

SCARBOROUGH TRANSIT **ACTION**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, June 22, 2018

Transit Advocates call on the mayor to scrap his Lawrence East GO/SmartTrack station

Scarborough Transit Action (STA), a grass-roots Scarborough, transit advocacy group, is calling on Mayor Tory to abandon his plan to shut down four Scarborough RT (SRT) stations and replace them with one GO/SmartTrack station at Lawrence East. The stations - McCowan, Midland, Ellesmere and Lawrence East – are used by more than [16,700](#) riders daily.

STA [surveyed](#) riders at the Lawrence East RT station last summer and found that most would not use SmartTrack because it wouldn't take them where they want to go and it would be too costly. Their research found that most riders prefer the previously planned and approved seven-stop LRT.

It has now been confirmed by the city and Metrolinx that the planned service will be less frequent than the current RT service and more expensive to use. In a Transit Project Assessment Process online townhall on Monday, staffers grudgingly revealed that the plan is to run the trains every 6-10 minutes at peak times and every 15 minutes in non-peak times. The SRT currently runs every four minutes. As well, it was revealed that a trip involving transfer from the TTC to GO/SmartTrack would cost riders \$4.50.

“Mayor Tory has failed to deliver on his 2014 election promise and the Transit Project Assessment Process for SmartTrack should not proceed until he has negotiated five-minute service for a TTC fare” said Brenda Thompson of STA.

A 2016 study by University of Toronto professor, Eric Miller showed five-minute SmartTrack service for a TTC fare would attract 300, 000 riders and alleviate some of the overcrowding on the Yonge line. However, under the mayor’s plan, SmartTrack would only attract 123,000 daily riders.

"This is the Mayor throwing good money after bad. Instead of pushing ahead with \$1.46 billion SmartTrack and a \$3.35-billion one-stop subway he should replace the Scarborough RT with a seven-stop LRT and make good on his election promise of SmartTrack for a TTC fare," says STA member Moya Beall.