

The Sheppard Subway Extension is here.

Screenshot from PC Party Campaign Video – May 2022

We have written the letter below to Ontario Finance Minister Peter Bethlenfalvy advising him that it is time to formally assign funds for works associated with the planning and design of the Sheppard Subway Extension - beginning with the 2024 budget and for future years. We encourage you to email the Minister and his colleagues that are copied at the bottom of the letter to let them know that it's time to identify and commit funds in the Provincial Budget for this long promised and critically important transit project to our communities.



Aris Babikian, MPP, Scarborough- Agincourt and Peter Bethlenfalvy, Ontario Finance Minister - Screenshot from PC Party Campaign Video May 2022.

March 19, 2024

Hon. Peter Bethlenfalvy
Ontario Minister of Finance
7th Floor, Frost Building South
Toronto, ON M7A 1Y7
Peter.Bethlenfalvy@pc.ola.org

Dear Minister,

The Sheppard Subway Extension and The Ontario Budget 2024

It's time for the Ford Government to clearly demonstrate its stated commitments to building the Sheppard Subway Extension - beginning with funds dedicated to actual deliverables starting with the 2024 Budget.

In January of this year, local MPP's from the PC Party invited the President of the Agincourt Village Community Association to address the Provincial Budget Sub-Committee when it convened in Scarborough to listen to the needs of the local community. As the representative of more than one stakeholder at that meeting, Rhoda Potter focused directly on the need to finally extend the Sheppard Subway to support the burgeoning residential intensification of the area and connect communities from Downsview to Agincourt as part of an efficient higher-order transit network.

The rapidly increasing density of the Sheppard corridor is critical to addressing the desperate need for new homes and meet your government's housing objectives. This part of the City has been intensifying for several years and tens of thousands of new homes are approved or in the planning pipeline at current and future station locations. Adding these new residential communities to the existing large population requires this subway extension to accommodate all this growth and development.

As you know, the Sheppard Subway line has not been completed since its first phase opened over 20 years ago. As a result, that incomplete line (or stubway) contributes little to the emerging transit network your government is building until it is extended – from Downsview to McCowan. Your government has recognized this past failure and in the last two election campaigns your party made bold commitments to getting this critical piece of infrastructure 'DONE'.

The March 26 Budget needs to demonstrate a real commitment with a dedicated line item with funding assigned to the next several years showing that your government is committed to completing the business case, getting to work on detailed design, acquiring the necessary properties, conducting a TPAP, locating utilities etc. Without a roadmap and a timeline with a focus on deliverables and clear funding commitments, boasts about 'getting it done' and announcing that the 'Sheppard Subway is Here' are just more campaign slogans that have characterized this project for decades by those who made empty promises before you.

We would look forward to your inclusion of funding for the Sheppard Subway Extension in your upcoming budget!

Sincerely,

The SSAC Team
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