



Councillor Paul Ainslie

Scarborough Guildwood – Ward 24

Chair, General Government and Licensing Committee

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**MEDIA RELEASE
Immediate Release**

Scarborough SRT Set to Close Earlier Than Planned....in 2023.

Toronto, ON – Today the Toronto Transit Commission released a report which recommends the early closure of the Scarborough RT(SRT) in 2023. Three years earlier than planned. I am thoroughly disappointed but not surprised. The SRT should have closed in 2015 at the end of its useful life. Now it will close before a better, more viable service is in place, negatively impacting Scarborough residents and businesses.

Councillor Paul Ainslie expressed “If we had built the Scarborough LRT as announced in 2007, it would have been operational today serving multiple communities and thousands of residents.”

When first announced the Scarborough LRT had a price tag of \$1.26 Billion completely funded by the Province of Ontario. Fourteen years later Scarborough is left without accessible fast public transit in the form of an LRT and soon will be without the SRT. The report speaks on adding as many as 60 buses on a McCowan express route from the Scarborough Town Centre.

It leads us to contemplate “Has Scarborough become the bus capital of the City? Is this what we have become accustomed to...more buses? Scarborough needs funding for modern, reliable, public transit, not more bus transfers.” added Ainslie.

If the SRT closes before the subway extension is complete, people will be riding buses for at least 7 years longer, while waiting for the Province and Metrolinx to get their act together and build the Scarborough subway extension.

The report will be before the TTC Board on February 10, where Commissioners will discuss the report including a recommendation for a public consultation process. It will ask people what alternative would serve them best. “I have the answer”, stated Councillor Ainslie, “Stop ignoring us and fund the Eglinton East LRT, and build the subway extension. We don’t want more bus transfers. Make Scarborough a transit priority.”

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