

Hope for subway extension

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Federal Finance Minister Jim Flaherty and his Queen's Park counterpart Greg Sorbara may, according to the Ontario minister be moving to end the impasse on federal funding for a subway extension through York University.

In Ottawa yesterday, Flaherty told the media that he and Sorbara had a "very friendly" conversation there Wednesday. Sorbara said: "I was very pleased with what he had to say ... on public transit in particular. He acknowledged for the first time that rapid transit like subways and extension of GO trains helps them on an environmental issue." "We're going to move ahead on that project and I believe that at the right time the federal government will be a partner. There is a huge political risk for them if they're not."

That could be good news for the new 6.2-kilometre TTC subway extension from Downsview station, through the York campus and across Steeles Ave. into the 905 area. The province has already put \$670 million in a trust for the \$2 billion project, with the City of Toronto and York Region on the hook to contribute another third. Ottawa's anticipated \$670 million share remains in limbo. Flaherty said the subway extension was "among" the projects the federal government is considering.