

There is a better way

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JANUARY 20, 2009

Toronto -- I see The Globe and Mail has bought into the spin surrounding "Blue 22," the private rail link between Toronto's Union Station and Pearson airport (Truly Environmental - edit-

orial, Jan. 19). The plan is not to get lots of people out of cars and into trains, as you seem to have surmised. It is to provide an expensive service so the well-heeled can whiz by transit-starved neighbourhoods.

The Weston Community Coalition has never been opposed to a rail link to the airport. What we have advocated is that it be built intelligently, and that communities along the route that are harmed by it at least get the benefit of increased access to transit. The environmental assessment should have been finished long ago. It languished untouched on the desk of the provincial Environment Minister for 26 months before Metrolinx took it over.

If we build this thing, let's build it right the first time. Let's make it electric (no other city in the world uses diesel for rail to its airport); make it useful, by stopping in a handful of places along the route; make it public transit, with fares the public can manage; and make sure communities along the route aren't destroyed, by putting it underground where necessary.

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