

Ministry of
Transportation

Office of the Minister

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Ministère des
Transports

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JAN 16 2018

M2017-4601

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 about MTO Digital Signage for the Eastport Drive Lift Bridge. I welcome the opportunity to respond.

The ministry uses the COMPASS variable message signs in the vicinity of the Burlington Bay area to manage incidents, roadwork, and recurring congestion problems along the QEW, including the Burlington Skyway. Also, signs located upstream of the skyway are often used to provide advance high wind warnings so that motorists (especially commercial vehicle operators) can be pre-warned to reduce their speed as they approach this elevated section of the QEW. Since these high-priority signing strategies are designed to override all applicable signs during adverse weather or relevant event, it would not be possible for the signs to accommodate lift bridge status information on a consistent basis.

In addition, the Burlington Canal Lift Bridge is a federally owned bridge managed by the Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC). To provide real-time lift bridge status, a direct connection must be established between the bridge position sensor located within the bridge tower and our COMPASS signs. However, tight security measures imposed by PWGSC have made this connection extremely difficult.

Despite the bridge security challenge and the current sign display priority concerns, the ministry's Intelligent Transportation Systems Section (ITSS) is currently looking into a new detection technology solution that can effectively monitor the lift bridge status and relay the information to the data cloud. The intent is to allow the ministry to access and manage the lift bridge status information on a system platform. Once proven and developed, the lift bridge status information may be incorporated in our COMPASS variable message signs for display. Also, this information may be used on Ontario 511 and the information could potentially be inserted in real-time traffic apps like WAZE or shared through connected vehicle technology in the years to come.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven Del Duca". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Steven" being more prominent than the last name "Del Duca".

Steven Del Duca
Minister