

# THE COSTS OF COORDINATION:

## Multilevel Politics + Urban Transit Infrastructure

**Martin Horak, Associate Professor of Political Science, University of Western Ontario**

**February 8, 2012 | 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. | Conference Room, 1st Floor, Hickerson House  
108 Battle Lane | UNC-Chapel Hill Campus | Chapel Hill, North Carolina**

**Bring your lunch | Light desserts + beverages provided**

Building new public transit infrastructure in large cities is usually beyond the policy capacity of local governments. In order to realize major projects such as new subway and light rail systems, local advocates often require support from other levels of government.

**Whose influence prevails in the multilevel politics of urban transit infrastructure?  
How do agents coordinate power and resources to realize transit infrastructure projects?  
How does multilevel politics change these projects?**

Martin Horak is exploring these questions through structured comparisons among major Canadian and American cities. This talk will present some preliminary findings from Toronto and Vancouver, where multilevel policy processes have increased the vulnerability of transit projects to short-term political pressures. It will also lay out a strategy for investigating the impact of multilevel politics on transit development in comparable cities in the United States.

**Martin Horak is a Visiting Scholar at UNC's Center for Urban + Regional Studies.**

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For more information about this event contact: Christy Sandy, Interim Associate Director, Center for Urban + Regional Studies, 919-962-3076 or [csandy@email.unc.edu](mailto:csandy@email.unc.edu).