

TRANSIT IMPROVEMENTS REPORT

The Transportation subcommittee of HBSCA's Traffic and Transportation Committee has had two immediate objectives since its inception three years ago: to connect our community to the Bloor subway through the expansion of the Prince Edward 66D bus service, and the implementation of an express bus from Humber Bay Shores to Union Station.

Both objectives have now been accomplished through the dedicated team efforts of the committee, cooperation of the Toronto Transit Commission and its Chair, Councillor Adam Giambrone, and the untiring effort and support of Councillor Mark Grimes. These enhancements of public transit services are on a trial basis for a maximum of one year. If the ridership does not justify the financial expectation of TTC, the services will be discontinued.

The express bus from the Humber Bay Shores area was approved by the Toronto Transit Commission at its meeting on November 27, 2008. The committee chair, Angelina Chui, made a presentation at the meeting, and a community deputation was present. This is the culmination of more than three years of tenacious effort by the committee, as this issue had been rejected several times before. With the support of councillors Mark Grimes, Ward 6, Peter Milczyn, Ward 5, and Bill Saunderson of Ward 13, the express bus was approved for a trial period of one year, with service expected to commence in November 2009. **Please, let's use these services or we will lose them!**

The TTC has been holding public information sessions regarding the proposed light rail transit service planned along Lake Shore Boulevard West from Long Branch to downtown, and the committee is currently monitoring the status of the discussions. The first step, the relocation of the Humber Loop to Park Lawn and Lake Shore will likely proceed in 2009. Subsequent links include service between Union Station to Dufferin, with a possible start date of 2010; the final two links, from Dufferin to Roncesvalles, and Park Lawn to Long Branch are currently in the initial planning stages.

The success of the initiatives regarding the buses, and the development of the LRT, are very constructive developments that address our area's growing transportation needs, and are expected to have a positive impact on our property values. This proves again that resolutions of issues in a community can be achieved when there is collaboration between the residents and its elected officials. It is also indicative of the sensitivity of the TTC to the changing demographics of a developing area and its commuting needs and acting appropriately to make public transportation accessible.