

Contact us



gtwanofareisfair.blogspot.com



nofareisfair@gmail.com



The Free and Accessible Transit
Campaign of the GTWA



@nofareisfair

How Does Free and Accessible Transit Create New and Better Jobs

An expanded transportation system provides more jobs. A large part of the manufacturing infrastructure in Ontario and elsewhere - made idle by the shift in private production to lower wage areas for higher profits - means that those capacities can be harnessed for the production of new and advanced mass transit vehicles, components, construction of routes and other parts of a new accessible transit system.

This means a shift towards public ownership of manufacturing, more jobs, and employees with more democratic input into the work that they do.

Just as original subways, buses and streetcars were financed by issuing Ontario bonds, this can be done today - without burdening current and future generations with the profits paid out to private interests. And new jobs will expand the tax base.

NO FARE IS FAIR

Campaign for Free and Accessible Public Transit

**Greater Toronto
Workers Assembly**

What is Free and Accessible Transit?

Public transit should be a right for all people in the city. Using subways, buses and streetcars in Toronto should be free of fares.

Transit users are not ‘customers’. Mobility is not a commodity to be bought and paid for by individual users

It is an essential right, like public education, libraries, water, doctors and hospitals. It should be funded by government revenues. Transit should be accessible to everyone who needs it. That means regardless of their income, which part of the city they live or work in, or if they are living with disabilities and have particular physical challenges. All of us would be able to travel anywhere within our city when we need to.

Can you imagine how empowering it would be to go where you need to be, when you need to be there, not just on an overpriced ride to and from work or the occasional appointment or family event - but where you need to be and who you need to be with, any time of the day or evening?

What Do We Mean by Accessible Transit?

At \$3 per fare, transit is becoming too expensive for poor and working people. For disabled workers, a ride that normally takes 1 hour takes 3-4 hours on Wheel-Trans. Wheel-Trans riders also get “demerit points” for missing the bus. Most buses and streetcars are not accessible for people with disabilities or for many seniors. Only half of TTC subway stations have elevators but they are often out of service.

How Could We Pay For It?

A fairer tax system would provide enough revenue to pay for fare-free transit. The provincial and federal governments would have to contribute their fair share of funding to Canada’s largest city.

The amount of taxes that riders would have to pay would be lower than the amount they spend each year on the cost of commuting today.

Right now, government subsidize roads and highways that cars use. With a fare-free transit system, we could save on the costs of environmental pollution and diseases caused by our current dependence on private cars. We need to make our tax dollars benefit the common good.

How Do Other Cities Have Free Transit?

28 cities within North America and Europe already have zero-fare transit systems. Many more have partially free systems - in the downtown core, or on “spare the air” days when smog levels are high.

These cities now enjoy less traffic congestion, fewer accidents, improved air quality, and better quality of life for all residents. So why can’t Toronto?

Cities with successful zero-fare transport:

Hasselt, Belgium
Prelouc, Czech Republic
Horovice, Czech Republic
Turi, Estonia
Aubagne, France
Compiègne, France
Chateauroux, France
Mariehamn, Finland
Lubben, Germany
Cheremushki, Russia
Nova Gorcia, Slovenia
Manises, Spain
Overtornea, Sweden
Chapel Hill, USA
Commerce, USA
Hawaii, USA
Coral Gables, USA

