



Councillor Paul W. Ainslie
City of Toronto Councillor
Ward 24 Scarborough-Guildwood
Chair, General Government Committee
Chair, Scarborough Community Council
Chair, Board of Management of the Toronto Zoo
Chair, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority
Chair, Federation of Ontario Public Libraries
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Mayor Frank Scarpitti
City of Markham
Markham Civic Centre
101 Town Centre Boulevard
Markham, ON L3R 9W3

Dear Mayor Scarpitti,

As the Chair of the Toronto Zoo, I am writing to propose the establishment of a Markham Transit route to the Toronto Zoo. I suggest piloting the project on weekends to gather ridership data. This data will help us understand the needs of York Region visitors and inform the potential for a permanent transit expansion.

Since its opening, the Toronto Zoo has been a cherished destination for residents across the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) and visitors alike. Currently, the Zoo is accessible via several Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) routes, including the 86A Scarborough East and 85 Sheppard East buses, which effectively serve our visitors. Started earlier this year in February, the One Fare Program allows free transfers between GO Transit and the TTC, making it easier and more affordable to reach the Zoo.

Durham Region Transit already operates Route 917Z to the Toronto Zoo. Considering the Zoo's proximity to Markham, we believe extending transit services from Markham would significantly benefit residents.

I am confident that this initiative will provide convenient transportation options and exciting opportunities for Markham residents to explore the diverse wildlife and educational programs offered at the Toronto Zoo.

A pilot project for a Markham Transit route to the Toronto Zoo could offer valuable insights into GTA transit patterns and the needs of the Zoo's visitors.

If you are agreeable, we can invite representatives from the Toronto Zoo, Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) and York Region Transit to discuss this proposal further.

I look forward to hearing your thoughts on this important initiative.

Sincerely,

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

CC: Dolf DeJong, CEO, Toronto Zoo

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