

SCARBOROUGH TRANSIT*ACTION*

HOW TO SPEAK TO POLITICIANS WORKBOOK



Upcoming opportunities to Speak

2019 City Budget hearings February 7, 2019 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.; and 6:00 p.m. onwards Scarborough Civic Centre, 150 Borough Drive - Register: buc@toronto.ca 416-392-4666	Mayor's Executive Committee Tuesday, April 9, 2019 at 9:30 a.m., City Hall, 100 Queen Street West Register: exc@toronto.ca 416-392-4666 fax: 416-392-1879
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Please cc scarboroughtransitaction@gmail.com when you register to speak. Let city staff know if you have any accommodation needs i.e. ASL interpreters, whether you need accessible space for your mobility device or translators.

Preparing to speak (make a deputation)

Members of the public have five minutes to speak. Sometimes, if there is a long list of speakers, it can be cut down to three minutes.

On the day of the Budget Hearing or the Executive Committee meeting, the chair will call your name when it is your turn to speak. We will have a copy of the speakers list and can show you where you are on the agenda.

Highlight your main points with a marker in case you need to cut your presentation short. You can request for a member of Scarborough Transit Action to join you at the podium and/ or give feedback on your deputation.

Background information about Scarborough rapid transit priorities can be found at scarboroughtransitaction.ca and [@ScarbTransitAction](https://twitter.com/ScarbTransitAction). Information about the 2019 TTC budget, can be found on TTCriders website: www.ttcriders.ca and also on twitter feed [@ttcriders](https://twitter.com/ttcriders).

Writing and delivering your presentation

Deputations are powerful when they come from your personal experience or stories. Instead of using a lot of statistics, use a common speech format, speak clearly, smile and make eye contact with the councillors present in the room. Deputations are videotaped and downloaded onto youtube. If there is information about you or your situation you do not wish to become public do not include it in your deputation.

State clearly what your concerns are eg. "We need to build the Eglinton East LRT publicly, now! or "We need lower fares and better service, not fare increases."

Sometimes councillors are inattentive. They talk or check their cellphones during your deputation. Others want clarification or want to get your support on something or challenge you. It's okay if you do not have all the answers to their questions, you can say I don't know or you'll get back to them if they are looking for numbers.

Here is a template for writing your letter/deputation:

Dear/Good morning Mayor Tory and Executive Committee/Budget Committee,

My name is _____ . I am a _____

(senior, student, resident etc.) and active community member from _____ (Ionview, East Scarborough etc.) and I am (writing, here to speak) about _____.

I rely on the TTC to _____.

I (find it difficult, can no longer afford) to take the TTC because _____

Not being able to (get where I need to go quickly/conveniently, afford to take the TTC) causes me to _____

The City needs to _____

This will help transit riders in Scarborough _____

Thank you for the opportunity to speak about _____

Some typical questions you can expect:

EGLINTON EAST LRT

Question: The Eglinton East LRT will cost \$2.2 billion how do you expect us to pay for it?

Answer 1: The previous Council was able to find \$3.56 billion in funding for the Scarborough subway extension and \$1.46 billion for SmartTrack. I know you can do the same for the EELRT.

Question: My constituents are not willing to pay higher property taxes for an LRT. How will we pay for the Eglinton East LRT?

Answer: You were able to come together and support a 1.6% increase in the property tax to pay for the Scarborough Subway Extension. You could do the same for the EELRT.

Question: The provincial government has promised to upload our subway system and build a three-stop Scarborough subway. It's not up to us to build the EELRT.

Answer: Council [voted](#) to keep the TTC in Toronto's hands. I expect you to defend our transit system from the province's hostile takeover and build the EELRT, publicly now.

TTC FARE INCREASES

Question: If you had to choose between lower fares and a service increase which would you prefer?

Answer: We shouldn't have to choose. If the City increased the subsidy to \$1.50 per ride we could have lower fares *and* better service.

Question: You want us to increase the City subsidy for TTC operations but how will we pay for it?

Answer : There are progressive forms of taxation which could go toward an increase such as a modest increase in property taxes, vehicle registration tax, commercial parking fees and development charges.

Question: Property taxes are not progressive. Why should we hurt renters to pay for transit?

Answer: Research by the Centre for Policy Alternative shows that fares are the most unfair way to pay for public transit.

The reality is that Toronto's property taxes are the lowest in the GTHA. Property taxes have not kept up with inflation, population growth, or skyrocketing housing prices.

There are also ways governments can make property taxes more fair. For instance, by doing what Montreal does and allowing low income homeowners to defer paying their property taxes until after they sell their home, or lowering the property tax rate paid by renters so it's lower than the rate paid by property owners.

Question: Why should the City increase its subsidy? It's the province that isn't paying its fair share.

Answer: We want both the province and the City to contribute a fair share toward TTC service and lower fares.