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M2016-4688

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 widening Highway 403 to three lanes in Hamilton. 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 initiated the Niagara to Greater Toronto Area (NGTA) Corridor Planning and Environmental Assessment Study.

The NGTA study examined potential transportation improvements and assessed transportation planning alternatives and recommendations for future infrastructure needs in the Niagara to GTA corridor, including Hamilton. The study looked at several ways to increase the transportation system's capacity, including using transit and highway infrastructure options to move both people and goods efficiently in Niagara, Hamilton and Halton.

I am pleased to advise that Phase 1 of the Niagara to GTA Corridor Planning and Environmental Assessment Study is now complete. Recommendations include highway improvements and widening of Highway 403 in Hamilton, with two additional lanes from King Street/Main Street to Jerseyville to alleviate traffic congestion. More information on this study can be found at www.niagara-gta.com.

The study's recommendations are now subject to environmental assessments and approvals before implementation. Timing to initiate this next phase is dependent on further review and prioritization of Ontario's corridor investment strategies, and commitments in the Southern Highways Program (SHP) for a sustainable transportation system. Highway 403 expansion from the Brant/Hamilton boundary to the Highway 403/Queen Elizabeth Way (QEW) interchange in Hamilton is identified in the 2016-2020 SHP under Planning for the Future. The ministry will continue to monitor traffic operations on Highway 403.

The ministry is about to move forward with two Class Environmental Assessment and Preliminary Design Studies which will address the need for improvements at the Highway 403/QEW and Highway 6/Highway 403 interchanges. These studies will also look at highway operations along Highway 403. We will ask City of Hamilton staff to participate in these two studies.

If you have any further questions, please contact Martin Michalek, Area Manager, Highway Engineering, Hamilton and Niagara Section at 416-235-5606, or at Martin.Michalek@ontario.ca.

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