

March 18th 2015
South Etobicoke Transit Action Committee
etobicoketransit@yahoo.ca

Dear Mr. Olivier,

I would like to thank you for your letters and appreciate the congratulations you offered in regards to my re-election. I remain firmly committed to my belief that public transit can and will improve for residents of Ward 6 under my watch. I would also like to extend my apologies for the delay in responding to your initial letter. I was eager to wait for the budget approval process to take place so that I could speak to your concerns with the most accurate information at my disposal.

As you are likely aware, last year I rode the 501 streetcar during afternoon rush hour alongside TTC CEO Andy Byford to highlight many of the concerns plaguing commuters from our area of the city. I also held a transit town-hall open to all residents of the ward, which offered the opportunity to speak directly with key transit decision makers like Metrolinx's Policy and Planning Director, as well as the TTC Chair and TTC CEO. Through these events, both public transit agencies were able to experience firsthand and better understand many of the problems you highlighted in your letter to my office.

This week during Council I asked TTC staff to once again consider moving the Humber Loop to Park Lawn to offer more immediate solutions to our transportation problems. The new location of the loop will make connections between TTC's key routes more seamless and will also make the 501 route accessible to more residents of both Mimico and Humber Bay Shores. I have also requested the TTC to consider the feasibility of extending the dedicated right-of-way west of Humber Loop to Park Lawn and will work with local Councillors to extend the current dedicated right-of-way from St. Joseph's Hospital to Exhibition Place with more connection options. Additionally, I will make the pedestrian connection between Mimico Creek Trail to the Mimico GO station a priority this term.

I remain steadfast in my commitment to prevent further residential development on the former Mr. Christie's site. Instead the site should include not only a GO Transit stop for the residents of Humber Bay Shores but also space for new businesses and employment opportunities. However, the City does not own this site and Mondolez remains private property. Until a purchaser comes forward with an application any plans for this site will remain on hold.

The Transportation Master Plan is expected to be completed this year. I agree that this plan is of the utmost importance and that is why I requested it years ago and fought for its funding.

In regards to the TTC and GO Transit fare integration I too was disappointed to see Ward



6 had been left out of the pilot project. However the nature of pilot projects is to keep the sample size small, ensuring the most accurate data can be collected while relieving areas in the downtown core where ridership levels have reached their breaking point. TTC staff have heard from my office time and time again that we need to make a more sensible and seamless connection between TTC and GO users. It is time we start making these necessary connections now and secure public transit as the most desirable travel option for commuters.

Making transit more accessible and improving reliability will make leaving the car at home a more desirable option for Ward 6 commuters. Achieving these goals will require the combined efforts of the City, the Province and the community and will not be completed overnight. I appreciate every effort from community groups such as yours to assist in uniting Ward 6 and achieving our goals together.

I welcome the opportunity to meet and ask that you please contact my office at 416-397-9273 or councillor_grimes@toronto.ca. I look forward to arranging a time to meet in person to discuss how we can most effectively work together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Grimes", written in a cursive style.

Councillor Mark Grimes