

WARD 20

Trinity Spadina

Adam Vaughan | Toronto City Councillor

Dear Ward 20 residents & businesses,

City Budgets for 2012 have been launched.

The Mayor's budget for the City was unveiled yesterday. As predicted there are major service cuts proposed in every city service that will affect people in neighbourhood across our city. But there is also evidence that the resources are here to prevent these, and in fact, we may even have enough resources to build a better city. I will be issuing updates shortly on specific areas of concern. I'd also love to hear from you about what is important to you.

The full budget details are available online: <http://www.toronto.ca/budget2012/>

There are opportunities for you to come to let the Mayor and Budget Committee members know your views on the budget.

You can attend the Budget Committee on December 7th. Details below:

2012 Operating Budget and 2012-2021 Capital Budget and Plan Hearing:

Date: Wednesday December 7, 2011
Time: 9:30 a.m.
Location: Committee Room 1
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen St. W.

If you want to speak: contact the Budget Committee at 416-392-1032 or 416-397-7768, or e-mail buc@toronto.ca no later than 4 p.m. on Tuesday December 6, 2011. If necessary, the Committee will reconvene at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday December 8, 2011 to hear any remaining speakers on the speakers list.

If you cannot attend in person, you can submit a written presentation to:

Budget Committee
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West
10th floor, West Tower
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2
E-mail: buc@toronto.ca



Here is a note I issued last week related to the TTC budget specifically:

TTC announces major service reductions.

TTC service cuts for January 2012 have been announced.

These budget cuts mean service cuts that will impact the entire city. This list of route reductions includes the streetcar lines that service Ward 20 – reducing the number of cars in service on Queen, King, Spadina, Dundas and College by 55 vehicles. Bus service on Bay and Bathurst is also targeted, with the elimination of 18 buses tabled. A full list of cuts is available [here](#).

Mayor Ford's edict to cut spending by 10 per cent, has arrived at the TTC as it struggles to produce a 2012 budget. A reduction in subsidy from the City, combined with rising fuel and labour costs, and growing demand have put the TTC in a difficult situation.

Not only will rush hour service be reduced, but the impact on service levels during off-peak times even more profound. Across the City, one bus or streetcar in five will disappear; even on the busiest routes will disappear. Riders across the Toronto will wait longer for fewer buses and streetcars to arrive, and they will pay more for this reduction in service. These packed buses and streetcars will now take longer to load and unload at stops as riders struggle to get on and off. This further adds to delays in transit service. We will see even more short turns, and travel times for short, medium and long trips will rise dramatically as will congestion.

These are, by any reasonable definition, **major service cuts**. What makes this even more distressing is that these service cuts have happened without consultation and with no vote from City Council on the budget – yet they have already been approved by the Commission.

The City's 2012 operating budget process officially gets underway on Monday. Council must reverse these cuts, and Council must maintain, if not improve TTC services. What is now being proposed by the Ford administration, are transit services levels from 1994 when fares were 50% less than they are today.

This unprecedented reduction in TTC service levels follows the decision by the mayor only last year to declare the TTC an essential service. How can the Mayor declare public transit an essential service, one month and then be so drastically reduced the next?

For the sake of transit riders, who have no choice, people who use cars, small business and the environment, these cuts must not go through.

Please contact the Mayor and the TTC Chair and tell them to restore proper funding to the TTC to protect service levels.

Mayor Ford
mayor_ford@toronto.ca

TTC Chair, Karen Stintz
councillor_stintz@toronto.ca

If you have time to join me and other Councillors outreaching to transit riders next week, please call my office at 416 392 4044 or email me at councillor_vaughan@toronto.ca

[TTCriders](#), a public transit advocacy group, is also mounting a campaign. Please contact them to join the campaign.

Many thanks,

