



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

Chair, General Government and Licensing Committee
Chair, Board of Management of the Toronto Zoo
Chair, Federation of Ontario Public Libraries



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Councillor Paul Ainslie Scarborough-Guildwood

Ward 24 Scarborough-Guildwood

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November 24, 2021

Phil Verster
President and CEO
Metrolinx

RE: Durham-Scarborough Bus Rapid Transit Lane Concerns

Mr. Verster,

Thank you for your response letter dated September 29, 2021, regarding the Durham-Scarborough Bus Rapid Transit (DSBRT) project. The letter did not address my concerns.

I have raised this concern with your staff at the Mornelle Court community meeting on November 18, 2021. The response to my question received was not satisfactory and no appropriate justification was provided. If we look at the RapidTO Bus Only Lanes in the City of Toronto, the priority bus-only lanes are running on the curb lanes and producing parallel results of moving people more efficiently, improving reliability, speed and capacity on the busiest surface transit routes in the Toronto.

If the curb lane route is implemented, Metrolinx will not have to justify adding additional signals at 1221 Markham Road, 1970 Ellesmere Rd, Mornelle Court and Muirbank Boulevard. Under the current design many businesses on Ellesmere Road will lose direct vehicle access. For example, Breadsource, a small business in my Ward is one of the largest bakeries in the GTA, and a huge supplier to many other businesses beyond Scarborough. This organization will lose access, the local people who support this highly successful will think twice before making a u-turn at Markham Road. As well, altering routes for their delivery and pick-up trucks will create more gridlock on Markham Road and Progress Avenue. This is just one example. I have heard from many other businesses who are worried this infrastructure project as planned will greatly harm their business. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, these businesses have already suffered. It will take the small businesses years to recover, and by the time their businesses have recovered they will be faced with yet another challenge due to this ill-conceived transit project.

My office was informed TTC will operate on curb lanes in a certain portion of the corridor, this will not only be confusing for the riders but also create more traffic on Ellesmere Road. On behalf of my community, I request Metrolinx listen to both businesses and residents. As a government agency, I expect Metrolinx will work in a holistic approach to ensure the needs of our community are met. This will ensure a positive experience not only for the riders but also for the community.

During the Metrolinx presentation it was advised, "based on examples elsewhere centre medians are safer. Please expand on this to advise on the source determining this statement.

In addition, I would appreciate clarity on:

1. Metrolinx's funding strategy for the project.
2. Comments on the cycle track on the north side of Ellesmere between Scarborough Golf Road and Markham Road on the boulevard, and;
3. Will Durham buses continue to go to the Centennial College loop?

I trust I will receive a formal and positive response to this letter, and sincerely hope you will move this request swiftly.

Sincerely,

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