



October 22, 2023

RE: Concerns with the 2023 EHON Major Streets Study

Dear Mayor Chow,

As proud Scarborough residents and members of Scarborough United Neighbourhoods (SUN) representing persons living in various forms of housing we wish to bring to your attention the following concerns with the 2023 EHON Major Streets Study process.

As Scarborough residents who have assimilated multi-tenant housing, laneway suites, garden suites, multiplexes and multiple high-rise condominiums our neighbourhoods have undergone tremendous change in a very short time and without the required infrastructure required for healthy quality living. That tremendous change continues. With grace and acceptance Scarborough residents live with these changes.

However, at present without transparency and accessible information Scarborough residents are expected to comment on an EHON Major Streets Study. Of all the EHON initiatives Scarborough residents find that which is most reaching into neighbourhoods, the Major Streets project, to be most misinformed and lacking both expertise and a methodology.

Who would think that a 2023 “Major Streets Study” would have anything to do with stacked townhouses and six story apartments?

The title of the study is deceiving. The lack of communication about the public meetings is secretive. The restriction of Scarborough community association leaders to webinars because they were not informed is disingenuous. The posting of street maps on the Toronto City website without visible names of the affected streets within the study is not transparent.

Regarding lack of communication – a public meeting was held on October 12, 2023 at Scarborough Civic Centre to which very few Scarborough residents attended. These few residents were only alerted because one of the Scarborough Councillors posted the information in a newsletter. Many residents had no knowledge of the public meeting.

Regarding the October 18 &19, 2023 Webinars for Community Association Leaders - only two leaders from Scarborough attended on October 18, 2023 because they discovered the meeting from a North York leader the previous day. No invitations to the webinars were sent to Scarborough leaders before October 18, 2023. Following this issue being raised some received invitations for the October 19, 2023 meeting. Scarborough community associations are registered with the City Clerk. Why was Scarborough left off the list of invitations?

Regarding the street maps – the invisible street names were raised at the October 18, 2023 webinar. Having to return to the September 28, 2023 minutes of the Planning and Housing Committee meeting to discover a map with “some” street names raises suspicions of the desire to hide the street names. Maps with street names are not posted on the Toronto EHON website. Even the names of the streets affected by the Major Streets Study are not labelled!

When finally seeking out a map which continues to lack the names of the streets affected, it is apparent to those who live on them that streets such as Huntingwood Avenue, Scarborough Golf Club Road and Guildwood Parkway are not appropriate for use in the Major Street Study. For example, Huntingwood Avenue is on the Official Plan as a minor arterial street however it is in reality a collector street. It is not a four-lane street! Former Scarborough-Rouge River MPP Bas Balkissoon along with City Council successfully had that street changed to two lanes with bike lanes. In fact, those bike lanes at this moment in Fall 2023 are undergoing the construction of permanent bike protected lanes. Basing this study on an Official Plan that does not reflect the decisions and changes the City has made since 2018 is negligent.

As mentioned, Scarborough residents feel the 2023 EHON Major Streets Study is incomplete and following a flawed process, and the proposal must be reexamined and revised.

Scarborough expects to be included in all City discussions which affect Scarborough communities. Scarborough deserves to be treated equitably.

Scarborough United Neighbourhoods (SUN) which represents many Scarborough community associations is requesting your support as the EHON Major Streets Study progresses and as further developments impact life in Scarborough.

Respectfully,
Scarborough United Neighbourhoods
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