



**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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September 16, 2021

Phil Verster  
President and CEO  
Metrolinx

**RE: Scarborough-Durham Bus Rapid Transit Line Concerns**

Mr. Verster,

I am writing to you on behalf of my local businesses, stakeholders and residents in Ward 24, Scarborough-Guildwood with regards to the Durham-Scarborough BRT. As Scarborough continues to see rapid growth in the past decade, I do not think any one can argue communities must have access to seamless rapid transit for both residents and businesses to ensure they continue to grow in the strongest possible manner.

However, I am disappointed in the manner in which Metrolinx staff have been dealing with concerns raised by both businesses, residents, and stakeholders along the proposed Ellesmere Road portion of the BRT corridor.

Scarborough is a very dense community where many of the residents are employed locally and served by local businesses. It has been brought to my attention by these very same businesses and residents who are directly impacted by this project, and residents expected by Metrolinx to utilize the BRT route for their own success, have voiced their opinion very strongly to me about not being given meeting notices on the project, meetings held in inaccessible venues, and information on project timelines is lacking by Metrolinx.

Many individuals have accessed information about this project through word of mouth, some accurate, some not.

They are worried about the detrimental impact on their business operations. Some of the concerns shared with me include:

Prohibited left turn access will cut off businesses on Ellesmere Road between Markham Road and McCowan Road, concerns with delivery trucks not able to make U-Turns or left turns, notices were only mailed to properties within the 30 meters of the corridor. (There are many...many businesses and residents who will be impacted by this project, further than 30 metres from its operation.) Traffic studies need to be done and provided to the community and City of Toronto staff for Progress Avenue, Corporate Drive and Markham Road for the preliminary design.

In my conversation with Metrolinx staff, I have flagged many of these concerns. Many I feel could be solved by having transit vehicles run in the curb lanes as the portion of the BRT will do along the entirety of the Durham Region portion of the project.

I am requesting Metrolinx staff under your guidance to conduct proper consultations and information sessions which are much better advertised and accessible, meet with all local businesses, places of worship, and residents.

I am also requesting Metrolinx keep the City of Toronto's Planning and Transportation Divisions informed in a timely manner, in the same fashion. has been brought to my attention that many of the meeting plans were not shared with City staff.

I invite you and your staff to speak directly with residents impacted as this project. Its success is dependent upon the support of my community, from both residents and businesses.

I look forward to hearing about the next steps.

All my Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Ainslie', with a horizontal line underneath.

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

c.c. 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