



Joe Cressy 周凱捷

City Councillor | Ward 20, Trinity-Spadina

March 22, 2016

Toronto Transit Commission Board
Committee Room 1, City Hall
100 Queen St W
Toronto ON M5H 2N2

Dear Commissioners,

Re: Improved Transit in East/Central Downtown: 72 Pape and 121 Fort York-Esplanade Bus Routes and 514 Cherry Streetcar Service on King Street

As condo towers rise higher and higher above our downtown neighbourhoods, I am often asked the same question: Are we building neighbourhoods or are we just adding density? Frankly, we have a lot of work ahead of us to ensure that all this density adds up to liveable communities. Providing reliable transit service with adequate capacity to carry everyone who wants to use it is an important part of ensuring that our newest downtown communities can mature into complete neighbourhoods that are sustainable, liveable, and attractive to a diverse range of households including families with children.

Investing in public transit in our downtown communities is critical in encouraging residents to use public transit to reduce the effects of climate change and the number of cars on our roads. Most downtown residents do not regularly drive a car. Many people walk or use a bicycle but personal circumstances and the geography of our city mean that for many people the TTC is truly the better way. TTC services are critical in providing access to our neighbourhoods, but also in moving from their homes to other vibrant centres of our City. To continue to do this, we must expand access to service for our rapidly growing downtown neighbourhoods.

The King-Spadina area is growing from a derelict warehouse district with few residents into a collection of neighbourhoods with a population on its way to 40,000, in addition to tens of thousands of jobs. But a similar scale of growth to the west means that the King streetcar is already full in the morning when it reaches King-Spadina.

CityPlace is a brand new community of 18,000 people, still growing on the former Railway Lands west and south of the downtown core. At the moment, there is no east-west public transit connection for any of these residents.

I am writing to ask you to support the two new transit routes that are being proposed by TTC staff, which have been planned in consultation with local communities and councillors.

The 121 Fork York-Esplanade bus will provide a vital transit connection through the heart of CityPlace to Union Station and on to the new employment opportunities east of the downtown core. It will operate

from Strachan Avenue, along Fort York Boulevard and Front Street, to the Distillery District, with a connection at Union Station.

The 514 Cherry streetcar will boost transit capacity in the King Street corridor and become an important link between the increasing number of jobs, residents, and services in Liberty Village, King-Spadina, the downtown core, King-Parliament, and the West Don Lands. This service will run from Dufferin Street to Cherry Street using the new accessible, higher-capacity streetcars as they are delivered.

Please vote to implement these two new routes so that every potential transit rider in these communities can actually get on the bus or streetcar, and contribute to the effort to create family-friendly neighbourhoods where people can choose sustainable modes of transportation.

Sincerely,



Joe Cressy
City Councillor
Ward 20, Trinity-Spadina