

## Open Letter for Public, Locally Controlled, Rapid Transit to Malvern

July 23, 2019

The Honourable Vijay Thanigasalam,  
Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Transportation  
Room 212, Main Legislative Building  
Queen's Park  
Toronto, Ontario  
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Dear MPP Thanigasalam,

We congratulate you on your recent appointment to the position of Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Transportation.

On May 25, more than fifty residents of Malvern marched to your constituency office in support of the Sheppard East and Eglinton East LRTs. We left you a letter that outlined the importance of these lines to residents of eastern and northern Scarborough and our opposition to Bill 107 and \$1.1 billion in provincial funding cuts to TTC. We have not received a response. We remind you that Premier Ford promised to build the Eglinton East LRT. Can you tell us why it does not exist on his transit map? Will you tell us what you will do to ensure that it is built quickly?

We are well aware of your government's announcement of building a three-stop subway extension, instead of the city's planned one-stop one. This is a plan that not only adds to the enormous expense of a project that does not serve the needs of most residents, but also delays it by at least four years.

Scarborough residents will be riding buses longer because of this delay. The \$1.1 billion provincial funding cuts to TTC will worsen transit service. \$585 million of this was already allocated to critical TTC maintenance work, including accessibility upgrades. We urge you to reverse these cuts and fairly fund transit in Ontario.

It is not unusual for Scarborough residents, especially those who live in Malvern to experience two-hour commutes, every day. We live with congested, polluted, unsafe streets because there is no realistic transit option. We have world-class health care, educational and recreation facilities and hundreds of large and small businesses that cannot be accessed by rapid transit. Your government's plan will do nothing to change this. Uploading rapid transit to the province breaks apart the TTC's integrated system, opens it up to privatization, and delays plans that are already in motion.

It has been more than ten years since the Sheppard East and Eglinton East LRTs were approved. Scarborough residents are tired of waiting. Will you stand up for the people who elected you and ensure that these lines get back on the priority list? In your new role as Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Transportation will you work tirelessly to stop the cuts and privatization of the TTC?

Jennifer Robinson  
Connect Sheppard East

Jamaal Myers  
Scarborough Transit Action

Shelagh Pizey-Allen, Executive Director  
TTCriders

Howard Cyrus  
Scarborough Rouge Constituent

cc. The Honourable Caroline Mulroney, Minister of Transportation  
Honourable Premier Doug Ford  
Honourable Scarborough Southwest MPP Christina Mitas