

July 30, 2015

Dear Commissioner Colle and members of the TTC Commission,

I would like to take this opportunity to comment on the **Preliminary 2016 TTC Operating Budget**.

First, when an item concerning a budget shortfall is on the TTC Commission agenda, the issue of fare increases is a given. Fare increases affect 1.8 million transit riders but the public has had very little time to respond.

Going forward, how might the public have assurance that sufficient notice on items affecting fares be the norm?

Second, the "Change in the total subsidy required" on page 12 of the report is \$90 million. This is similar to the amount that was needed to hire Bechtel to oversee the TYSSE. Was money taken out of the TTC's operation budget to hire Bechtel for these services? If yes, what was the amount?

In closing, I commend the TTC Commission for providing free transit for children under twelve and endorsing a proposal to create a low income pass. However, increasing fares to cover TTC operating budget shortfalls is not a viable solution. Transit riders already pay more than their fair share and should be rewarded for reducing smog and green house gas emissions. With fare increases, more people decide not to or cannot afford to take the TTC.

There are other revenue tools the City can implement to maintain and even increase TTC ridership and I urge you to give them serious consideration.

Thank you and I look forward to your timely response to my questions.

Sincerely,

Brenda Thompson
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