

Toronto Savvy

All about Toronto, Canada's largest city

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Rob Ford's transit deal: has suburbia been "suckered"?



Am I missing something here? Rob Ford carried the suburbs in last year's civic election. Downtowners largely voted against him. In the transit deal just signed with the provincial government, the inner city/downtown gets a brand new, 20 km mostly underground lightrail system from Jane to Kennedy. The provincial government is paying for the entire thing, and construction will begin this year.

The former 122 kilometre Transit City lightrail network, planned to blanket suburbia, is in total disarray. Finch West LRT (lightrail) is gone. The city is on the hook for \$4billion to construct a subway line from Scarborough Town Centre to the Sheppard subway stub, meaning the Sheppard East LRT is probably a goner. Scarborough's overcrowded RT will be converted to lightrail.

- *"He's throwing Jane and Finch and other areas under the bus"* – **director of the Canadian Arab Federation, Mohamed El Rashidy.**

- *"We have two requests of our new mayor. First, talk to us about this, consult with the public, take the summer, hear from us about what we want, not what you think is best for us. The second thing is we demand our concillors get a say too."* – **Jamie Kirkpatrick, Toronto Environmental Alliance transit campaigner.**

The inner city benefits, and suburbia – with its traffic jungle – continues to struggle. Whatever happened to the conservative maxim “*dance with the one who brung ya.*”

PHOTO - Kyle Flood, Victoria BC, Flickr, Wikipedia

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