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All correspondence should be addressed to the Secretary-Treasurer

Dear Councillor Wong-Tam,

As you may know, the TTC is planning a significant move that will impact public safety on Toronto’s subway system.

Without any public consultations, the transit authority has decided to eliminate the Subway “Guard” – one member of the 2-member crew on each subway train.

In response, we at ATU Local 113, are mounting a campaign to draw public attention to these reckless decisions.

You can follow our campaign here: OnGuardForYou.ca

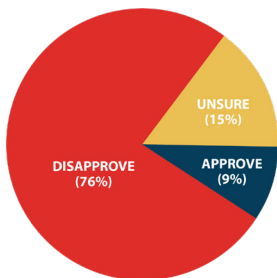
We hope you will support us. The aim of the campaign is to ask City Council to instruct the TTC to hold meaningful public consultations before acting on its plan.

In fact, we think there are strong reasons why you should support public consultations.

In a new city-wide poll we commissioned, conducted by Corbett Communications, respondents demonstrated serious concerns over the TTC’s plan to eliminate the Guard and how this will impact their safety.

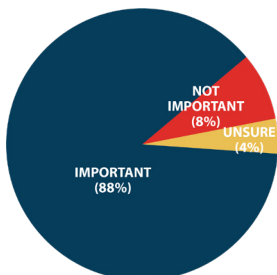
The poll, involving 2,500 Toronto respondents, includes randomly-selected residents in each city ward. This allows us to provide a snapshot of public opinion, not just for the city as a whole, but also specifically for your ward.

In Ward 13 (Toronto Centre), 76% of respondents disapprove of the plan to eliminate the Guard.



And fully 88% of Ward 13 respondents consider it important for public consultations to be held before the TTC proceeds to implement its plan.

These Ward 13 findings are closely in line with findings throughout Toronto. City-wide, the poll found that 71% of respondents disapprove of the TTC plan, and 84% consider it important to hold public consultations before implementation.



Overall, the findings indicate that more than two-thirds of all Torontonians, and more than three-quarters of Ward 13 residents specifically, disapprove of the TTC plan.

By even larger margins – more than 80% -- Torontonians in general and Ward 13 residents specifically want public consultations before the TTC moves ahead with a plan they consider detrimental to their safety.



Although the TTC has avoided publicizing its plans, it has acknowledged that it intends to remove all Guards from trains on the Yonge-University-Spadina line by the end of the year (and later on the Danforth line).

For almost 70 years, the 2-member crew has been key to what's made our subway system one of the safest in the world.

While the Driver drives the train, the Guard oversees passenger safety – everything from ensuring no one is caught in the doors to responding to medical emergencies, assaults, harassments, suicides, lost children, power outages, even supervising the emergency evacuation of passengers from trains stranded in tunnels.

Above all, the Guard is a person of authority whose presence on the train acts as a deterrent to passengers tempted to misbehave or act aggressively towards other passengers – a deterrent that is particularly important during a pandemic when social distancing is essential.

We hope you will join us in demanding that the TTC hold public hearings into what is sure to be a very unpopular move.

For more information, please feel free to contact me.

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