

Truck route Sub-Committee Presentation November 29, 2021

Airport RHVP Link – Gabe Pitura

Mr. Chair and members of the Truck Route Sub-committee, my name is Gabe Pitura. I'm a resident of Dickenson Road East.

We are requesting that the committee approve, prioritize and accelerate the report of the Truck Route Committee for the construction of the Airport to Redhill Valley Parkway Link. This bypass which was previously approved by council over 16 years ago can better accommodate the increase in commuter traffic and truck traffic currently driving through our rural residential community. We feel that funds should be allocated to build a permanent Redhill Valley Parkway Link road as opposed to allocating the funds for temporary rural road improvements in the Glanbrook area and continue to have trucks cut through our quiet rural residential communities.

The residents of Dickenson Road East have been dealing with increased illegal truck traffic for many years which has created a large safety risk for the residents of Dickenson Road East. Dickenson Road East is shared by many cyclists and cycling clubs, joggers and pedestrians, including seniors, youth and people with pets and people accessing the rail trail. Trucks driving on our road will continue to put our safety at risk. Although Dickenson Road East is marked as a cycling route, many cyclists are afraid to cycle especially during high traffic times such as before 8am and after 3:30 p.m due to the already increased commuter volume of traffic and the illegal trucks currently using our road. We already have a very dangerous situation here which could be prevented by approving the Redhill Valley Parkway Link. It has been nice to see that over the last several years, the City of Hamilton has been focussed on adding more cycling routes but these are mostly routes within urban areas. We are relieved to see that this rural bike route would be preserved and offer a safe route for cyclists, pedestrians children getting on and off the school buses and the occasional horse back rider. Also, due to increased traffic and vehicles travelling at high speeds pedestrians have become at greater risk of being hit. The current illegal large truck traffic makes walking very unsafe and difficult for our residents now. There are many people who access the rail trail. Again due to already increased commuter traffic and vehicles travelling at high speeds crossing Dickenson while on the rail trail and accessing the rail trail from Dickenson Road E. is currently very dangerous. Allowing illegal trucks to use our road as a short cut to or from Upper James has increased our risk even more. In fact, there have already been 2 fatalities at this rail trail junction.

Knowing that the new Redhill Valley Parkway link is being considered gives us great comfort knowing that this route would relieve both commuter and current illegal truck traffic on our road. The residents of Dickenson Road East chose to live here for the rural atmosphere with very easy and close access to retail and service areas as well as enjoying the natural setting of a rural community. There are over 90 homes on Dickenson Road East, most of which have been here far longer than the businesses on Nebo Road which appear to be the majority of the illegal truck traffic.

Building this link will definitely reduce both commuter and truck traffic and will make Dickenson road safe for the residents. This link will redirect traffic away from Upper James which is already very congested and would be beneficial for businesses and residences near and along Upper James. It will also likely attract more businesses to move here knowing that the movement of goods will become more efficient. Building the link will be in the best interest of residents safety and for future business expansion for Hamilton and surrounding area.

We concur with the statement made by the TRMP which I received in an email dated March 17, 2021 which stated: "The optimum goal is to develop a truck route network that balances the needs of the goods movement industry and the interests of community at large. Notably, the safety of all road users is paramount in our decision makings and highly influences the outcomes of this planning process. We feel that the construction of the RHVP link supports this goal.

We sincerely ask Mr. Chair and the Truck Route sub-committee, to prioritize the bi-pass link now.

We thank you for giving us the opportunity to provide input in support of the recommendations made by the TRMP Committee.