

Info Sheet #1: Why Study Keele and Finch?

Significant investment in public transit is being made at the Keele Street and Finch Avenue West intersection, which consists of the following:

- A new subway station is under construction, which is part of the Toronto York Spadina Subway Extension or TYSSE. The TYSSE project is being led by the TTC and the subway is expected to open in 2017. You can get more information on that project at www.ttc.ca/Spadina/index.jsp
- A light rail transit line or LRT is funded for the Finch Avenue West corridor and is expected to be under construction in 2017 and open by 2021. This project is being led by Metrolinx and will include a new streetscape and cycle track along Finch Avenue West. You can get more information on this project at www.metrolinx.com/finchwest

Investment in these two new transit lines will be a stimulus for growth and investment. The Keele Finch Plus Study will help guide that growth.

In 2015, the City of Toronto completed a Planning Approach in response to committed investment in the Finch Avenue West LRT. This work involved researching and evaluating the corridor in order to arrive at a recommendation on how to prioritize areas along the corridor for study. Working with Metrolinx the City of Toronto's City Planning Division created a profile of the corridor, conducted a real estate market scan, evaluated the planning framework and looked at case studies of similar LRT projects in other jurisdictions throughout North America. Social equity was also a factor as the City's Neighbourhood Improvement Areas indices were considered. Using that research and evidence, City Planning recommended to City Council that the Keele and Finch area be studied first, with the Jane and Finch area and Albion and Kipling area to be studied next. City Council adopted the recommendations at its December 2015 meeting. The Staff Report, profile, real estate market scan and case studies are all available online by visiting www.toronto.ca/planning/sipa and scrolling down to "Finch Avenue West and Sheppard Avenue East Corridors – Planning Study Approach". Information about "Neighbourhood Improvement Areas" is also on the City's website.

To summarize the above, the Keele and Finch area is being studied because:

- City Council has directed a Study of the area;
- A subway station is expected to be open next year and an LRT by 2021, which will stimulate growth;
- It is an area of higher social need, based on the City's Neighbourhood Improvement Areas work, and there is an opportunity to leverage investment in transit for the benefit of the current and future residents and businesses; and
- In advance of anticipated growth, we all have an opportunity now to shape that growth through Keele Finch Plus.