

Consolidated Issues Summary:

Scarborough needs coordinated Scarborough Representation at City Hall

This issue runs through nearly every submission. The material from this forum does not just identify policy issues; it identifies a governance failure.

Repeatedly, Speakers called on Scarborough Councillors to stop operating as separate ward silos and act collectively on Scarborough-wide issues.

In practical terms, the consolidated message is:

Scarborough’s problems are not isolated ward issues. They are cross-Scarborough structural issues, and unless Scarborough councillors work in a coordinated voting and advocacy bloc, Scarborough will continue to be outmaneuvered at City Hall by better-organized geographic blocs elsewhere in Toronto.

That conclusion is strongly supported by the forum material overall.

The 19 submissions made by community organizations participating in the March 2, 2026 SUN Scarborough Councillors Forum show a very consistent pattern:

Scarborough residents are not objecting to change in principle; they are objecting to growth, rezoning, and policy change that are being advanced:

- without matching infrastructure,
- without credible cumulative-impact analysis,
- without adequate enforcement, and
- without a Scarborough-wide political strategy.

A repeated theme across the submissions is that Scarborough is being planned with assumptions better suited to other parts of Toronto, while its actual realities:

- long travel distances,
- weaker internal transit,
- limited community facilities,
- parking dependence, and
- underinvestment in services,

are being treated as secondary.

1. Overdevelopment, Up Zoning, & “One Size Fits All” Planning

The dominant issue across the submissions is concern about intensification being pushed forward too quickly and too uniformly. Multiple speakers argued that rezoning, Transit Oriented Communities (TOCs), multiplex permissions, and other “as-of-right” changes are being applied without enough regard for Scarborough’s built form, neighbourhood context, adopted secondary plans, or infrastructure capacity.

Key sub-themes included:

- no meaningful cumulative-impact assessment of multiple nearby projects
- secondary plans and neighbourhood protections being treated as optional rather than binding
- community consultation happening late, after core decisions are effectively made
- residents feeling that their input does not materially influence outcomes.

2. Transit Deficiencies and need for higher-order Scarborough Transit

Public transit is the clearest long-standing Scarborough-wide grievance. Speakers consistently described Scarborough as under-served by higher-order transit and poorly connected internally. This includes strong support for the Sheppard Subway Extension, the Eglinton East LRT, improved GO service, better bus regularity, and better east-west and north-south connectivity.

3. Parking crisis: Mismatch between policy assumptions & Scarborough reality

Parking emerged as one of the most repeated practical issues. The consistent argument was that Scarborough is not transit-rich enough to support downtown-style parking assumptions.

Residents described the elimination of minimum parking requirements as producing serious spillover effects: illegal street parking, yard parking, pressure around schools, permit conflicts, and worsening neighbourhood tensions.

4. Growth without matching Infrastructure, Community Facilities, & Services

Another major cross-cutting concern is that population growth is not being matched by investment in infrastructure. This includes community centres, recreation space, childcare, healthcare, schools, food infrastructure, youth programming, and local social supports.

The repeated message is simple: if more people are coming, Scarborough needs the hard and soft infrastructure to support them.

A strong common theme was that policies may exist on paper, but enforcement is inconsistent, under-resourced, or ineffective. This concern spans illegal rooming houses, multi-tenant housing, parking violations, yard parking, school-zone safety, by-law infractions, and even transit-station security.

6. Public Safety, Social supports, and Neighbourhood well-being

Several submissions broadened the discussion beyond land use into community safety and social stability. West Hill, Woburn, ACSA, Centennial, and West Rouge all linked safety to broader structural issues such as food insecurity, youth disengagement, mental health strain, lack of affordable housing, weak preventive services, and inadequate neighbourhood investment.

7. Health care, Child care, and basic human services are being strained by growth & underinvestment

Major growth is being advanced without regard for health-system capacity. Childcare and human services are community-facility concerns.

Together, these submissions show that “infrastructure” is not just roads and transit; it includes clinics, childcare, food access, school nutrition, settlement supports, and preventive social services.

8. Green space, Tree canopy, and Environmental Resilience

Environmental concerns were not as universal as transit or parking, but they were important and substantive where raised. Speakers warned that densification is reducing green space, threatening wildlife corridors, and eroding mature tree canopy that should be treated as infrastructure in its own right.

9. Employment Lands and Local Economic Resilience

An emerging issue is the loss or weakening of employment lands and local commercial services. The concern is that housing pressure is pushing out jobs, services, and strategic employment areas that Scarborough residents depend on.

10. Active Transportation, Trails, and Connectivity Equity

A number of submissions were not anti-active-transportation; rather, they asked for better-designed, connected, and Scarborough-appropriate active transportation. That includes connected bike networks, safe cycling design, and trail infrastructure that Scarborough has long lacked relative to other parts of Toronto.

11. Communication, Consultation, Transparency, and Resident Trust

This is perhaps the deepest systemic issue. Across the submissions, residents repeatedly said the City's consultation and communication model is not working.

The complaint is not merely that there are consultations; it is that they are too late, too technical, too fragmented, too hard for ordinary residents to navigate, and too disconnected from actual decisions.

Speakers also raised poor service transparency through 311 and a general sense that residents are reacting to decisions already in motion.

Summary:

The submissions collectively show that the main common issues facing Scarborough residents' associations are:

- unmanaged intensification and overdevelopment
- inadequate cumulative-impact analysis
- weak Scarborough transit and connectivity
- a growing parking crisis
- insufficient recreation, childcare, healthcare, school, and community infrastructure
- ineffective enforcement of rooming-house, parking, traffic, and by-law rules
- underinvestment in safety, food security, youth supports, and preventive services
- loss of green space, tree canopy, and neighbourhood stability
- risk to employment lands and local businesses
- poor consultation, weak transparency, and low public trust, and above all
- the lack of coordinated Scarborough political action at Toronto City Hall.

For comments from specific community organizations please see the attached pdf. In conclusion it is evident that we ALL have work to do for the benefit of ALL of Scarborough – one third of the geographical area of Toronto and 25 % of Toronto's population. community awareness & discussion purposes only.