

Politics is a bad way to play the mass transit game

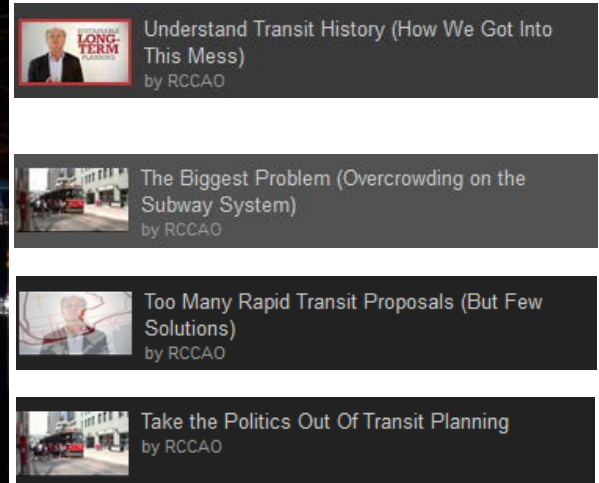
New video series points to need to separate long-term planning from politics

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YouTube Links



David Crowley, one of Canada's [bigger transit thinkers](#), is tired of watching plans for mass transit across Southern Ontario get approved but then die with changes in the political winds.

While the region around Toronto has grown, transit has started carrying up to 75 per cent of all commuters into the Toronto core, and only 25 per cent actually drive a personal vehicle. Still, though, gridlock is a growing problem as more people move about the city than ever before.

- [Data: How Toronto residents use the subways](#)

“Transit planning in Toronto and the GTA is a broken process,” Crowley said. “Rapid transit decision making has been taken over by the game of politics.”

Good projects are often killed in the name of short term political gain, even if projects already have shovels in the ground. That results in a common complaint from people who depend on transit for daily movement: Nothing gets built.

So while public transit is the top priority for the ongoing municipal election, Crowley is trying to educate the public on what is holding transit development back.

With that in mind, he's made a four-part video series that describes the main problems, and some solutions, to the ongoing transit nightmare that Toronto faces. Each is easily digested at only three or four minutes long but does a good job at outlining the main concerns.

“Choosing transit technologies and station locations should not be the subject of election campaigns,” he argues.