

NEWS RELEASE



MEDIA INQUIRIES:

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TORONTO

February 22nd, 2015

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Close to 3-in-10 say the downtown relief line (DRL) is the city's most urgent transit priority out of 6 presented.
- More than half of Toronto voters prefer John Tory as mayor (54%) to Rob Ford (34%).
- Close to one half of voters approve of John Tory's SmartTrack rail transit plan (44%), while 3-in-10 disapprove (31%).
- "Despite the fact that the Mayor's signature SmartTrack plan has the approval of most, the citizens of Toronto still see a downtown relief line for the junction of the Yonge and Bloor lines as the most urgent transit need in the city. And it is interesting to see that the "St Clair Disaster" is rated a success by those who actually use it" said Forum Research President, Dr. Lorne Bozinoff.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Downtown Relief Line seen as first transit priority

Plurality approves of SmartTrack, little personal benefit seen

TORONTO, February 22nd, 2015 - In a random sampling of public opinion taken by The Forum Poll™ among 807 Toronto voters, the largest single group, close to 3-in-10 say the downtown relief line (DRL) is the city's most urgent transit priority out of 6 presented, and it is followed by the Scarborough subway (19%), the Eglinton Crosstown (12%) and the SmartTrack rail transit network (11%). Fewer prioritize the Union-Pearson Express (UPX - 8%) or the Finch LRT (5%). A tenth say something else should be built (8%) and a similar proportion don't offer an opinion (9%). The Scarborough subway is a priority in Scarborough, of course (47%), while the DRL leads in the downtown (43%) and all other municipalities. Doug Ford voters pick the Scarborough subway (39%), while Tory and Chow voters prioritize the DRL (35% and 42%, respectively).

Plurality approves of SmartTrack, little personal benefit seen

Close to one half of voters approve of John Tory's SmartTrack rail transit plan (44%), while 3-in-10 disapprove (31%). Fully one quarter don't know enough to have an opinion (25%). Approval is high in the downtown (49%) and East York (56%) and, predictably, among Tory voters (68%), but not among Ford voters (15%). Just fewer than a quarter think SmartTrack will be a benefit to them personally (23%), while 6-in-10 think it will not (59%). Close to one fifth don't have an opinion (18%). The benefit is seen to be greatest in the city of York (32% - caution: small sample size).

More than half have used St Clair West, majority say it moves well

More than one half of Toronto voters have travelled on St Clair Avenue West in the past year (57%), and, of these, the majority (51%) say that traffic moves "very well" (12%) or "well" (39%). Just more than 4-in-10 say traffic does not move well (42%), and fewer than a tenth have no opinion (7%).

"Despite the fact that the Mayor's signature SmartTrack plan has the approval of most, the citizens of Toronto still see a downtown relief line for the junction of the Yonge and Bloor lines as the most urgent transit need in the city. And it is interesting to see that the "St Clair Disaster" is rated a success by those who actually use it" said Forum Research President, Dr. Lorne Bozinoff.

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Methodology

The Forum Poll™ was conducted by Forum Research with the results based on an interactive voice response telephone survey of 807 randomly selected voters in Toronto, Ontario. The poll was conducted on February 20th and 21st, 2015.

Results based on the total sample are considered accurate +/- 3%, 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. 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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Top Priority Transit Project

‘Which of the following transit projects should be the city's most urgent priority?’

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	807	199	120	168	161	159	409	398
Scarborough Subway	19	17	19	23	16	17	21	17
SmartTrack rail transit network	11	9	12	10	12	13	12	10
Union-Pearson Express, or UPX	8	10	8	3	9	6	8	7
Downtown relief line	29	33	29	29	27	24	28	30
Eglinton Crosstown	12	8	11	11	17	16	15	9
Finch LRT	5	4	4	7	6	6	4	6
Something else	8	9	8	8	7	4	5	10
Don't know	9	8	9	8	7	14	7	11

Region

%	Total	Toronto or East York	North York	Etobicoke or York	Scarborough
Sample	807	339	135	179	154
Scarborough Subway	19	8	16	17	47
SmartTrack rail transit network	11	11	13	12	7
Union-Pearson Express, or UPX	8	6	6	9	10
Downtown relief line	29	41	25	25	13
Eglinton Crosstown	12	12	11	15	8
Finch LRT	5	4	10	5	4
Something else	8	8	8	10	4
Don't know	9	10	12	7	7

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Smart Track Approval

'Do you approve or disapprove of Mayor Tory's SmartTrack rail transit plan?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	807	199	120	168	161	159	409	398
Approve	44	39	45	42	48	49	44	44
Disapprove	31	35	25	37	34	25	34	29
Don't know	25	26	30	22	18	26	23	27

Region

%	Total	Toronto or East York	North York	Etobicoke or York	Scarborough
Sample	807	339	135	179	154
Approve	44	50	43	41	34
Disapprove	31	25	33	37	38
Don't know	25	25	25	23	28

Household Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K	\$250K+
Sample	807	98	107	107	102	70	143	37
Approve	44	44	37	39	42	51	52	63
Disapprove	31	24	31	41	30	30	33	23
Don't know	25	33	32	20	28	19	15	14

Last Mayoral Vote

%	Total	Doug Ford	John Tory	Olivia Chow	Someone else
Sample	807	164	304	146	36
Approve	44	15	68	34	38
Disapprove	31	68	12	33	37
Don't know	25	16	20	33	25

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SmartTrack: Personal Benefits

'Will the SmartTrack rail transit plan benefit you personally or not?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	807	199	120	168	161	159	409	398
Yes	23	32	29	18	19	8	24	22
No	59	50	48	64	66	84	59	59
Don't know	18	19	23	18	16	8	16	19

Region

%	Total	Toronto or East York	North York	Etobicoke or York	Scarborough
Sample	807	339	135	179	154
Yes	23	24	19	24	24
No	59	59	61	59	60
Don't know	18	17	20	17	16

Household Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K	\$250K+
Sample	807	98	107	107	102	70	143	37
Yes	23	26	26	18	19	28	28	21
No	59	41	60	69	68	55	63	69
Don't know	18	32	14	13	14	18	10	10

Last Mayoral Vote

%	Total	Doug Ford	John Tory	Olivia Chow	Someone else
Sample	807	164	304	146	36
Yes	23	17	28	26	27
No	59	71	59	53	58
Don't know	18	11	13	21	15

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St Clair Avenue West Use

'Have you driven on St Clair Avenue West in the past year or not?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	807	199	120	168	161	159	409	398
Yes	57	59	59	63	61	43	63	52
No	43	41	41	37	39	57	37	48

Region

%	Total	Toronto or East York	North York	Etobicoke or York	Scarborough
Sample	807	339	135	179	154
Yes	57	63	61	63	36
No	43	37	39	37	64

Household Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K	\$250K+
Sample	807	98	107	107	102	70	143	37
Yes	57	32	56	60	56	66	67	76
No	43	68	44	40	44	34	33	24

Last Mayoral Vote

%	Total	Doug Ford	John Tory	Olivia Chow	Someone else
Sample	807	164	304	146	36
Yes	57	64	57	63	64
No	43	36	43	37	36

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St Clair Avenue West: Traffic Flow

'How well does traffic flow on St Clair Avenue West?'

[Have driven on St Clair Avenue West in the past year]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	465	121	72	107	98	67	259	206
Traffic flows very well	12	11	9	17	11	13	11	13
Traffic flows somewhat well	39	33	35	38	48	52	41	37
Traffic does not flow very well	29	32	29	25	29	27	29	28
Traffic does not flow well at all	13	14	17	15	9	7	14	13
Don't know	7	10	10	5	3	1	6	9

Region

%	Total	Toronto or East York	North York	Etobicoke or York	Scarborough
Sample	465	214	81	115	55
Traffic flows very well	12	13	13	12	4
Traffic flows somewhat well	39	37	43	34	51
Traffic does not flow very well	29	25	31	31	32
Traffic does not flow well at all	13	13	11	17	11
Don't know	7	11	1	6	1

Household Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K	\$250K+
Sample	465	29	58	65	59	46	96	30
Traffic flows very well	12	15	11	6	20	11	12	8
Traffic flows somewhat well	39	44	38	36	37	49	44	16
Traffic does not flow very well	29	25	33	40	24	17	25	36
Traffic does not flow well at all	13	5	9	15	10	10	15	36
Don't know	7	11	9	3	8	13	4	3

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