

May 27, 2015

To Mayor Tory, TTC Chair Josh Colle and members of the TTC Commission,

We, as residents of Scarborough, would like to express our concern for the **future of transit** in our diverse and multicultural neighbourhoods. On May 24th, Toronto Mayor John Tory and TTC Chair Josh Colle jointly announced their proposal for **increased bus service** in the City of Toronto while standing at a bus stop in Scarborough. Both were praised in the media for restoring cuts rammed through by former Toronto Mayor Rob Ford and former TTC Chair Karen Stintz in 2011.

While commending Mayor John Tory and TTC Chair Josh Colle for their **commitment to bringing better public transportation services**, we are disappointed with the **lack of public consultation** on changes to routes in our suburb. We are particularly concerned of the **lack of accessibility** to communities along the Blue Night Bus Network identified as **Neighbourhood Improvement Areas** in 2014, through the *2020 Strong Neighbourhoods Strategy*. This study identifies 8 distinct communities (Oakridge, Kennedy Park, Ionview, Morningside, West Hill, Woburn, Eglinton East, and Scarborough Village) in the Scarborough suburb as **un(der)served** and in **need of infrastructure priority** due to **poor equity scores** compared to more *affluent* communities in the city (please see: <http://goo.gl/QRLq41>).

Your proposal is lacking in the *real-world lived-experiences* of the residents of Scarborough. We draw your attention to the proposed changes to the map of "*Additional All-Day, Every-Day Service*", which has far more increased bus service in Downtown/Midtown Toronto than where it is *desperately* needed in Scarborough.

Nevertheless, in drawing your attention to the "*Proposed Overnight Network*" map, we **support, endorse, and welcome** the following proposals:

- To extend the 300 Bloor-Danforth northeast along Danforth Road and west along Eglinton East towards Kennedy Subway Station;
- To extend the 354 Lawrence East to Starspray Boulevard;
- To extend the the 395 York Mills East along Ellesmere Road and north along Meadowvale Road to Sheppard Avenue East;
- To extend the 353 Steeles East along Steeles Avenue, south along Staines Road to Finch Avenue East; and;
- To add an additional route along Kennedy Road from Kennedy Subway Station north to Steeles Avenue East.

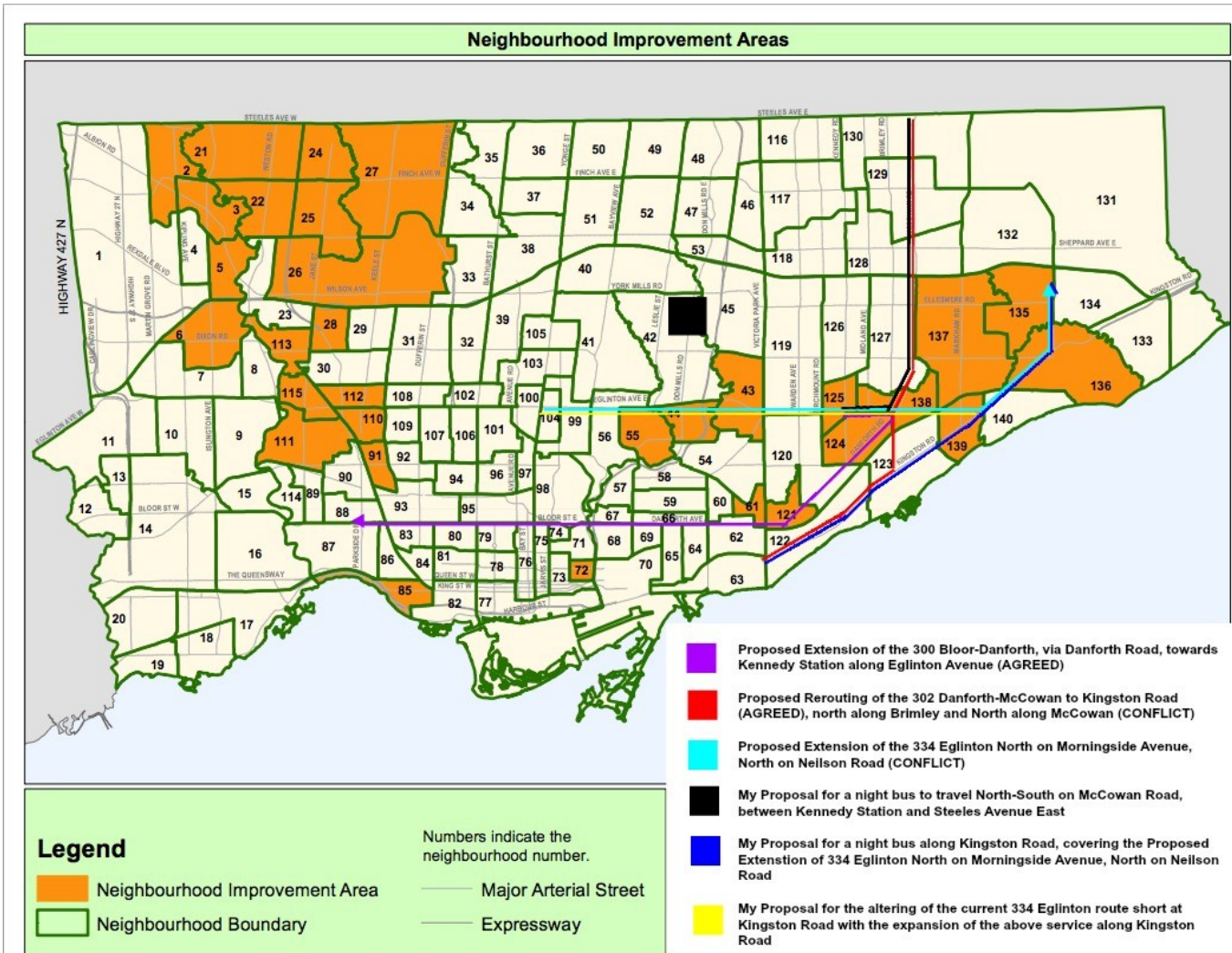
However, we would like to make recommendations for **amendments** to the remaining proposed routes

to better service the residents of Scarborough.

- To reroute the 302 Kingston (formerly the 302 Danforth-McCowan) along Kingston Road from Victoria Park Avenue Northeast to Morningside Avenue and North along Neilson Road to Finch Avenue East;
- To add a separate route from Kennedy Station to Steeles Avenue East via McCowan Road (formerly served by the 302 Danforth-McCowan and proposed to be served by the 302 Kingston); and;
- To reroute the 334 Eglinton East north along Markham Road to Ellesmere Road.

This network has many **advantages**:

1. It serves *all* 8 of the Neighbourhood Improvement Areas in Scarborough by providing public transportation, where infrastructure is needed to bring about equitable change to the quality of life;
2. It creates common bus terminuses for *easy transfers* at Victoria Park Avenue & Kingston Road, Kennedy Subway Station, and Finch Avenue East; and;
3. It caters to the *actual* needs of residents of Scarborough, not merely the creation of an attractive map.



This brings us to our next point of concern: **The 2016 Operating Budget.**

We would first like to reiterate that 43 million of the 95 million dollars in service improvements are being paid for by an **unfair fare hike** under Mr. Tory's administration. Further, we lament that the **government subsidy** per ride levels are still the **lowest in North America** and lower than they were in 2010.

On the same agenda where Mr. Tory proposes improvements to the City's bus network, you will find a cleverly imbedded **2% efficiency reduction in the net operating budget** (approximately 10-11 million dollars for the TTC and 2 million dollars for Wheel-Trans). We question where these cuts will be made and how it will impact the quality of service provided to the *historically marginalized* residents of Scarborough. We implore all members of the board to **vote against this motion** to show their commitment to accountability, equity, and quality of service.

We hope this letter serves you well in your decision making. We also urge you and TTC staff to consider our concerns and consult us on any future changes that affect the everyday lives of our families, neighbours, and communities.

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