January 14, 2016

Bruce McCuaig
Metrolinx
20 Bay Street
Toronto, Ontario
M5J 2W3

Re: Eglinton Crosstown LRT stop at Hakimi Avenue

Dear Mr. McCuaig and members of the Metrolinx Board:

We understand that the TTC Board has been asked to reopen discussions on the naming of the Eglinton Crosstown LRT stop at Eglinton and Hakimi/Lebovic Avenues. As the TTC Board-approved “Hakimi” name meets all of Metrolinx’s selection criteria, is recommended by Metrolinx staff and has strong local support, we do not see why reopening the discussion is necessary or advisable.

As is clear in the Metrolinx staff report on stop name selection, which is being considered at today’s Metrolinx meeting, other proposed names for the stop either fail to meet the Metrolinx naming criteria, or have no local support. “Ashtonbee,” which is not on the Eglinton route, is judged inconsistent with selection criteria. “Centennial,” which refers to Centennial College’s satellite Ashtonbee Campus a block away from the LRT route, is believed by Metrolinx staff as likely to create rider confusion with the College’s main campus or the several other Centennial locations across the City.

Both “Hakimi” and “Lebovic” meet naming requirements, but only “Hakimi” has the support of the Scarborough Centre City Councillor whose ward is adjacent to the stop, the Deputy Mayor for Scarborough, the MPP for the area and the TTC Board. “Lebovic” has no such support.

We are surprised that Commissioner Heisey is raising this issue again at the 11th hour, as he and Councillor Thompson discussed the alternative names proposed for the stop, and it was made clear in these discussions that the “Centennial” name he prefers was not acceptable to Metrolinx staff.
As there is no currently proposed alternative that is a better choice, and as Metrolinx needs to finalize stop names by January 20, no useful purpose will be served by reopening the naming issue. We strongly urge you to stand by your decision and not reopen discussions on this matter.

Yours truly,

Michael Thompson
Chair, Economic Development and Culture Committee
Chair, Invest Toronto
Councillor, Scarborough Centre
Ward 37

Glenn De Baereamaeker
Deputy Mayor
Councillor, Scarborough Centre
Ward 38