



For Immediate Release

November 25, 2011

Torontonians to TTC Chair: Please help stop the cuts and fare increase

Toronto: In less than 24 hours public outcry has exploded as Torontonians find out there will be cuts to 56 bus routes and 6 streetcar lines in the wards they travel through because of a 10% budget cut forced by City Hall. As a result, TTCriders issued a letter today asking Councillor Stintz, Chair of the TTC, to help stop the cuts and fare hike.

“We’ve had over 600 emails sent to City Councillors in less than 24 hours asking that the cuts be reversed and fare hike stopped,” said Jamie Kirkpatrick, a spokesperson for TTCriders. “It’s clear from the public reaction that Torontonians are very unhappy. That’s why we wrote a letter to Councillor Stintz asking her to fight for transit riders and for a better TTC.”

The letter to Councillor Stintz is attached to this release. It calls on Councillor Stintz and other TTC Commissioners to reverse the 10% budget cut, stop the fare hike and work with her fellow Councillors to make this happen.

Yesterday, TTCriders released a secret list of cuts to 56 bus routes and 6 streetcar lines that will affect every ward in Toronto. The TTC later confirmed the list was accurate and explained the cuts were a result of direction by City Hall that the TTC had to cut their budget by 10%.

“I have yet to speak to anyone who thinks a 10% budget cut that means longer waits for more crowded transit vehicles and a higher fare are the right ways to respond to record ridership,” said Kirkpatrick. “City Hall needs a champion who is willing to say a 10% budget cut for the TTC is just wrong.”

“We know Councillor Stintz wants to do what’s best for the millions of people who use the TTC every day,” said Kirkpatrick. “Now we’re asking her to take action. That’s what people want.”

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For More Information: Jamie Kirkpatrick, Public Transit Campaigner for the Toronto Environmental Alliance, 416-895-3406



Friday, November 25, 2011

Councillor Karen Stintz, Chair, Toronto Transit Commission
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Councillor Stintz,

We know you care about the TTC, the millions of TTC riders who use it every day and the future of our city.

Yesterday, Torontonians found out that the 10% cut to the TTC's budget will lead to longer waits and more crowded vehicles on 56 bus routes and 6 streetcar lines in every ward across the city and that transit users will have to pay 10 cents more for less service starting in January.

To state the obvious, people are very upset. In less than 24 hours, over 600 people have emailed letters to City Councillors (cced to TTCriders) asking City Hall to reverse this 10% cut and not proceed with the fare hike.

Today, we are asking you to speak on behalf of the millions of transit users who don't want to pay more for less.

We need you and other TTC Commissioners to defend our transit system and the interests of TTC riders. At a time when we're seeing record ridership and traffic congestion that damages our economy and environment, we need more TTC services, not less. That's why we are asking you commit to bringing a motion to the December 14th Transit Commission meeting that would ask:

- TTC staff to come back with a revised 2012 budget as soon as possible that does not include a 10% budget cut and fare hike;
- your fellow City Councillors not to force the TTC to make a 10% reduction in their budget
- the Province to return to fair funding for the TTC's operating budget

We all know how crucial the TTC is to the social, environmental and economic health of Toronto. Torontonians needs our TTC Chair to fight with us for the TTC at City Hall. Please help.

Sincerely,



Jamie Kirkpatrick
cc. Toronto City Councillors