

SCARBOROUGH TRANSIT ACTION

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For Immediate Release

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Media Invited to August 17 Demonstration With Transit Users Shocked to Learn About Pending Closure of Lawrence East SRT Station

Tomorrow (Aug. 17) at 9:00 a.m., Scarborough Transit Action will release survey results from more than 200 users of the Lawrence East SRT station. Fully 85% did not know the transit hub is slated to be permanently closed when the Scarborough Subway Extension is completed and the SRT is shuttered. Also, 93% are unhappy with the pending loss of the station (along with three other SRT stations). And very few are interested in using the GO/SmartTrack station at Lawrence E. when it's built, because of the higher cost of using it.

There will be 15-20 people at the event/demonstration, including local residents who will speak about why they strongly oppose the closure of the station. The complete survey results also will be released.

“I didn't know the Lawrence East SRT station will be closed,” says Leonie Thelwell, one of the local residents who will at the event. “I am not pleased at all. Because the best option by far would be the seven-stop LRT -- which would include a stop at Lawrence East, and would have been fully paid for by the province. It also would be much more convenient for many more people than one stop. Plus, the LRT would have been finished by now if it weren't for all the political interference.”

Another frequent Lawrence East SRT station user who will speak at the demonstration is Rosemary Boissonneau. She notes that Lawrence Avenue is a major arterial road running the entire width of Scarborough, from the Rouge in the east, to Victoria Park and beyond in the west.

“Without this station, our trip times will be way longer, because the rapid-transit leg will be replaced with another bus trip,” she says.

The majority of the more than 8,000 daily users of the Lawrence E. station travel within Scarborough – a journey that will be much more difficult when the subway is built and the SRT is closed. Once informed of the pending closure of the station, users are angry and are calling on Mayor John Tory and Premier Kathleen Wynne to not move forward with a one-stop subway, and instead to switch to the original plan for an LRT transit network.

WHAT: Regular users of the Lawrence East SRT station talking about their lived experience with Scarborough transit; presentation of survey data by STA (@TransitScarb)

WHEN: 9:00-9:30 a.m. on Thursday, Aug. 17

WHERE: Outside the main entrance of the Lawrence East SRT station at 2444 Lawrence Avenue East