

# SCARBOROUGH TRANSIT ACTION



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**For Immediate Release**

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## **Complaint Being Filed This Morning with the Auditor General of Ontario Regarding the Planned Scarborough Subway Extension and Lawrence E. and Kirby GO/SmartTrack Stations**

This morning Moya Beall from Scarborough Transit Action, Joy Robertson the president of Scarborough Residents Unite (if she's able to attend), and at least one ally will bring a physical copy of the attached complaint to Auditor General of Ontario Bonnie Lysyk.

They are asking Ms. Lysyk and her staff to investigate the non-evidence-based decision-making used for three very expensive Toronto transit infrastructure projects: the Lawrence East and Kirby GO/SmartTrack stations and the Scarborough Subway Extension (SSE).

“The Premier of Ontario, the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, the Minister of Transportation and Metrolinx officials continue to ignore your office’s repeated calls for transparency and accountability to the public,” the complaint’s conclusion states. “These powerful decision-makers act with impunity by not conducting rigorous cost/benefit analyses that consider financial, economic, environmental and social needs and impacts, and by not making transit-infrastructure-investment decisions based on those analyses.”

The complainants note the Lawrence East GO/SmartTrack station did not meet the criteria for approval in Metrolinx’s own original business-case analysis for new GO stations, nor did the Kirby station. Together they will cost nearly \$200 million to build – and might actually decrease rather than increase ridership along their lines (Barrie and Stouffville, respectively). This may in turn cause an increase in car traffic – and as a result the stations could increase greenhouse gas emissions, congestion and accidents, resulting in combined additional costs of more than \$700 million over the next six decades. Metrolinx has refused to provide specific information or evidence regarding the approval decisions. The only conclusion that can be drawn – and has been drawn by members of the media -- is that the approvals were purely political.

The complainants also are asking the Auditor General of Ontario to investigate whether a comprehensive cost/benefit analysis should be conducted of the SSE versus the seven-stop and 24-stop light rail transit (LRT) options. This would ensure that the provincial government’s contribution to the project is the best value for money.

“We note that such issues have been the subject of considerable review by your office in the past. We feel that the provincial government has fallen far short of its commitments to implementing your recommendations,” the complaint to Ms. Lysyk states. “... Given that there is no transportation case to be made for the subway project, the decision is clearly a political one that ... should not go unchallenged.”