

Submitted by: Commissioner Pasternak

Subject: Subway Line between Downsview Station and Sheppard Station

Date: July 23, 2014

Whereas, the transit route between the Downsview Station and Yonge Street and Sheppard Avenue represents a vital link between the two main north-south subway routes in Toronto;

Whereas, a process is well underway to intensify Sheppard Avenue and Yonge and Sheppard to ensure steady ridership for subway expansion;

Whereas, York University students and other commuters travelling from east of Yonge Street lack connectivity when travelling to the northbound extension – or southbound route of the University-Spadina Subway Line;

Whereas, the transit route between the Downsview Station and Yonge and Sheppard represents an essential connection between the \$2.9 billion subway extension from Downsview Station to Vaughan City Centre and the \$1 billion subway section built between Yonge Street and York Mills Station;

Whereas, Toronto City Council voted to declare this route a substantive project priority for Phase 2 Metrolinx funding on May 9, 2013; and

Whereas, by completing the connection between Downsview Station and Yonge Street and Sheppard Avenue this will represent a key part of the strategy of building the Yonge Street subway line north of Finch Avenue and into the City of Vaughan;

Therefore, be it resolved that the TTC Chief Executive Officer provide the TTC Board with a briefing note to address some of the following matters regarding the transit link between Downsview Station and Yonge Street and Sheppard Avenue:

1. Whether an environmental assessment was ever conducted for this area and whether such can be used in today's legislative environment.
2. To what extent digging/boring has been completed westbound along Sheppard Avenue and eastbound from Downsview Station and whether such digging also houses tracks.
3. What the estimated costs and timeline would be for an environmental assessment for a subway system to be constructed between these two points.
4. What the estimated costs of such a subway construction project would be based on various scenarios of stations.
5. A brief analysis of best approaches to handle the challenge of the bridge that currently runs above the Don River West Branch and Earl Bales Park and how a subway could be built across it.