



Office of the President & Chief Executive Officer

Phil Verster
Phil.Verster@metrolinx.com
(416) 202-5908

September 29, 2021

Councillor Paul W. Ainslie
City of Toronto Councillor
Ward 24, Scarborough-Guildwood

Dear Councillor Ainslie,

Re: Durham-Scarborough Bus Rapid Transit (DSBRT) Project

Thank you for your letter dated September 16, 2021 regarding the Durham-Scarborough Bus Rapid Transit (DSBRT) project. We share your continued commitment to seamless, frequent, fast and reliable service for your constituents in Scarborough. It is also very important to us to listen to the communities we serve, and to engage them regularly as we work to better connect the Region.

We have heard the concerns from residents and business owners on the Ellesmere section of the planned DSBRT route, and the latest refinements to the design reflect the valuable feedback Metrolinx has received through recent public and stakeholder engagements. For example, the footprint of the road has been reduced to four lanes through Highland Creek, minimizing property impacts. We are eager to continue the conversation, to see how we can balance community concerns with the need to maintain transit reliability, and connectivity, through this segment of the corridor.

We held a virtual open house for Scarborough residents and business owners September 23, on our Metrolinx Engage platform. Over 160 registrants joined us to hear from the project team and ask questions. Residents were informed of this opportunity through:

- A mailed notice sent to addresses 500m on either side of the planned route
- A published advertisement on September 16 in the Scarborough Mirror
- Street signage in two highly visible areas in the neighbourhood
- An in-person information event at the Highland Creek Public Library held September 16

The project team also recently met with major business owners in the area, including Aldgate, to answer some of their questions about access, and joined the Highland Creek Community Association for a walking tour/community meeting on September 28. These conversations will continue as we look for ways to balance

community concerns with the need to maintain transit reliability through this segment of the corridor. To address what we have heard already, we are committed to exploring potential enhancements to the project plan, including:

- Consideration of a **new traffic signal** in front of Centennial Rink to facilitate access for trucks into the employment area (the precise location will be determined at the detailed design stage, in close collaboration with City staff)
- A **safety audit** of the corridor will be completed during detailed design, which will assess implementation of the raised median curbs.
- The **Preliminary Design Business Case** will consider a phased approach to delivery of the corridor, with construction commencing in Durham Region ahead of Scarborough. With a phased approach, curbed medians through the Ellesmere community can be delivered in the later stages of project delivery, as traffic conditions evolve.

We would be happy to meet with you and your office at your convenience to address some of your specific concerns and how this stage of consultation with the Ellesmere community will inform the preliminary design. We would appreciate any opportunity to clarify elements of the project and share traffic studies. To specifically respond to one concern noted in your letter, the centre median design proposed along Ellesmere will be continued throughout Durham Region, except in Oshawa where the bus will be running along one-way streets. This configuration has been proven to be the most effective in terms of bus reliability and general traffic flow, while significantly improving safety for road users, cyclists, and pedestrians.

As part of the Transit Project Assessment Process, Metrolinx will host the fourth Public Information Centre #4 (PIC #4), virtually on our Metrolinx Engage platform in late October. This was postponed by two weeks to allow for a dedicated Scarborough session, to give Highland Creek and the Ellesmere area an opportunity to speak directly to the project team, and to have their questions answered.

The community can get in touch with our dedicated Community Engagement team at dsbrt@metrolinx.com any time with inquiries and feedback about the project. We would also be happy to meet with you and/or your team at your convenience.

We look forward to continuing the conversation with this important community as we fine tune the preliminary design and work to advance this important transit project.

For updates and to access our previous public engagement material: www.metrolinxengage.com/dsbrt.

Sincerely,



Phil Verster
President & CEO

cc. Mayor John Tory
Greg Lintern, Chief Planner, City of Toronto
Mitzie Hunter, M.P.P. Scarborough-Guildwood
Michael Thompson, Toronto City Councillor, Ward 21
Jennifer McKelvie, Toronto City Councillor, Ward 25