

Ministry of
Transportation

Office of the Minister

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Ministère des
Transports

Bureau du ministre

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MAR 24 2017

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His Worship Fred Eisenberger
Mayor
City of Hamilton
71 Main Street West, 2nd Floor
Hamilton ON L8P 4Y5

Dear Mayor Eisenberger:

Thank you for your letter regarding the widening of Highway 403 from the Lincoln M. Alexander Parkway to Main Street in Hamilton and the request to examine traffic congestion at the Red Hill Valley Parkway and the Queen Elizabeth Way (QEW). I welcome the opportunity to respond.

Highway 403 is an important transportation corridor, and the ministry recognizes the need to keep traffic moving safely and efficiently. In 2007, the Ministry of Transportation initiated the Niagara to Greater Toronto Area Corridor Planning and Environmental Assessment Study (NGTA Study) to examine opportunities for transportation improvements and assess transportation planning alternatives and recommendations for future infrastructure needs in the Niagara to GTA corridor, including Hamilton.

The NGTA Study looked at several alternatives to increase the capacity of the transportation system in this corridor, utilizing transit and highway infrastructure options to provide for the efficient movement of people and goods in Niagara, Hamilton and Halton.

Phase 1 of the NGTA Study is complete. Recommendations include highway improvements and the widening of Highway 403 in Hamilton, with one additional lane per direction from King Street/Main Street to Jerseyville and the widening of the QEW by one additional lane per direction from the Red Hill Valley Parkway interchange to Highway 406, to alleviate traffic congestion.

These recommendations are subject to environmental assessments and approvals before implementation. Timing to initiate this next phase will be dependent on further review and prioritization of expansion needs across the province.

Currently, the expansion of Highway 403 from the Brant/Hamilton boundary to the Highway 403/QEW interchange in Hamilton is identified on the 2016-2020 Southern Highways Program, our five-year capital program, as planning for the future. The start of construction for this project will depend on its prioritization in relation to other needs across the province and funding availability. The 2016-2020 Southern Highway Plan can be viewed at <http://www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/highway-bridges/pdfs/southern-highways-program-2016-2020.pdf>.

In addition, the ministry is moving forward with two Class Environmental Assessment and Preliminary Design Studies which will address the need for improvements at Highway 403/QEW and Highway 6/Highway 403 interchanges. These studies will also look at highway operations along Highway 403. City of Hamilton staff will be invited to participate in these two studies.

Should you require further information, please contact Hossein Hosseini, Project Engineer, Highway Engineering, Hamilton and Niagara Section, at Hossein.Hosseini@Ontario.ca or 416-235-5513.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steven Del Duca', written in a cursive style.

Steven Del Duca
Minister