project Assessment Process, which the City of Toronto is expecting to complete this spring.

The City of Toronto has committed \$1.2 billion to this project. But the total price tag is likely to be \$4.6 billion. That's where you come in. But you don't have to do it alone. The federal government has a public transit infrastructure fund. This project should qualify for federal funding.

We are happy to support you in bringing the federal government to the table to support this initiative.

Scarborough Busway

The second project is the Scarborough Busway.

The Scarborough Rapid Transit line is now closed. The Scarborough subway extension won't be ready until at least 2030. That means several more years of punishing commute times for our residents in northern and eastern Scarborough.

Toronto City Council and the Toronto Transit Commission agree that the best way to address this is through the construction of a busway, providing an express bus connection along the route of the decommissioned Scarborough RT line.

The estimated cost is \$70 million. The City is having discussions with your government now regarding funding for this project, which we would ask you to seriously consider.

Sheppard Avenue Transit Extension Project

The third project is the proposed Sheppard Avenue transit extension, east along Sheppard Avenue to McCowan Road, where it would connect with the Scarborough subway extension.

This is a great idea. We need to prepare now for the many condo buildings which will be sprouting on Sheppard Avenue over the next twenty years. And connecting this transit line to the northern terminus of the Scarborough subway will allow the two lines to support each other.

There is significant support for this initiative by our local MPPs. Let's keep the consultation process going and proceed with the business case.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Larry Whatmore', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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