

PULSE OF TORONTO: PART IV

TRANSPORTATION AND ENERGY IN THE CITY



Ipsos Reid

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TRANSPORTATION AND ENERGY IN THE CITY

Toronto, ON – Torontonians are using the TTC less frequently today than they were in 1999, according to a new survey of Torontonians conducted by Ipsos Reid for the National Post, Global News and CFRB.

Fourteen percent of Torontonians say they take the TTC every day – down 14 points from the 28% who said they took it every day in 1999. In fact three in ten (29%) say they never take the TTC, a sharp 13 point increase from 1999.

So how can the TTC increase the number of red-rocket riders? The largest percentage of Torontonians (63%) say they would take the TTC more often if “the subway and surface routes were expanded”, while slightly less (53%) say they would take it more often if “the fare was less expensive” and 46% say they would take the TTC more often if “the price of gas at the pump continues to rise”.

When asked to consider a number of potential measures to improve the transportation system in Toronto, the highest level of support is offered for the potential measure of introducing a “dedicated municipal tax of \$5 per year that would be for the improvement of public transit” (60%), followed by “introduce a congestion-charge for cars entering the downtown area” (48%), and lastly “introduce tolls to fix major roadways” (31%).

As for the question about the future of the Gardiner Expressway, three-quarters of Torontonians (75%) are of the opinion that tearing down the Gardiner Expressway would be a bad idea, while 25% believe it would be a good idea.

When thinking about the rising costs of fuel, Torontonians are split on what concerns them most – the rising costs of heating their home (49%) or the rising costs at the gas pump (44%).



With energy costs in mind, three-quarters (74%) say they support the building of new nuclear power plants in order to provide more electricity for the province.

These are the findings of an Ipsos Reid poll conducted for the National Post, Global News and CFRB fielded from October 6th to October 12th 2005. For the survey, a representative sample of 500 residents of the City of Toronto was interviewed via an on-line survey vehicle. The sample used in this study has been weighted according to 2001 Census data to accurately reflect the general population of the City of Toronto (see chart below). With a sample of this size, the aggregate results are considered accurate to within ± 4.4 percentage points, 19 times out of 20, of what they would have been had the entire population of Toronto been polled. The margin of error will be larger within each sub-grouping of the survey population.

		On-line sample	General population	Variance
Sex	Male	48%	48%	0
	Female	52%	52%	0
Age	18-34	29%	33%	-4
	35-54	41%	39%	+2
	55+	29%	28%	+1
Educ.	High school or less	18%	23%	-5
	Post-secondary	83%	79%	+4
Income	<\$30K	13%	16%	-3
	\$30K-<\$60K	30%	31%	-1
	>\$60K	56%	53%	+3



Fourteen Percent Take The TTC “Every Day” Down From 28% In 1999...

Among all respondents:

- 14% take the TTC “every day” (**down 14 points from 28% in 1999**);
- 14% take it “a few times a week” (essentially unchanged from 17% in 1999);
- 9% take it “less than once a week” (6% in 1999);
- 9% take it “about once a month” (11% in 1999); and
- 25% take it “less than once a month” (21% in 1999).

22%
“Frequent”

34%
“Seldom”

Three in ten (29%) say the “**never**” take the TTC (**up 13 points from 1999**).

What Would Make Torontonians Use The TTC More Often? Sixty-three Percent Say If Service Was Expanded...

Torontonians were asked to consider from a list of possible changes whether it would make them take the TTC more often.

Of the possible changes asked about, the largest percentage (63%) say they would take the TTC more often if “the subway and surface routes were expanded”, while slightly less (53%) say they would take it more often if “the fare was less expensive”. Nearly half (46%) say they would take the TTC more often if “the price of gas at the pump continues to rise”.

	All	How Often Use TTC		
		Frequent	Seldom	Never
If the subway and surface routes were expanded	63%	72%	63%	45%
The fare was less expensive	53%	53%	54%	35%
The price of gas at the pumps continues to rise	46%	57%	41%	31%



How Should We Improve The Transportation System In Toronto? Sixty Percent Say Through A Dedicated Municipal Tax And Half (48%) Say Through A “Congestion-Charge” For Downtown Cars...

Survey respondents were asked to consider a number of potential measures that have been suggested about how to improve the transportation system in Toronto.

The highest level of support is offered for the potential measure of introducing a “dedicated municipal tax of \$5 per year that would be for the improvement of public transit” (60%, 29% “strongly agree”), followed by “introduce a congestion-charge for cars entering the downtown area, similar to what is being done in London, England” (48%, 17% “strongly agree”), and lastly “introduce tolls to fix major roadways” (31%, 9% “strongly agree”).

	Agree	
	2005	1999
Introduce a dedicated municipal tax of \$5 per year that would be for the improvement of public transit	60%	59%
Introduce a congestion-charge for cars entering the downtown area, similar to what is being done in London, England	48%	NA
Introduce tolls to fix major roadways	31%	32%

- Women are more likely than men to agree with each of these measures.

Nine In Ten (90%) Agree That The GTA Needs An Integrated Transit Service With One Single Authority...

Nine in ten (90%) agree with the statement that “it is time to have an integrated GTA transit service with one single authority rather than a collection of overlapping municipal systems serving Toronto, York, Peel, Durham and Halton” (63% strongly agree). One in ten (10%) disagree with this statement.



When It Comes To How Long It Takes Police to Clear Accident Scenes on 401 – Half (51%) Are Satisfied/Half (49%) Dissatisfied...

Half of Torontonians (51%) agree with the statement “I am satisfied with the amount of time it takes police to clear accident scenes on the 401” (9% strongly agree), and half (49%) disagree (18% strongly disagree).

Three-Quarters (75%) Believe It Is A Bad Idea To Tear Down The Gardiner...

Three-quarters (75%) of Torontonians are of the opinion that tearing down the Gardiner Expressway would be a bad idea as this would probably not improve lakeshore development and would create major traffic problems for the City of Toronto. Of the opposite opinion, are the 25% who believe that tearing down the Gardiner would be a good idea as it is an unsightly barrier to developing Toronto’s lakeshore.

- Older Torontonians are more likely to believe that it is a “good idea” to tear down the Gardiner: 20% among those age 18-34, 24% among those age 35-54, and 30% among those age 55 and over.

Split On Fuel Concerns: Slightly More Concerned About Rising Costs for Heating Home (49%) Than Rising Costs At Pump (44%)...

Thinking about energy and the rapidly rising costs of fuel at both the pumps and heating for their home, slightly more Torontonians (49%) say that, considering their own situation, they are most concerned about the rising costs of heating fuel for their home, than say they are most concerned about the rising costs at the pump (44%). Seven percent say that neither of these two costs most concerns them.

- Women are significantly more likely than men to say they are most concerned about the rising costs for heating their home (54% vs. 43%).



- Older Torontonians age 55 and up are the most likely express their strongest concern for the “rising costs for heating their home” (56% vs. 51% among those age 35-54, and 37% among those age 18-34).

With Energy Costs On Their Mind, Three-Quarters (74%) Support The Building Of New Nuclear Power Plants In Order To Provide More Electricity For The Province...

With the rising costs of fuel energy in mind, three-quarters (74%) say they support the “building of new nuclear power generators in order to provide more electricity in the province” (36% strongly support). One-quarter (26%) oppose the building of new nuclear power generators (11% strongly oppose).

- Men are significantly more likely than women to support the building of new nuclear power plants (80% vs. 69%).

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