

NEWS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Subways preferred to LRTs in general

But LRT wins direct comparison with Scarborough subway

TORONTO, FEBRUARY 7th, 2014 - In a random sampling of public opinion among 769 Toronto voters taken by the Forum Poll™, more than half prefer an underground, subway-based transit system for the city (55%) compared to one third who prefer an aboveground LRT-based system (34%). This represents a slight decline in preference for subways since we polled this last (June, 2012 - 58%, May, 2012 - 57%, April, 2012 - 60%). During this time, the proportion saying they are unsure has increased (from 5% to 11%).

One half continue to believe in Scarborough subway over LRT

One half of Torontonians thinks Scarborough's transit needs are best met by a subway (49%) rather than an LRT (38%), and this is very similar to the last time we polled this (October 2013 - 49% and 42%, respectively). In Scarborough, more than half support a subway (58%) compared to an LRT (31%).

With more information, voters choose Scarborough LRT

In a two cell test, when the specific details of the province's proposed Scarborough subway (6 kilometers to Scarborough Town Centre, 2 stops, aboveground, \$2 billion) and the city council-proposed LRT (10 kilometers to Sheppard Avenue, 7 stops, aboveground, \$2 billion) are described to Toronto voters, one half approve of the LRT (49%), while 4-in-10 approve of the subway (42%). In Scarborough, preference is essentially tied between the LRT (42%) and the subway (40%). In each case, about one fifth have no opinion.

Downtown Relief Line seen as more urgent than Scarborough Subway

Close to half of Toronto voters think the Downtown Relief Line from Pape station to Union Station should be built first (46%), before the Scarborough subway (or LRT - 41%). Preference for the DRL is highest among the youngest (54%), females (50%), the less wealthy (\$20K to \$40K - 51%), the wealthiest (54%), residents of the downtown (53%), North York (52%) and Etobicoke/York (53%), but not Scarborough (22%). Transit users favour the DRL (61%), as do the best educated (college or university - 51%, post-grad - 56%) and those who disapprove of Rob Ford as mayor (53%).

TORONTO

February 7th, 2014

HIGHLIGHTS:

- More than half prefer an underground, subway-based transit system for the city (55%) compared to one third who prefer an aboveground LRT-based system (34%).
- One half of Torontonians thinks Scarborough's transit needs are best met by a subway (49%) rather than an LRT (38%).
- In a head to head test, when the specific details of the province's proposed Scarborough subway and the city council-proposed LRT are described to Toronto voters, one half opt for the LRT (49%), while 4-in-10 prefer the subway (42%).
- Close to half of Toronto voters think the Downtown Relief Line from Pape station to Union Station should be built first (46%), before the Scarborough subway (or LRT - 41%).

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HIGHLIGHTS:

- “The cry of Subways, Subways, Subways has had the effect of making any comparison with other forms of transit somewhat loaded, but when people get a bit closer to the plans for Scarborough transit, they really prefer the LRT. Nonetheless, they want the Downtown Relief Line built first,” said Forum Research President, Dr. Lorne Bozinoff.

“The cry of Subways, Subways, Subways has had the effect of making any comparison with other forms of transit somewhat loaded, but when people get a bit closer to the plans for Scarborough transit, they really prefer the LRT. Nonetheless, they want the Downtown Relief Line built first,” said Forum Research President, Dr. Lorne Bozinoff.

Lorne Bozinoff, Ph.D. is the president and founder of Forum Research. He can be reached at lbozinoff@forumresearch.com or at (416) 960-9603.

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TORONTO**February 7th, 2014****Methodology**

The Forum Poll™ was conducted by Forum Research with the results based on an interactive voice response telephone survey of 769 randomly selected Torontonians 18 years of age and older. The poll was conducted on February 6th, 2014.

Results based on the total sample are considered accurate +/- 4%, 19 times out of 20. Subsample results will be less accurate. Margins of error for subsample (such as age, gender) results are available at www.forumresearch.com/samplestim.asp

Where appropriate, the data has been statistically weighted by age, region, and other variables to ensure that the sample reflects the actual population according to the latest Census data.

This research is not necessarily predictive of future outcomes, but rather, captures opinion at one point in time. Actual election results will depend on each party's success at getting its supporters to the polls. Forum Research conducted this poll as a public service and to demonstrate our survey research capabilities. Forum houses its poll results in the Data Library of the Department of Political Science at the University of Toronto.

With offices across Canada and around the world, 100% Canadian-owned Forum Research is one of the country's leading survey research firms. This Forum Poll™ and other polls may be found at Forum's poll archive at www.forumresearch.com/polls.asp

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Transit Plan Preference - Trending

%	Prefer a subway- based transit plan	Prefer an above-ground LRT-based plan	Approve of neither
Feb. 6 th , 2014 (n = 769)	55	34	11
June 28 th , 2012 (n = 1212)	58	35	7
May 28 th , 2012 (n = 704)	57	38	5
Apr 18 th , 2012 (n = 812)	60	36	5
May 15 th , 2012 (n = 1027)	52	41	7
Feb. 13 th , 2012 (n = 1547)	57	38	5

Subway or LRT Preference - Trending

%	Subway	LRT	Niether	Don't Know
Feb. 6 th , 2014 (n = 769)	49	38	5	8
Oct. 28-29 th , 2013 (n = 1093)	49	42	4	5

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Overall: LRT vs. Subways

‘Overall, do you prefer an aboveground LRT-based transit plan or a subway - based transit plan for Toronto?’

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	769	59	88	158	209	255	332	437
Subway-based transit plan	55	60	54	51	60	44	60	50
Aboveground LRT based transit plan	34	24	34	39	33	50	33	35
Neither	11	16	12	9	7	7	7	15

Region

%	Total	Toronto or East York	North York	Etobicoke or York	Scarborough
Sample	769	260	152	159	198
Subway-based transit plan	55	43	62	57	59
Aboveground LRT based transit plan	34	47	22	29	35
Neither	11	10	16	13	6

Transportation / Own Property

%	Total	Drive	TTC or other public transit	Other	Own Property	Do Not Own Property
Sample	769	263	223	87	555	214
Subway-based transit plan	55	66	47	45	56	53
Aboveground LRT based transit plan	34	29	38	32	35	33
Neither	11	5	15	22	9	15

Household Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K	\$250K+
Sample	769	62	109	115	75	71	155	19
Subway-based transit plan	55	44	57	50	58	62	47	76
Aboveground LRT based transit plan	34	27	25	44	32	34	47	24
Neither	11	30	18	6	10	4	6	0

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Education

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate studies
Sample	769	127	202	283	157
Subway-based transit plan	55	62	44	54	64
Aboveground LRT based transit plan	34	30	37	34	33
Neither	11	9	19	12	3

Have Children

%	Total	Yes	No
Sample	769	148	621
Subway-based transit plan	55	52	55
Aboveground LRT based transit plan	34	31	35
Neither	11	16	9

Past Mayoral Vote

%	Total	Rob Ford	George Smitherman	Joe Pantalone	Someone else
Sample	769	322	193	75	107
Subway-based transit plan	55	79	27	43	46
Aboveground LRT based transit plan	34	14	64	44	38
Neither	11	7	9	13	16

Rob Ford Approval / Vote Ford in 2014

%	Total	Approve	Disapprove	Yes	No	Don't know
Sample	769	327	442	282	451	36
Subway-based transit plan	55	80	35	80	38	67
Aboveground LRT based transit plan	34	12	51	13	49	10
Neither	11	8	14	7	13	23

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Scarborough's Transit Needs

'Do you think Scarborough's transit needs are best served by a subway or an LRT?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	769	59	88	158	209	255	332	437
Subway	49	52	48	49	51	39	52	45
LRT	38	31	37	41	37	51	39	37
Neither	5	4	7	3	5	5	3	7
Don't know	8	12	7	7	7	5	6	11

Region

%	Total	Toronto or East York	North York	Etobicoke or York	Scarborough
Sample	769	260	152	159	198
Subway	49	42	53	44	58
LRT	38	50	32	37	31
Neither	5	5	6	6	3
Don't know	8	4	8	13	8

Transportation / Own Property

%	Total	Drive	TTC or other public transit	Other	Own Property	Do Not Own Property
Sample	769	263	223	87	555	214
Subway	49	56	38	60	47	51
LRT	38	35	43	35	42	31
Neither	5	3	6	3	5	5
Don't know	8	6	14	3	5	13

Household Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K	\$250K+
Sample	769	62	109	115	75	71	155	19
Subway	49	69	47	46	50	50	37	69
LRT	38	24	23	46	39	39	53	28
Neither	5	4	10	7	3	3	5	0
Don't know	8	3	20	2	9	8	6	3

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Education

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate studies
Sample	769	127	202	283	157
Subway	49	55	52	46	45
LRT	38	33	29	42	49
Neither	5	4	6	6	2
Don't know	8	8	14	7	4

Have Children

%	Total	Yes	No
Sample	769	148	621
Subway	49	53	46
LRT	38	33	40
Neither	5	6	5
Don't know	8	7	9

Past Mayoral Vote

%	Total	Rob Ford	George Smitherman	Joe Pantalone	Someone else
Sample	769	322	193	75	107
Subway	49	68	17	35	39
LRT	38	19	76	54	41
Neither	5	5	2	10	4
Don't know	8	7	6	0	15

Rob Ford Approval / Vote Ford in 2014

%	Total	Approve	Disapprove	Yes	No	Don't know
Sample	769	327	442	282	451	36
Subway	49	74	30	77	31	51
LRT	38	14	57	13	56	16
Neither	5	6	4	5	4	18
Don't know	8	6	10	6	10	16

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6km 2 Stop Subway

'The province has approved a Scarborough subway which will follow the route of the Scarborough RT for 6 kilometres from Kennedy station to Scarborough Town Centre, run above ground and will have two stops. This subway would cost about two billion dollars. Do you approve or disapprove of this decision?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	769	59	88	158	209	255	332	437
Approve	42	46	50	42	37	29	45	39
Disapprove	42	36	39	47	42	53	42	42
Don't know	16	19	11	11	22	18	12	19

Region

%	Total	Toronto or East York	North York	Etobicoke or York	Scarborough
Sample	769	260	152	159	198
Approve	42	32	52	47	40
Disapprove	42	55	30	43	36
Don't know	16	13	18	10	24

Transportation / Own Property

%	Total	Drive	TTC or other public transit	Other	Own Property	Do Not Own Property
Sample	769	263	223	87	555	214
Approve	42	54	36	42	43	42
Disapprove	42	34	50	42	43	39
Don't know	16	12	14	16	14	19

Household Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K	\$250K+
Sample	769	62	109	115	75	71	155	19
Approve	42	45	46	28	46	48	46	83
Disapprove	42	41	26	53	39	41	45	11
Don't know	16	14	28	18	15	11	9	6

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Education

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate studies
Sample	769	127	202	283	157
Approve	42	45	41	43	41
Disapprove	42	31	36	48	47
Don't know	16	24	23	9	12

Have Children

%	Total	Yes	No
Sample	769	148	621
Approve	42	56	36
Disapprove	42	35	45
Don't know	16	9	19

Past Mayoral Vote

%	Total	Rob Ford	George Smitherman	Joe Pantalone	Someone else
Sample	769	322	193	75	107
Approve	42	57	20	33	34
Disapprove	42	28	68	54	49
Don't know	16	15	12	13	17

Rob Ford Approval / Vote Ford in 2014

%	Total	Approve	Disapprove	Yes	No	Don't know
Sample	769	327	442	282	451	36
Approve	42	54	33	58	34	27
Disapprove	42	26	54	25	54	25
Don't know	16	20	13	17	13	48

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TORONTO
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10km 7 stop LRT

'City council originally proposed a Scarborough Light Rail Transit or LRT with 7 stops extending 10 kilometres from Kennedy station to Sheppard Avenue and costing about two billion dollars. Do you approve or disapprove of this proposal?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	769	59	88	158	209	255	332	437
Approve	49	39	55	55	49	55	51	47
Disapprove	31	33	29	30	35	29	32	30
Don't know	20	28	16	16	16	16	17	23

Region

%	Total	Toronto or East York	North York	Etobicoke or York	Scarborough
Sample	769	260	152	159	198
Approve	49	62	42	47	42
Disapprove	31	26	29	37	34
Don't know	20	11	29	16	24

Transportation / Own Property

%	Total	Drive	TTC or other public transit	Other	Own Property	Do Not Own Property
Sample	769	263	223	87	555	214
Approve	49	48	54	43	51	46
Disapprove	31	35	30	28	33	28
Don't know	20	18	16	30	16	26

Household Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K	\$250K+
Sample	769	62	109	115	75	71	155	19
Approve	49	31	35	48	57	55	62	40
Disapprove	31	36	33	38	28	28	23	54
Don't know	20	33	31	14	15	17	15	6

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Education

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate studies
Sample	769	127	202	283	157
Approve	49	43	41	55	54
Disapprove	31	27	32	31	33
Don't know	20	30	26	14	13

Have Children

%	Total	Yes	No
Sample	769	148	621
Approve	49	50	49
Disapprove	31	28	32
Don't know	20	22	19

Past Mayoral Vote

%	Total	Rob Ford	George Smitherman	Joe Pantalone	Someone else
Sample	769	322	193	75	107
Approve	49	39	72	51	50
Disapprove	31	46	13	28	34
Don't know	20	15	16	21	16

Rob Ford Approval / Vote Ford in 2014

%	Total	Approve	Disapprove	Yes	No	Don't know
Sample	769	327	442	282	451	36
Approve	49	29	65	31	63	19
Disapprove	31	48	18	49	20	33
Don't know	20	23	17	20	17	48

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Subway Priority

‘Which do you think should be built first? The Scarborough subway or LRT, or the Downtown Relief Line from Pape station to Union station?’

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	769	59	88	158	209	255	332	437
Scarborough subway or LRT	41	29	42	46	50	47	47	35
Downtown Relief Line	46	54	45	46	37	40	42	50
Neither	7	10	5	4	6	6	5	8
Don't know	7	7	8	4	7	7	6	7

Region

%	Total	Toronto or East York	North York	Etobicoke or York	Scarborough
Sample	769	260	152	159	198
Scarborough subway or LRT	41	38	31	33	65
Downtown Relief Line	46	53	52	53	22
Neither	7	3	10	8	5
Don't know	7	6	7	6	7

Transportation / Own Property

%	Total	Drive	TTC or other public transit	Other	Own Property	Do Not Own Property
Sample	769	263	223	87	555	214
Scarborough subway or LRT	41	48	29	50	44	36
Downtown Relief Line	46	44	61	25	46	47
Neither	7	3	5	19	4	10
Don't know	7	5	6	7	6	7

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Household Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K	\$250K+
Sample	769	62	109	115	75	71	155	19
Scarborough subway or LRT	41	42	35	47	47	42	35	52
Downtown Relief Line	46	31	51	41	44	54	54	43
Neither	7	20	5	2	5	0	5	2
Don't know	7	7	9	11	4	4	6	4

Education

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate studies
Sample	769	127	202	283	157
Scarborough subway or LRT	41	45	44	39	36
Downtown Relief Line	46	32	39	51	56
Neither	7	10	11	4	3
Don't know	7	12	6	5	5

Have Children

%	Total	Yes	No
Sample	769	148	621
Scarborough subway or LRT	41	45	39
Downtown Relief Line	46	41	48
Neither	7	9	6
Don't know	7	6	7

Past Mayoral Vote

%	Total	Rob Ford	George Smitherman	Joe Pantalone	Someone else
Sample	769	322	193	75	107
Scarborough subway or LRT	41	54	37	28	48
Downtown Relief Line	46	37	54	59	38
Neither	7	4	2	5	9
Don't know	7	5	7	7	5

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Rob Ford Approval / Vote Ford in 2014

%	Total	Approve	Disapprove	Yes	No	Don't know
Sample	769	327	442	282	451	36
Scarborough subway or LRT	41	49	35	50	35	45
Downtown Relief Line	46	37	53	39	52	23
Neither	7	5	7	5	8	3
Don't know	7	8	5	6	5	29

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