

SCARBOROUGH TRANSIT **ACTION**

Why isn't rapid transit to East Scarborough a priority for Mayor Tory?

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Scarborough Transit Action will be available to speak to the media at the Executive Meeting today.

Yesterday's release of the City of Toronto's transit plan has a transit advocacy group worried about whether transit riders in Scarborough are going to truly benefit from the city's new transit plan.

"The city report doesn't talk about prioritizing crucial new transit routes in the Scarborough Transit Network like the Sheppard East and the Eglinton East Light Rail Transit lines, said Brenda Thompson from Scarborough Transit Action. "What does this mean for East Scarborough residents, including students at Centennial College and the University of Toronto Scarborough? How much longer do we have to wait for rapid transit?" she said.

Scarborough Transit Action also expressed concern that the one stop Scarborough Subway continues to be the signature plank of Tory's transit plans for Scarborough, even though recent revelations from the Toronto Star indicate TTC staff incorrectly ballooned the cost of the Scarborough LRT, which the subway replaced.

"A seven-stop Scarborough LRT will benefit more riders than a one stop Scarborough Subway," says Scarborough Ward 43 resident Khalidha Nasiri. "Now that we have more accurate costs Tory needs to go back to the drawing board and move forward with the better LRT option," she said.

Rider groups are also worried about Tory and Wynne's commitment to building new transit lines, given that the report recommends downloading all operating and maintenance costs of all new LRTs from the Provincial Government to the City.

"The Provincial Government should be recommitting to match the City's contribution to the TTC as it did until the 1990s, not running further away from its responsibility to fund transit operations," said Brenda Thompson.

"John Tory and the City Council are refusing to fund existing transit routes, so we question how committed they will be to finding the money to operate new LRT routes," says Vincent Puhakka of Scarborough Transit Action. "All levels of government should be providing public transit to all corners of the city," he said.