

2017 ANNUAL REPORT



FOUNDED IN 2011, TTCRIDERS IS A GRASSROOTS TRANSIT ADVOCACY ORGANIZATION OF TRANSIT RIDERS. WE CAMPAIGN FOR AN AFFORDABLE WORLD CLASS PUBLIC TRANSIT SYSTEM FOR TORONTO. WE BELIEVE THAT EVERYONE IN TORONTO HAS THE RIGHT TO RIDE FAST AND RELIABLE PUBLIC TRANSIT AT AN AFFORDABLE PRICE.

WHAT HAS TTCRIDERS DONE SINCE MAY 2016?

WE DEFENDED THE TTC AGAINST MAJOR SERVICE CUTS AND GOT A LOT MORE MONEY

Our priority campaign is to get lower fares and better service for riders on the TTC. It's a struggle in this age of austerity. At the beginning of this year's budget season, the TTC was facing a 2.6% budget cut despite significant cost increases, including the roll out of PRESTO and the opening of the Toronto-York Spadina Subway Extension. There was a very high likelihood of major service cuts and fare increases.

Here's some highlights of our work on the budget:

- We shared our story that riders matter and Toronto needs great and affordable transit on mainstream media again and again and again.
- We uncovered and exposed the rampant overcrowding on all streetcar routes and 27% of bus routes. The TTC should have increased service on routes that faced overcrowding but instead chose to simply cut service on less busy routes.
- We organized deputations at City Hall in November and a 150-person "Race to the Bottom" mock run to demand councilors stop the cuts that hurt riders.
- We organized a day of action on January 30th with members handing out postcards and talking

to riders at TTC stops across the city.

- We joined the Commitment 2 Community (C2C) coalition and their work to address poverty, and we participated in C2C's "Have a Heart" rally at City Hall in February.

We campaigned against the TTC cuts from September through to the final vote in February. In the end, the TTC budget increased by \$54 million! While this was a huge achievement, it just "keeps the lights on" and does not provide any increase in service levels on existing routes.

If we want to reverse the continued drop in ridership and build an affordable world class public transit system, we need more funding, not cuts.

To join our Fair Deal for Riders campaign, please come to a Campaigns Committee meeting. The meetings are held from 6.00pm to 8.30pm on the first Monday of every month of 720 Bathurst St. Contact Bill Worrell for more information by emailing worrellbill@gmail.com.

WE GOT A LOW INCOME PASS

This year we were successful in getting Toronto's first low income transit pass.

This decision was entirely the result of years and years of grassroots organizing by TTCriders, the Fair Fare Coalition and our many allies at C2C, Ontario Chinese Seniors Association, Canadian Association of Retired People - Toronto,





people are eligible, and about 260,000 people will use the program.

While the current proposal just gives people the same discounts currently available to students and seniors (fare discount of 33% on cash fares, and a 20% discount on the monthly pass), it represents a great first step toward our goal of having free TTC for people on social assistance, and a \$50 monthly pass and \$1 fares for all people earning less than \$23,000 a year.

The Fair Fare Coalition continues to fight for speedy implementation of the pass and to deepen the discounts. If you want to get involved, email Karin Meinzer at kd.meinzer@gmail.com.

Sistering, the Stop, St. Stephens Centre, Toronto Airport Workers Council, PTP Literacy Centre, and many more.

From April until December, we organized non-stop as we made regular visits to City Hall for press conferences, deputations, protests, and disruptions to build momentum and public support. After months of delays, Mayor John Tory and City Council released the report and approved the introduction of the low income pass by a vote of 30 to 4 on December 13th.

The final motion indicated that people on social assistance will get the pass in 2018, and riders who earn the low income cut off (called LICO) plus 15% (about \$23,000 in 2017) will get the discount in stages in 2019 and 2021. City staff estimate about 700,000



THE PROVINCE AGREED TO INCREASE TRANSIT FUNDING IN THE FUTURE

After years of campaigning, the provincial government has agreed to double its contribution to funding transit in Toronto. Currently, the province is giving the Toronto about \$170 million of gas tax revenue every year, about \$90 million of which goes to TTC operating expenses. Once the program is fully rolled out in 2021, Toronto will see its share of the gas tax revenue increase to about \$342 million a year.

TTCriders will continue to campaign to get \$660 million a year from the province immediately. We will also work to ensure the new money given to Toronto goes directly to funding transit instead of displacing it.

SCARBOROUGH TRANSIT ACTION GAVE US HOPE FOR A LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT NETWORK

Scarborough Transit Action has had a very busy year. We've educated residents about the city budget and the problems with the one-stop Scarborough Subway Extension (SSE), strengthened our relationships with community organizations, built our profile, and kept a focus on what kind

of transit Scarborough needs through media work, canvassing and direct action.

Highlights include:

- A workshop about the city budget, co-sponsored by East Scarborough Storefront.
- Deputations at TTC Board meetings, Budget Committee, and Executive Committee.
- A new website at www.scarboroughtransitaction.ca.
- Door-to-door canvassing (on many cold winter days and evenings) in the communities that will be affected by the SSE's closure of the Scarborough RT stations.
- Lodging a complaint with the City Ombudsman about the TTC's

misleading memo to City Council and subsequently a broader complaint to the Toronto's Auditor General.

- "Ghosting" Executive Committee meeting with our signs and drawing attention to the delayed SSE report.
- Crashing the mayor's media conference at Kennedy Station and asking tough questions.
- Exposing the fraudulent Connect Scarborough group and its ties to lobbyists.
- Co-hosting with Scarborough Residents Unite a panel discussion on LRT versus the SSE, which was attended by 300 people.
- Attending a City Council meeting where they debated and subsequently rejected conducting a comparative study of LRT versus





TTC "EFFICIENCY" IDEA #528: CUT FUEL BUDGET AND MAKE RIDERS PUSH VEHICLES.



the SSE, followed by media action.

- Wrote a letter to the premier and Minister of Transportation calling for a study of the LRT with the SSE that was signed by over 600 Torontonians.

Contact Brenda Thompson to get involved at scarboroughtransitaction@gmail.com.

WE ORGANIZED OUR FIRST TRANSIT SUMMIT

Our Outreach and Leadership Committee organized an inspiring

all-day transit summit featuring keynote speaker, Olivia Chow. There were workshops on recruitment, how to build a local group, launching a campaign, communicating with elected officials, and more. The summit allowed us to bring together over 80 transit advocates of all backgrounds to learn and strategize together.

Thank you to our partners including: CodeRedTO, JFAAP, Jane-Finch Centre, Scarborough Transit Action, Free Toronto Transit, Fair Fare Coalition, Healthy Transportation Coalition, and 8-80 Cities. Special thanks to the Maytree Foundation for their support.

If you want to get involved in our outreach and leadership committee please contact Bill Worrell at worrellbill@gmail.com or Kamilla Peitryzk at kamillapetrick@gmail.com.

OUR MEDIA COMMITTEE KEPT TRANSIT ISSUES IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Our Media Committee continues to make sure TTCriders is rocking it in the mainstream media and on social media. TTCriders, Fair Fare Coalition, and Scarborough Transit Action have been covered by the mainstream media on a weekly basis.

We also launched a very creative social media awareness campaign mocking the ridiculousness of the budget cuts impacting the TTC in fall 2016. Called #SoEfficientItHurts, the campaign crowd-sourced efficiency ideas and turned them into memes and tweets. Web videos showed riders being wrangled like cattle into a crowded subway, an auction for a seat on the subway to the highest bidder, and the selling off naming rights to corporations.

To get involved in our Media Committee, please contact Nirmalan at nirmalan@ttriders.ca.

THE MONEY

TRIAL BALANCE AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2016

	DEBIT	CREDIT
Bank Account	45,737.10	
PayPal	8,485.62	
Petty Cash	350.00	
Computer - Hardware	3,444.03	
Accounts Payable (A/P)		5,589.87
Payroll Liabilities: Federal Taxes		1,750.17
Retained Earnings		94,198.37
Direct Public Grants - Foundation & Trust Grants		13,000.00
Direct Public Support - Individual Contributions		3,198.99
Program Income - Membership Dues		7,441.40
Program Income - Organizational Membership Dues		20,595.50
Accounting & Bookkeeping	2,865.35	
Advertising	100.05	
Bank & Interest Charges	301.01	
Catering & Facilities	2,431.93	
Computer - Hosting	2,160.72	
Fundraising	1,698.00	
Graphic Design	2,079.86	
Meals & Entertainment	10.67	
Office Supplies	1,177.70	
Payroll Expenses: Taxes	3,802.57	
Payroll Expenses: Wages	56,248.80	
Postage & Delivery	113.06	
Printing & Reproduction	2,554.54	
Props	525.67	
Rent Expense	7,235.31	
Telephone - Landline	324.82	
Telephone - Wireless	543.06	
Travel Expense	91.86	
TTC Tokens & Passes	2,701.57	
Web Design	791.00	
TOTAL	\$145,774.30	\$145,774.30

OUR SUPPORTERS

THANK YOU SO MUCH. YOU MAKE OUR WORK POSSIBLE.

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Contributors:



Supporters:



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