

Issues Facing the Panel

- Choice of technology for Sheppard Avenue (not for every corridor every where for all time!): subway vs. LRT
- Budget implications

I would argue that procurement, construction management issues are not within the direct purview (or expertise) of this panel.

Technology Choice

- Choice of technology must be based upon considerations of:
 - Matching capacity (supply) to expected ridership (demand)
 - Level of service
 - Network connectivity
 - Current and projected land use patterns
 - Cost-effectiveness
 - Equity
 - Sustainability

Ridership & Capacity

- Both TTC and Metrolinx ridership forecasts are based on best-practice model systems.
- As with all forecasts, they clearly are subject to error.
- It is also clear, however, that there is no reasonable expectation that future ridership levels will justify investment in subway – the demand simply isn't there:
 - Travel patterns are not well served by the proposed subway (more on this later)
 - Densities simply are not high enough (also more on this later)

Level of Service

- There has been much discussion of travel speeds (which determine in-vehicle travel time).
- Out-of-vehicle travel time (access/egress walk times, wait/transfer times) constitute a significant proportion of transit travel times.
- OVTT is weighted much more heavily by trip-makers in making their travel decisions than in-vehicle travel time (usually 2x or more).

Level of Service, cont'd

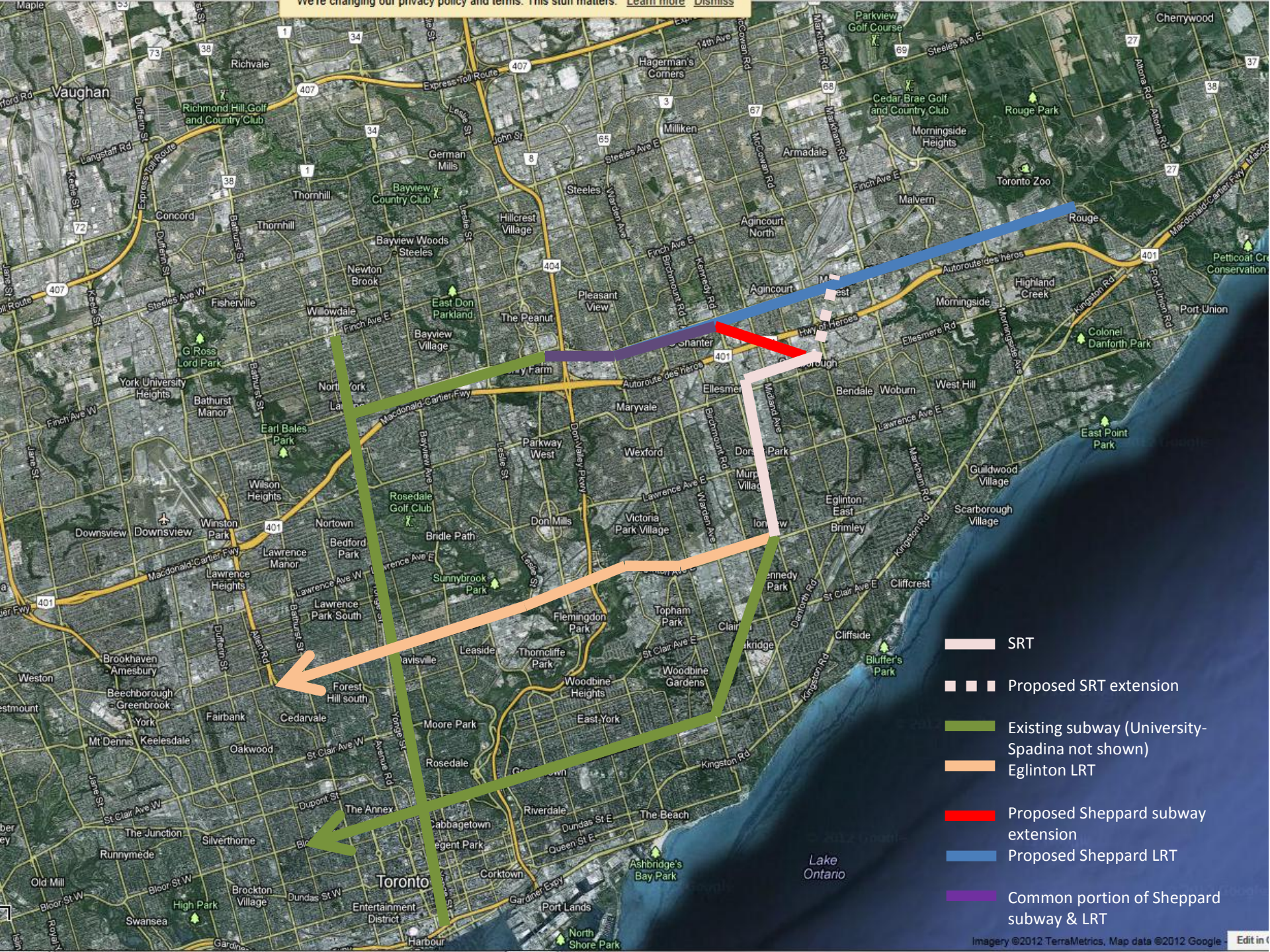
- Frequencies (and hence average walk and wait times) are similar between subway & LRT.
- LRT has more stops/stations than subway; results in many more people being within short walking distances of transit; this results in somewhat slower speeds (longer in-vehicle times).
- I.e., LRT trades off in-vehicle travel time for out-of-vehicle travel times; often a desirable trade-off & certainly the subway “time advantage” is less than is usually stated.
- Also, quoted times do not account for the time spent navigating through subway stations – can add several minutes to a trip, thereby further reducing any stated advantage.








Level of Service, cont'd

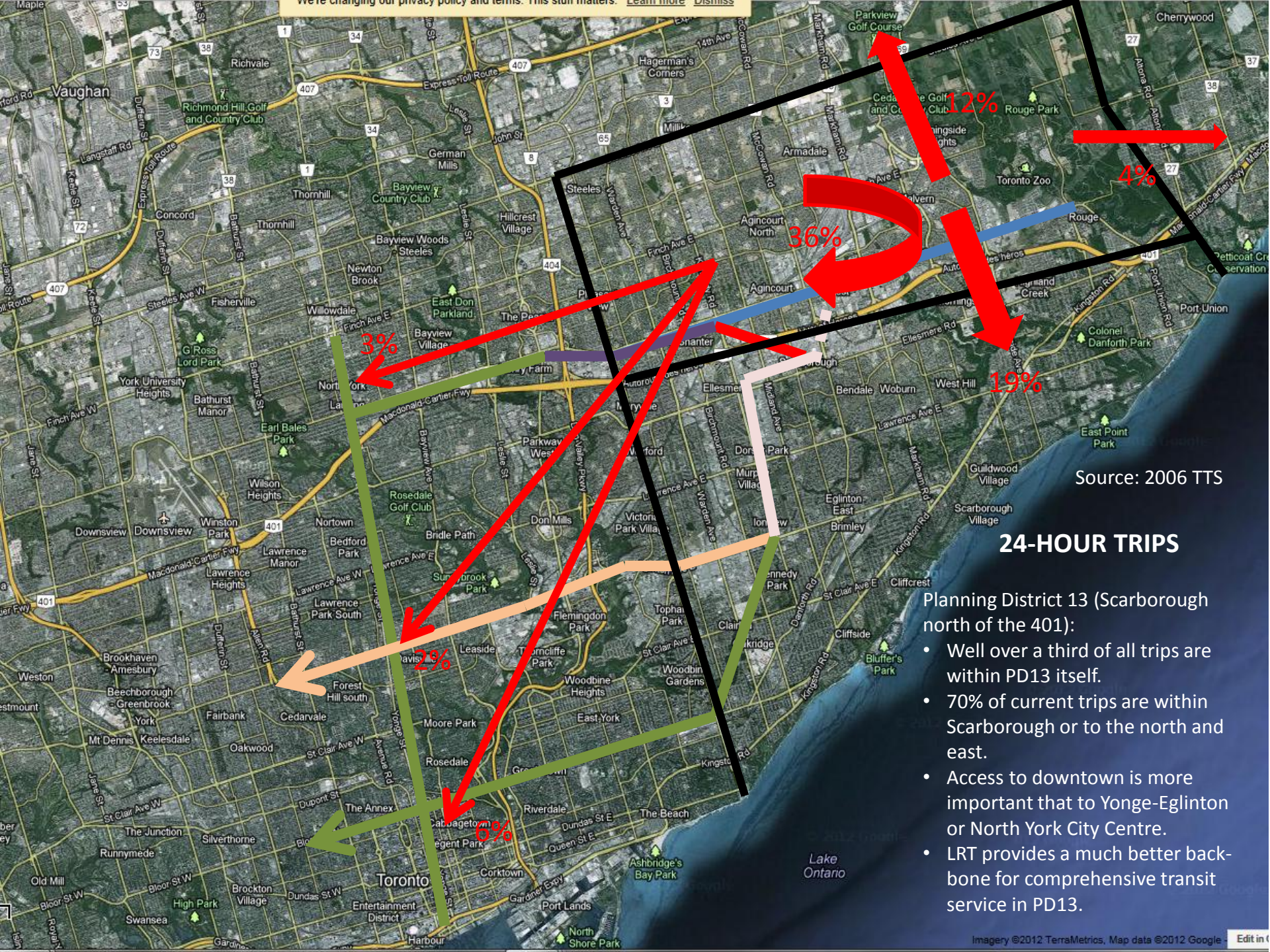
- Extensive research in both Canada and the US has failed to identify any strong “preference” for subway* relative to other transit modes in terms of their mode choice behaviour. The assertion that people “like” subways in some absolute sense has no scientific basis.
- As noted above, people use transit when it is accessible (within easy walking distance), frequent and reliable, and takes them where and when they need to go in reasonable time.

* Or LRT for that matter.

Network Connectivity



-  SRT
-  Proposed SRT extension
-  Existing subway (University-Spadina not shown)
-  Eglinton LRT
-  Proposed Sheppard subway extension
-  Proposed Sheppard LRT
-  Common portion of Sheppard subway & LRT

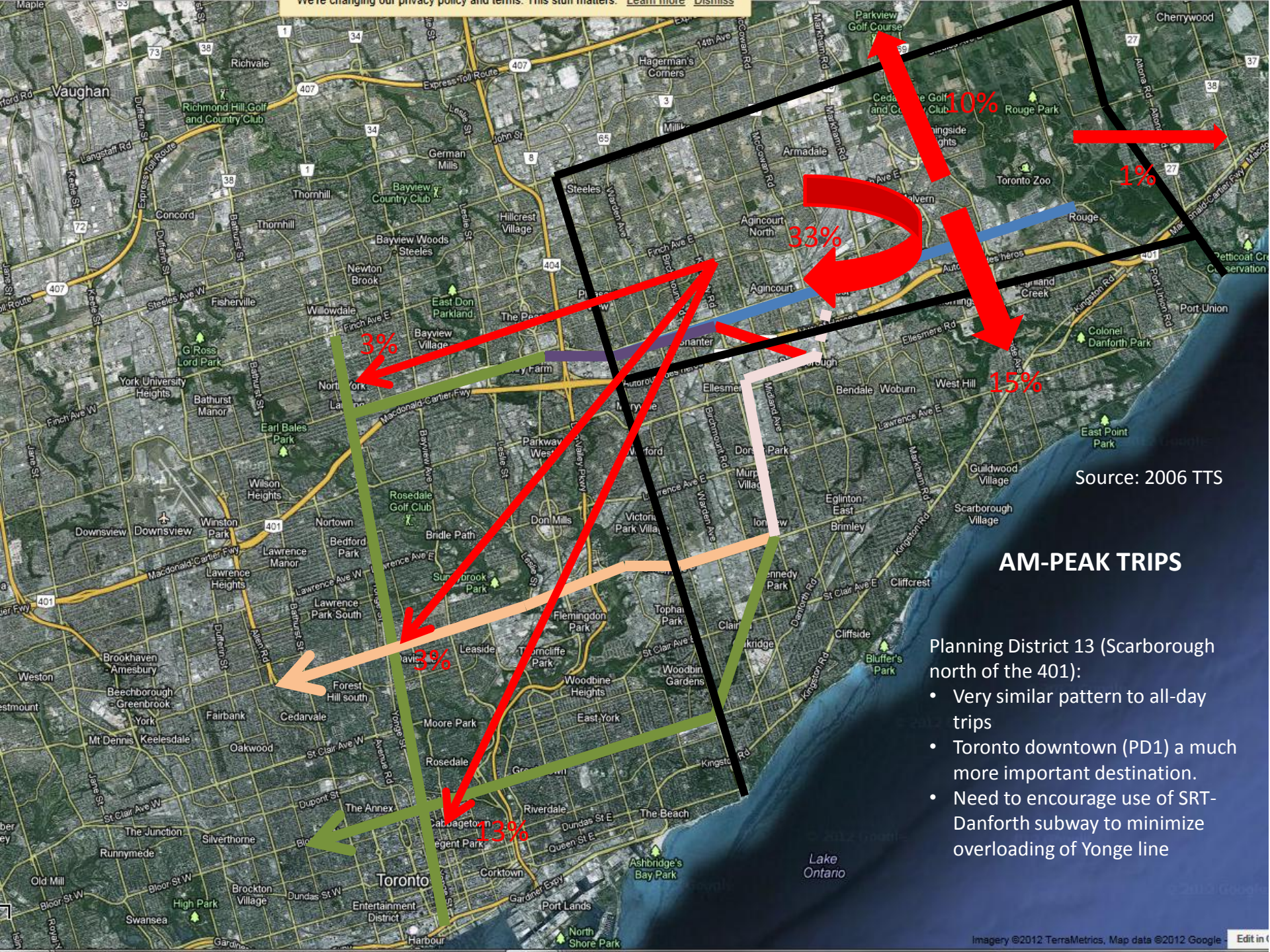


Source: 2006 TTS

24-HOUR TRIPS

Planning District 13 (Scarborough north of the 401):

- Well over a third of all trips are within PD13 itself.
- 70% of current trips are within Scarborough or to the north and east.
- Access to downtown is more important than to Yonge-Eglinton or North York City Centre.
- LRT provides a much better backbone for comprehensive transit service in PD13.

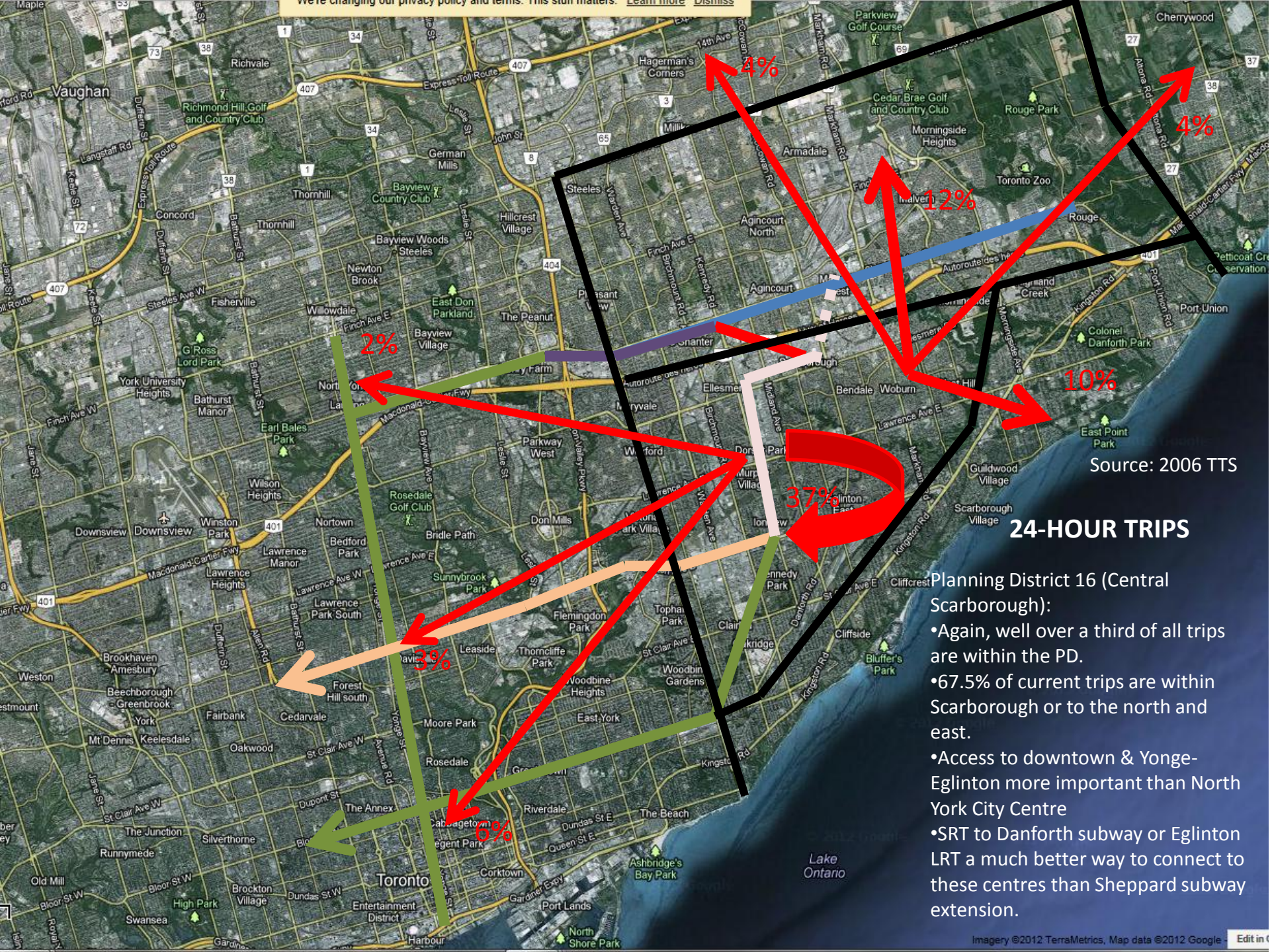


Source: 2006 TTS

AM-PEAK TRIPS

Planning District 13 (Scarborough north of the 401):

- Very similar pattern to all-day trips
- Toronto downtown (PD1) a much more important destination.
- Need to encourage use of SRT-Danforth subway to minimize overloading of Yonge line



Source: 2006 TTS

24-HOUR TRIPS

Planning District 16 (Central Scarborough):

- Again, well over a third of all trips are within the PD.
- 67.5% of current trips are within Scarborough or to the north and east.
- Access to downtown & Yonge-Eglinton more important than North York City Centre
- SRT to Danforth subway or Eglinton LRT a much better way to connect to these centres than Sheppard subway extension.



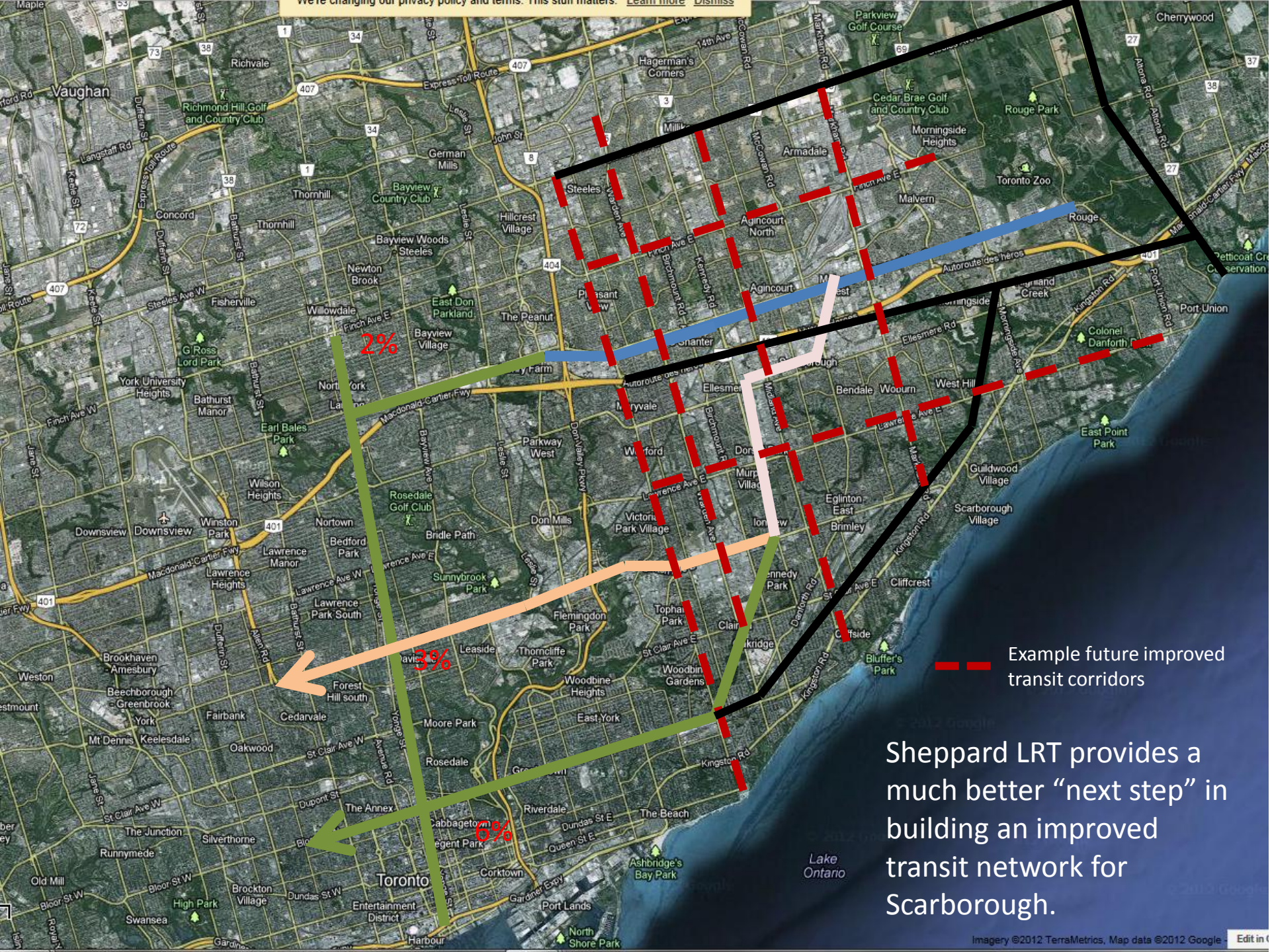
Source: 2006 TTS

AM-PEAK TRIPS

- Planning District 16 (Central Scarborough):
- Again, similar pattern to all-day except that PD1 is a major destination.
 - Again, want these trips on SRT to Danforth subway rather funnelling through North York Centre.

In order to provide connectivity, coverage and high quality service levels, the transit network **must** be designed in a hierarchical fashion (high capacity trunk lines, feeder services; long-distance line-haul, local accessibility).





2%

3%

6%

--- Example future improved transit corridors

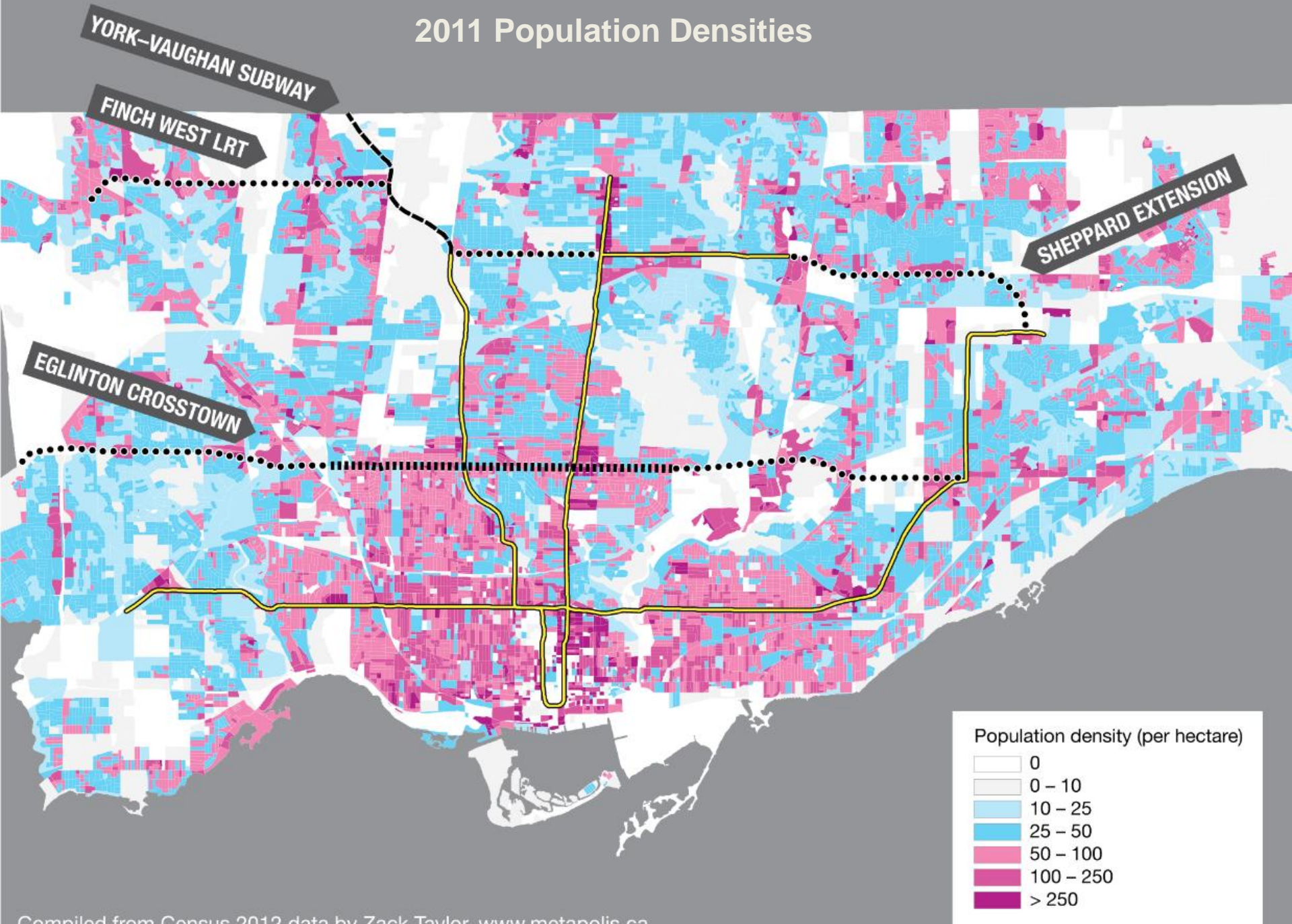
Sheppard LRT provides a much better “next step” in building an improved transit network for Scarborough.

Network Connectivity: Summary

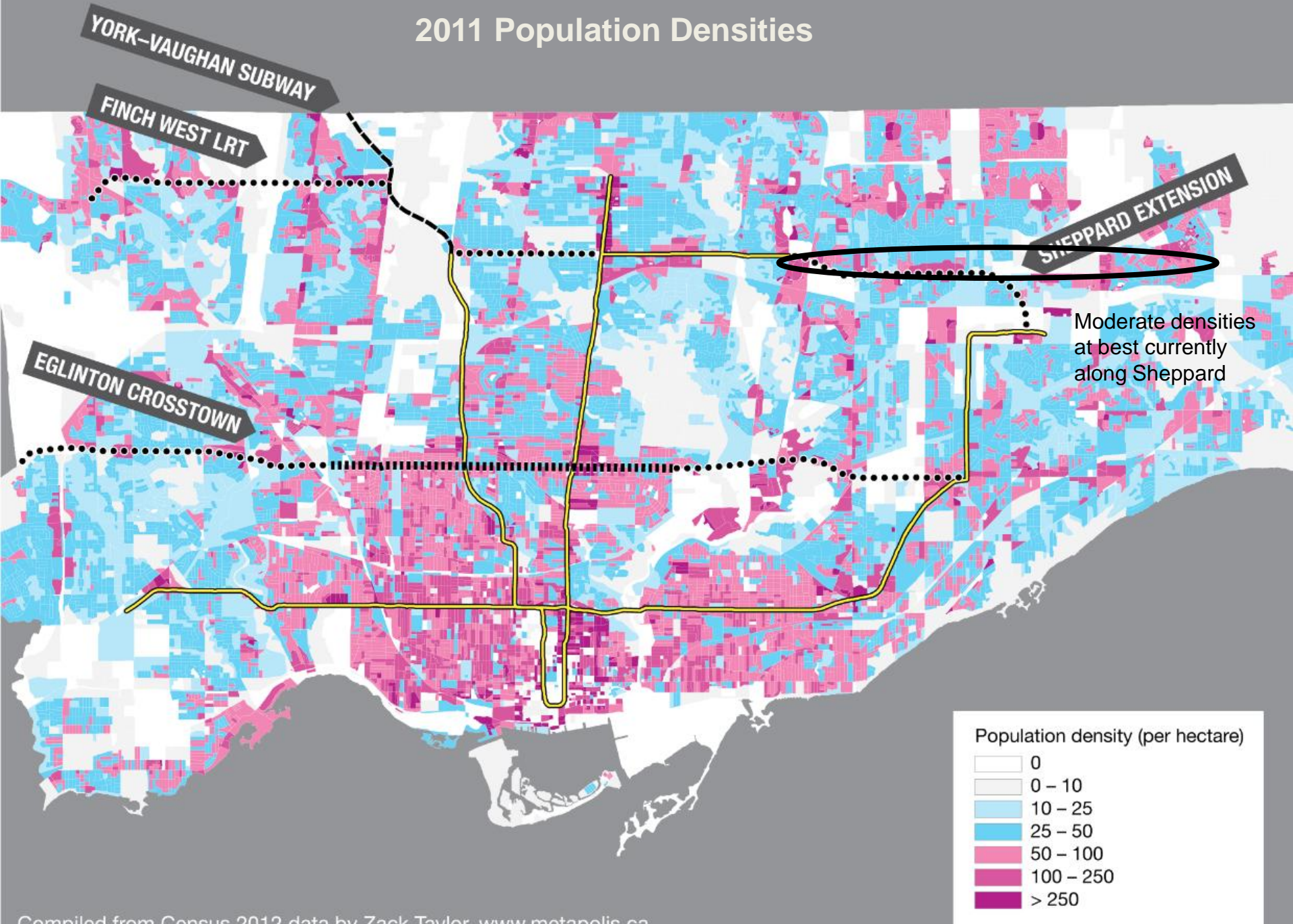
- Over 2/3 of current Scarborough-based trips are within Scarborough or to/from 905 to the north or east.
- Proposed LRT line provides much more extensive coverage & connectivity, equal frequency and provides a better “backbone” for building an improved transit network within Scarborough.
- Yonge Subway is at capacity: need to very carefully consider how new lines connect to it (if at all).
- Looking beyond the immediate decision re. Sheppard, we must get back to thinking about a comprehensive, hierarchical network that best balances coverage, connectivity, frequency and speed.

Land Use & Density

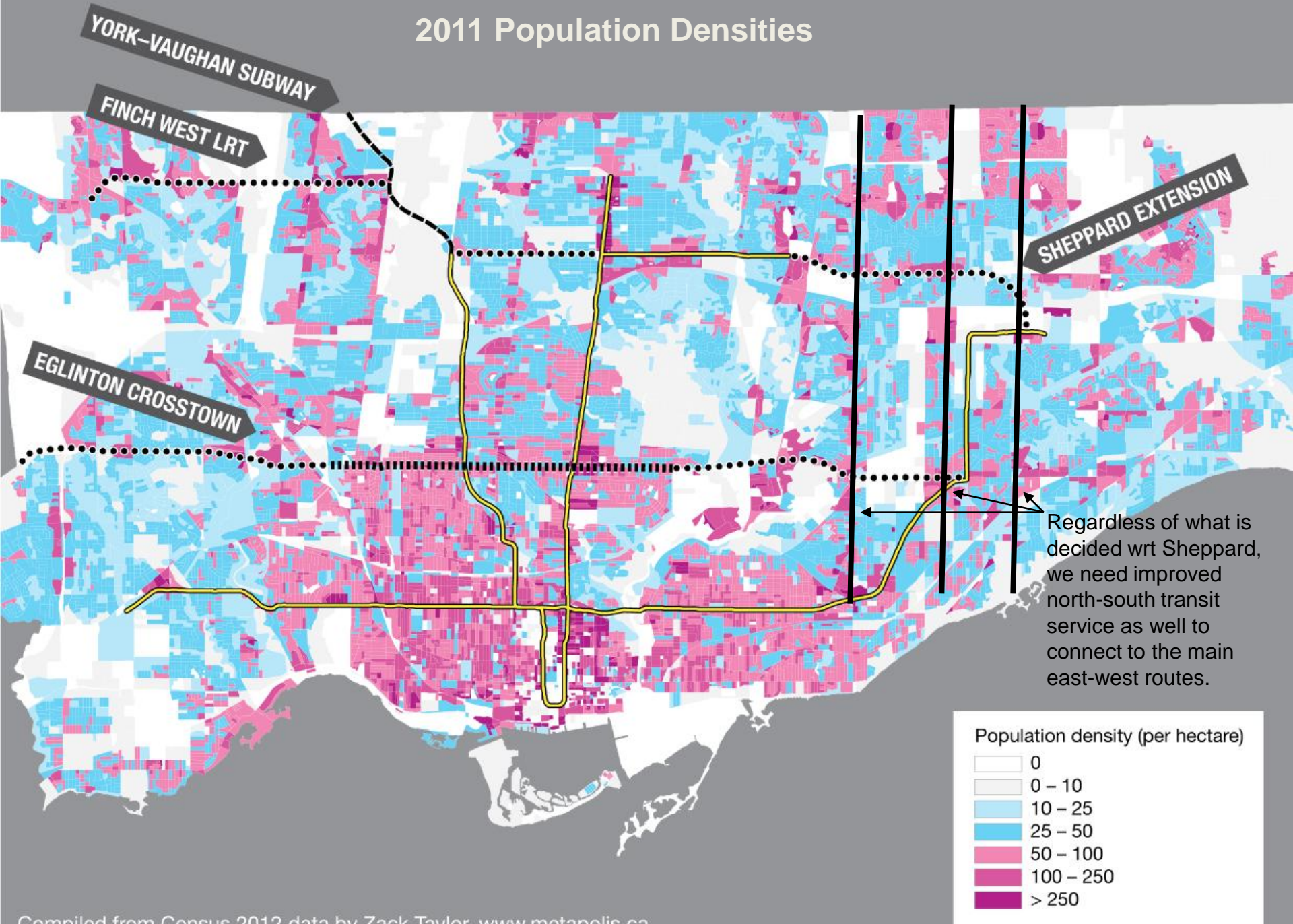
2011 Population Densities

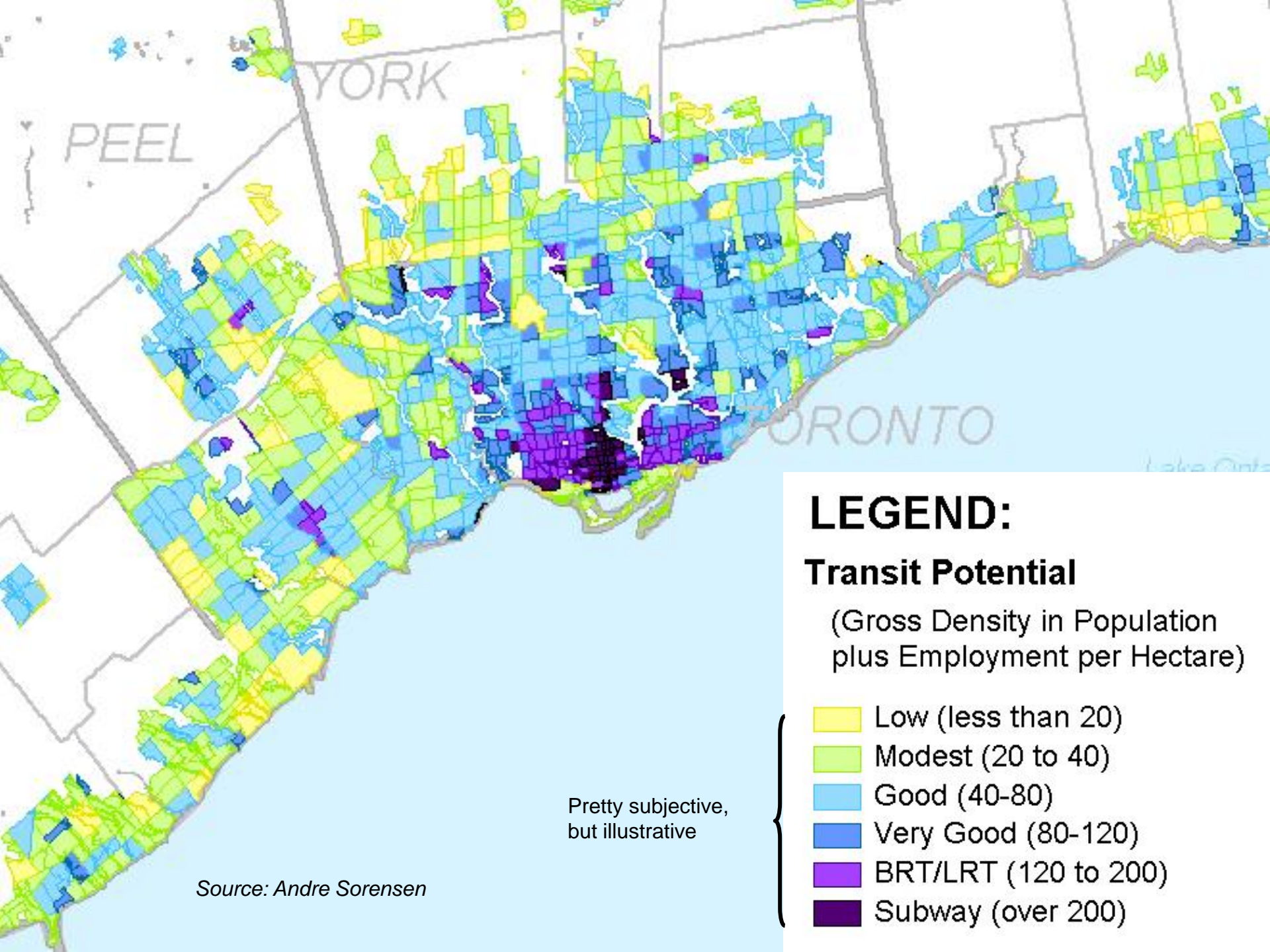


2011 Population Densities



2011 Population Densities





LEGEND:

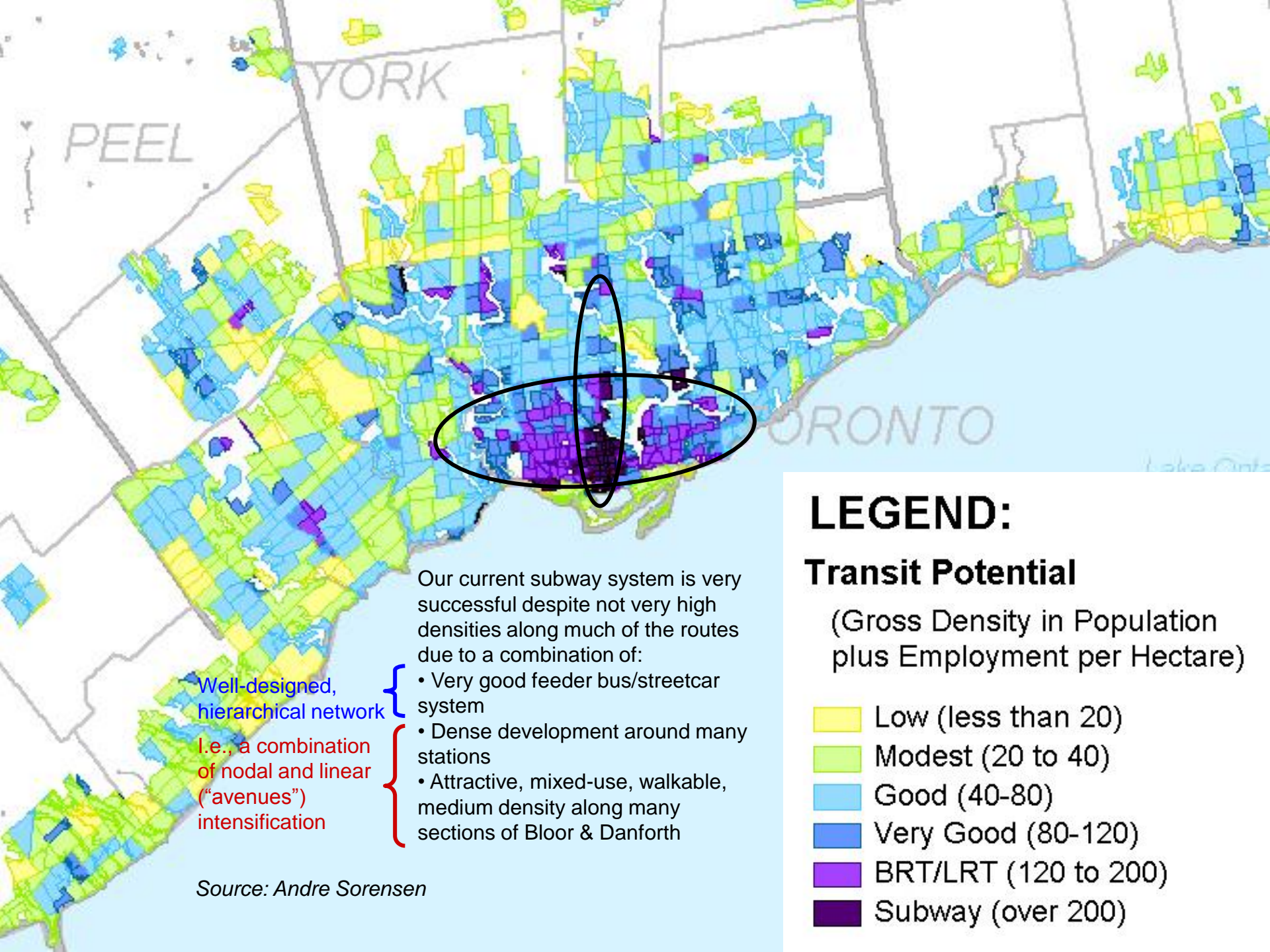
Transit Potential

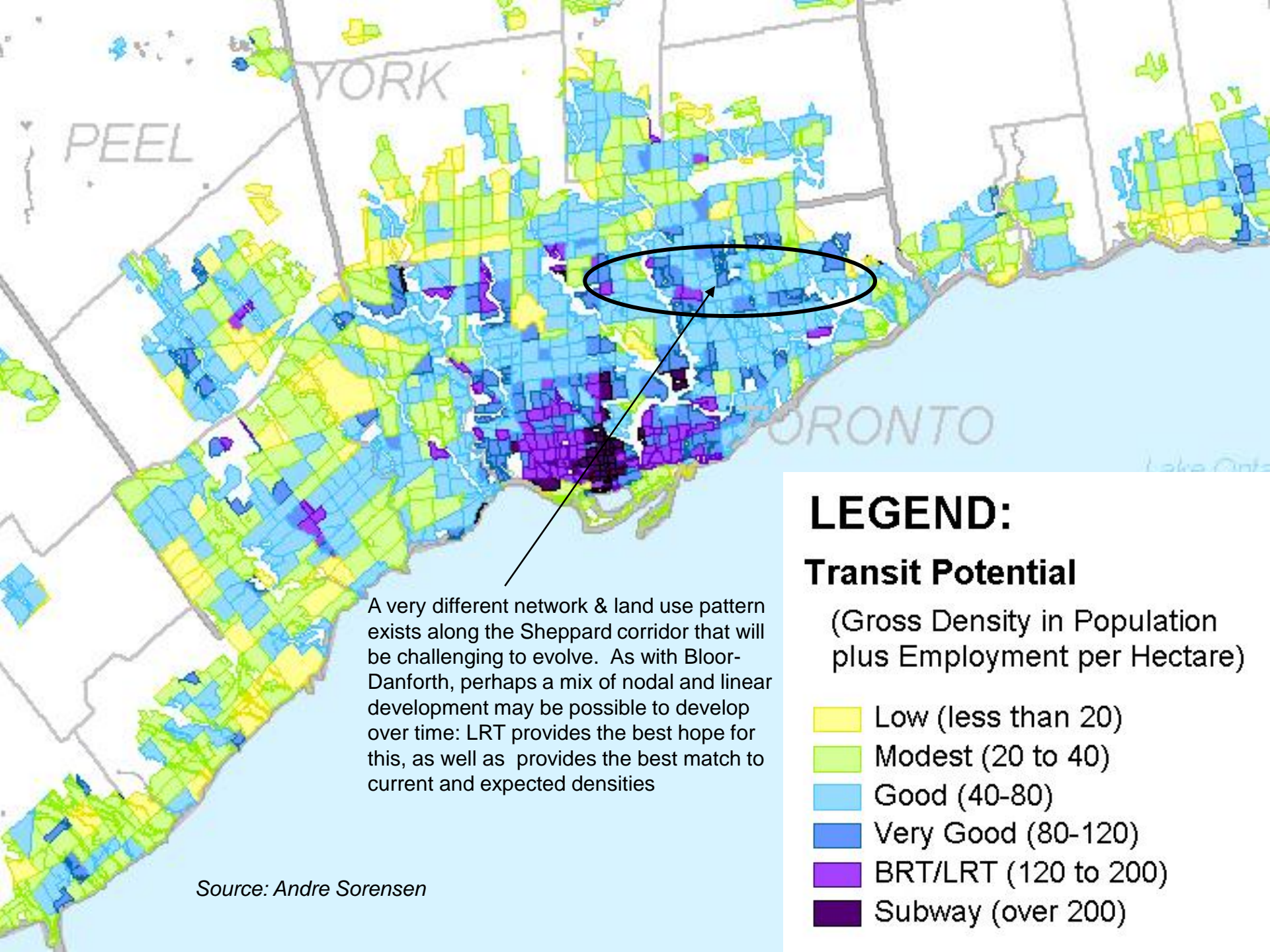
(Gross Density in Population plus Employment per Hectare)

- Low (less than 20)
- Modest (20 to 40)
- Good (40-80)
- Very Good (80-120)
- BRT/LRT (120 to 200)
- Subway (over 200)

Pretty subjective,
but illustrative

Source: Andre Sorensen





A very different network & land use pattern exists along the Sheppard corridor that will be challenging to evolve. As with Bloor-Danforth, perhaps a mix of nodal and linear development may be possible to develop over time: LRT provides the best hope for this, as well as provides the best match to current and expected densities

Source: Andre Sorensen

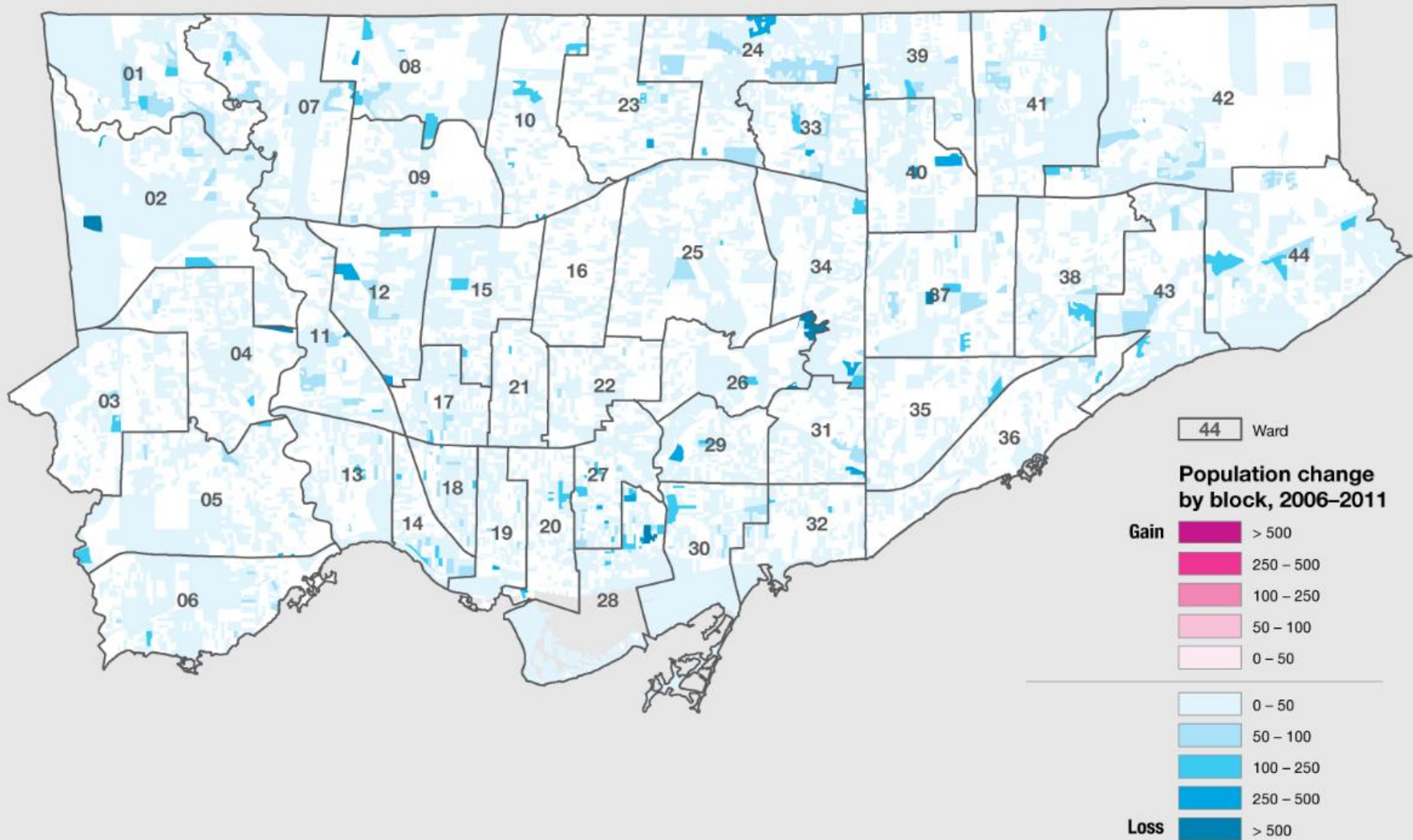
LEGEND:

Transit Potential

(Gross Density in Population plus Employment per Hectare)

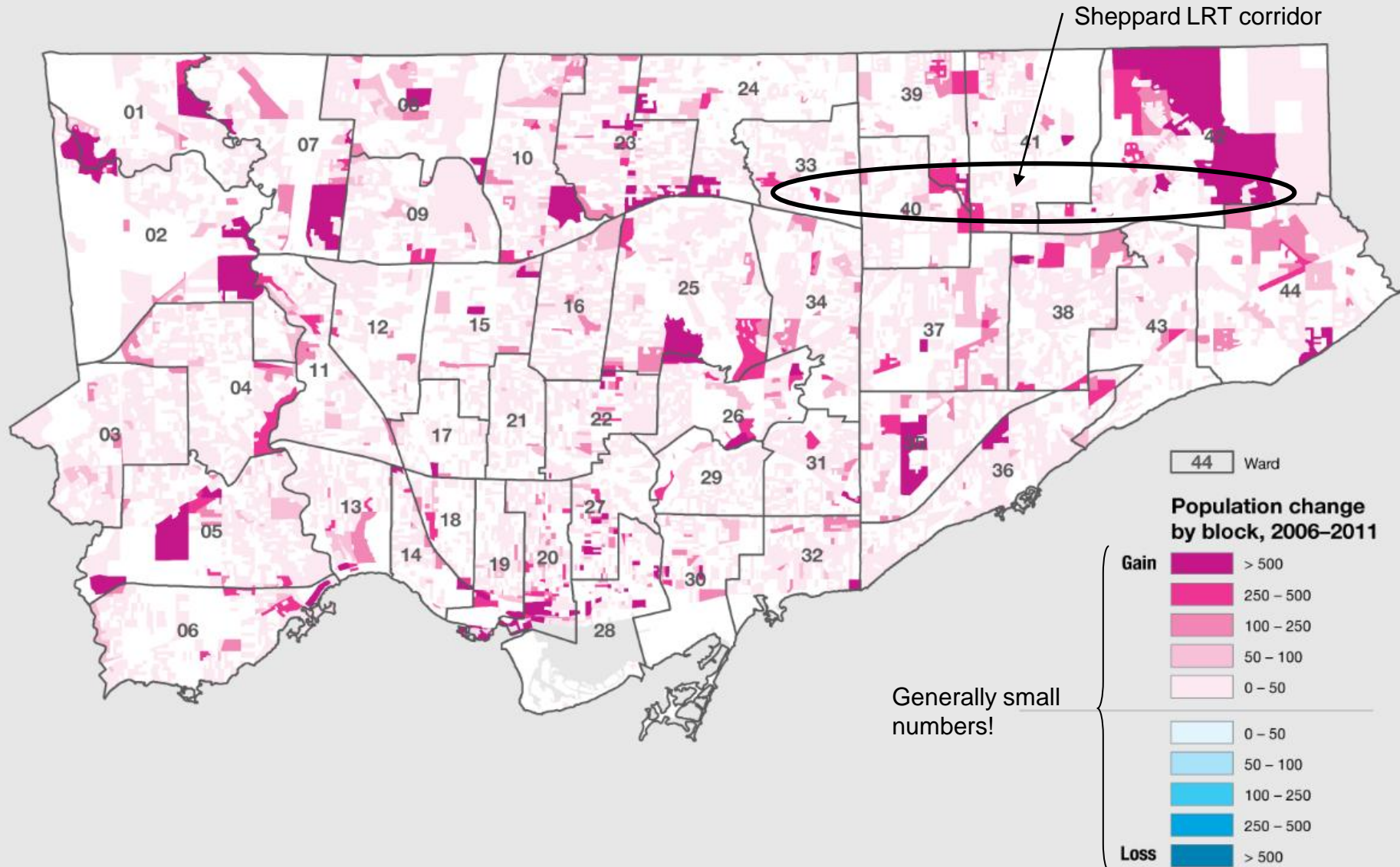
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Population Decline by Block, 2006-2011



Source: Zack Taylor, 2012 Census Data

Population Growth by Block, 2006-2011



Source: Zack Taylor, 2012 Census Data

Sustainability I: Gas Prices

- Gasoline prices are going to increase significantly and permanently in the future.
- The effect of much higher gas prices have not been incorporated into the ridership forecasts.
- Suburban areas such as Scarborough will be much more dramatically affected by this than downtown areas.
- The LRT option, with its greater coverage, provides a greater potential for mode switching than the subway option.

Sustainability II: Walkability

- Mixed-use, higher-density, more walkable/bikeable neighbourhoods are an essential component in promoting healthier and less auto-dependent lifestyles.
- Developing such neighbourhoods in suburban areas such as Scarborough will be challenging under any scenario.
- On-street LRT has much greater potential for facilitating this sort of development than the subway option.
- LRT is a neighbourhood-building technology!



Rendering of a proposed transit line on Hurontario Street in Mississauga, Ont.

Source: Andre Sorensen

Cost-Effectiveness of Investment

| | Sheppard LRT | Sheppard Subway | Sheppard & Finch LRT |
|---|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Annual New Riders (millions) | 7.7 | 12.2 | 14.0 |
| Capital Cost (\$billions) | 1.0 | 3.3 | 1.9 |
| Cost/New Rider (\$) | 130 | 266 | 136 |
| <i>Source: TTC Submission to Transit Expert Panel, Feb. 17/12</i> | | | |

- Sheppard subway is much less cost-effective than LRT on a per new rider basis – an important metric for judging transit investments.*
- Building the Sheppard subway would consume the \$2.33B available from Metrolinx and the Federal Government, leaving nothing for Finch West* and would still require \$1B in additional, unsecured funding.
- Investing \$1.9B in Sheppard and Finch LRTs will generate more new riders than investing this money in the Sheppard subway.

* These statements hold in general even if the subway can be built more cost-effectively than currently assumed by the TTS (although, obviously, the numbers would change accordingly).