

Ministry of  
Transportation

Ministère des  
Transports

Office of the Minister

Bureau du ministre

Ferguson Block, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
77 Wellesley St. West  
Toronto ON M7A 1Z8  
416-327-9200  
[www.ontario.ca/transportation](http://www.ontario.ca/transportation)

Édifice Ferguson, 3<sup>e</sup> étage  
77, rue Wellesley Ouest  
Toronto (Ontario) M7A 1Z8  
416-327-9200  
[www.ontario.ca/transports](http://www.ontario.ca/transports)



JAN 23 2018

JAN 16 2018

M2017-4275

His Worship Fred Eisenberger  
City of Hamilton  
71 Main Street West, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Hamilton ON L8P 4Y5

Dear Mayor Eisenberger:

Thank you for your letter regarding the proposed new Highway 5 and 6 Interchange and the expansion of Highway 403 to three lanes between Lincoln Alexander Parkway and Main Street. I welcome the opportunity to respond.

The proposed new Highway 5 and 6 interchange is identified in the ministry's 2017-2021 Southern Highways Program under "Planning for the Future." This section highlights projects planned for 2022 and beyond. The project is currently in the detail design phase, and construction funding and timing has yet to be determined. Timing to initiate construction will be dependent on the future review and prioritization of important infrastructure needs across the province. Infrastructure needs are reviewed annually on a rolling basis with new projects being added to the Southern Highways Program each year.

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 Road. Also, to alleviate traffic congestion, it is recommended that the QEW be widened by one additional lane per direction from the Red Hill Valley Parkway interchange to Highway 406.

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 also identified in the 2017-2021 Southern Highways Program's, "Planning for the Future" action. The start of construction for this project will depend on its prioritization in relation to other needs across the province and funding availability.

In addition, the ministry is moving forward with two Class Environmental Assessment and Preliminary Design Studies, which will look at the need for improvements at Highway 403/QEW and Highway 6/Highway 403 interchanges and ensure that the current infrastructure renewal projects reflect future expansion needs. 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 Rita Venneri, Area Manager, Planning and Design at 416-235-5006 or e-mail [Rita.Venneri@ontario.ca](mailto:Rita.Venneri@ontario.ca).

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steven Del Duca', with a stylized, cursive script.

Steven Del Duca  
Minister