Good Morning

My name is Walaa and I am a parent leader at the Middle childhood Matters Coalition Toronto.

I would like to thank the organizing committee for giving me the opportunity to speak to you.

As you know that Toronto is one of the fastest growing metropolitan cities in north America, according to the latest census Toronto’s metro population has breached six million, making Toronto alone accounting for 17% of Canada’s 35 million people.

This fact makes public transit in Toronto that dates back to 1849 one of most extensive public transit systems in North America.

But recently concerns about transportation gridlock in the GTA due to obvious gap between growth in population and investment in the transportation system.

Recent planning for transportation within the GTA has typically been characterized by numerous announcements and relatively few accomplishments.

As a result, as much as $6 billion gets wasted every year in lost productivity as Torontonians are stuck in traffic or trying to navigate their way through a transit system that’s crowded and underdeveloped for a city this big.

 As a daily commuter across the Toronto public transit, I share many concerns with other Torontonians about the quality of the transportation service across our city : for example the new street car delivery is far away behind the schedule and there is no realistic estimation on how and when it will be delivered , the air-conditioning system in Yonge/Spadina line is very disappointing where heat and humidity reach agonizing levels in crowded cars in the mid of July, added to the regular delays is a very common uncomforting daily experience for many commuters .

These are only few examples that explain why many of Torontonians who daily commute through the transit system feel the disappointment of paying more money for les services.

Thank you for your time and listening.