



Councillor Joe Mihevc
Toronto City Hall
St. Paul's West
Ward 21

Media Release -- For Immediate Release

TTC Passenger Audit yielding new collaborations and creative ideas

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Councillor Joe Mihevc and community partners are gearing up for the "TTC Passenger Audit" on July 17th, 2010. Individuals, community and business groups from across Toronto have responded to the call that went out on May 27th with enthusiasm and innovative ideas about how to improve the TTC for all riders.

The Toronto Cyclists Union has come forward with a plan to lead a bike-infrastructure specific audit at Bathurst Station. In addition to filling in the audit questionnaire that can be found online at www.ttcpassengeraudit.com, the Union will ask additional questions examining how Bathurst and other TTC subway stations could be improved to be more accessible for those who cycle to the Subway, with questions like, 'What type of bicycle parking does the station need?' and 'How can the turnstile entrance to the station be more accessible for people with bicycles?'

Two other groups, Arts for Children and Youth, and Art Starts will be leading audits at Warden and Yorkdale Stations respectively, where they intend to focus on how underused space in stations can be used for community art projects and outreach, something that the TTC has done in the past.

Julie Frost, Executive Director of Arts for Children and Youth expressed her enthusiasm for the opportunity to collaborate: "Opportunities for local communities to have an expressive voice provide a chance to improve our public spaces with art and forge new and meaningful relationships between the TTC and its riders." Arts for Children and Youth has been involved in collaborative projects with TTC before, using old advertising panels to create murals that are then placed on buses.

"The whole goal of the audit is to make passengers see that the TTC is their system" said Mihevc. "Creative ideas like these are exactly why community audits are necessary and different from those carried out by TTC staff."

The Audit will take place in subway and Scarborough RT stations across Toronto on the morning of July 17 from 11:00am to 12:30pm. TTC riders will fill in questionnaires about the state of facilities and make their voice heard. Residents are also encouraged to visit the website, download the questionnaire, and fill it in at their own convenience.

It's not too late to sign up. Resident, community groups, BIAs and business leaders are encouraged to take the lead and adopt a station for the audit by visiting the website or e-mailing ttcpassengeraudit@gmail.com directly.

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