



## Downtown Relief Line the top TTC priority for Torontonians: Survey

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Torstar News Service file  
Passengers crowd the platform at Bloor-Yonge station during the morning commute.

**By:** Luke Simcoe Metro Published on Wed Apr 20 2016

A new poll has found a growing consensus among Torontonians that the Downtown Relief Line should be built ahead of other transit projects.

The survey – conducted by the [Downtown Relief Line Alliance](#) advocacy group – found 52.6 per cent of residents ranked the line as their number one transit priority. Around 30 per cent favoured the [Scarborough Subway](#), while only 17 per cent felt John Tory's [SmartTrack](#) project should be built first.

Although Tory campaigned on SmartTrack as his flagship project, his supporters were more likely to support the Relief Line. According to the survey, 58 per cent of Tory voters rank the line as their top priority, compared to only 20 per cent for SmartTrack.

Support for the Relief Line was high in every neighbourhood in Toronto except Scarborough, where residents overwhelmingly favoured the Scarborough Subway.

The Relief Line would run between the Danforth and the southern stretch of Bay Street, taking pressure off the crowded Yonge Line. Proponents argue the line is urgently needed, especially as more development occurs along Yonge Street.

“The Relief Line would relieve the increasingly congested Bloor-Yonge interchange - the Achilles' Heel of today's system,” said transportation planner and historian Edward J. Levy in a press release.

Those who support the Relief Line appear to feel very strongly about it. More than 55 per cent of survey respondents said they would not vote for their councillor if he or she was opposed to the line.

“Councillors and the mayor should heed the voices of residents or risk re-election in 2018, said Louis Mark, president of the Toronto Relief Line Alliance.