



The Regional
Municipality
of Durham

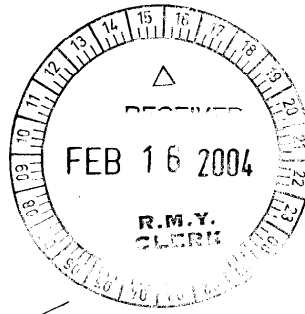
Clerk's Department

605 ROSSLAND RD. E.
PO BOX 623
WHITBY ON L1N 6A3
CANADA
905-668-7711
1-800-372-1102
Fax: 905-668-9963
Email:
clerks@region.durham.on.ca

www.region.durham.on.ca

Pat M. Madill, A.M.C.T., CMM I
Regional Clerk

February 12, 2004



The Honourable Dalton McGuinty
Premier of Ontario
Room 281, Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A4

REGION OF YORK
CLERK'S OFFICE

FILE No. -

**RE: PROVINCIAL HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENTS IN DURHAM
REGION, FILE: E03-407-02 (2004-J-6) OUR FILE: T00-00**

Honourable Sir, the Joint Planning and Works Committee of Regional Council considered the above matter and at a meeting held on February 11, 2004, Council adopted the following recommendations of the Committee:

- a) THAT the Provincial Government be requested to proceed expeditiously with improvements to the Provincial highway network in Durham Region, including:
 - i) The extension of Highway 407 to Highway 35/115, including two high-speed freeway connections to Highway 401;
 - ii) The expansion of Highway 401, including the construction of new and improved interchanges; and
 - iii) The extension of Highway 404 and the related widening of Highways 12 and 48;
- b) THAT the Provincial Government be requested to take the following actions in the immediate term to facilitate the timely implementation of these improvements:
 - i) Resume and expedite completion of the Highway 407 East extension EA study;
 - ii) Continue with the implementation of new Highway 401 interchanges at Lake Ridge Road and Stevenson Road, in accordance with the approved cost sharing agreement between the Minister of Transportation and the Region of Durham;



- iii) Complete the necessary EA and design studies, and budget financing, to widen Highway 401 to a 10-lane cross-section, from Brock Road to Stevenson Road, as the first step in the ultimate expansion program;
 - iv) Review and update the previously completed Preliminary Design Report for Highway 401 between Brock Road and Courtice Road, especially as it relates to the location and configuration of future interchanges and grade separations;
 - v) Conduct a study to determine the future configuration of Highway 401 and its interchanges and grade separations, from Courtice Road to the east Durham boundary;
 - vi) Initiate design for the Highway 404 extension and Highway 48 expansion; and
 - vii) Proceed with planned improvements to Highway 7/12 between the north and south junctions of Highway 7; and
- c) THAT copies of Joint Report #2004-J-6 of the Commissioner of Planning and the Commissioner of Works be forwarded to the Honourable Dalton McGuinty, Premier of the Province of Ontario, the Honourable Harinder Takhar, Minister of Transportation, the Regional Municipality of York, all Durham MPP's and area municipalities within Durham."

Please find enclosed a copy of Joint Report #2004-J-6 of the Commissioner of Planning and the Commissioner of Works for your information.



P.M. Madill, AMCT, CMM I
Regional Clerk

PMM/cg

Enclosure

c: See Attached List

- c: The Honourable Harinder Takhar, Minister of Transportation
Mr. D. Kelly, Clerk, Regional Municipality of York
Mr. W. Arthurs, M.P.P., Pickering/Ajax/Uxbridge
Mr. J. Flaherty, M.P.P., Whitby/Ajax
Mr. J. O'Toole, M.P.P., Durham
Mr. J. Ouellette, M.P.P., Oshawa
Ms. L. Scott, M.P.P., Haliburton/Victoria/Brock
Mr. M. de Rond, Clerk, Town of Ajax
Mr. G.S. Graham, Clerk-Administrator, Township of Brock
Ms. P.L. Barrie, Clerk, Municipality of Clarington
Ms. S. Kranc, Clerk, City of Oshawa
Mr. B. Taylor, Clerk, City of Pickering
Ms. K. Coates, Clerk, Township of Scugog
Mr. W.E. Taylor, Clerk, Township of Uxbridge
Mr. D.G. McKay, Clerk, Town of Whitby



The Regional Municipality of Durham

To: The Planning and Works Committees

From: Commissioners of Planning and Works

Report No.: 2004-J-6

Date: February 4, 2004

SUBJECT:

Provincial Highway Improvements in Durham Region, File: E03-407-02

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- a) THAT the Provincial Government be requested to proceed expeditiously with improvements to the Provincial highway network in Durham Region, including:
 - i) The extension of Highway 407 to Highway 35/115, including two high-speed freeway connections to Highway 401;
 - ii) The expansion of Highway 401, including the construction of new and improved interchanges; and
 - iii) The extension of Highway 404 and the related widening of Highways 12 and 48;
- b) THAT the Provincial Government be requested to take the following actions in the immediate term to facilitate the timely implementation of these improvements:
 - i) Resume and expedite completion of the Highway 407 East extension EA study;
 - ii) Continue with the implementation of new Highway 401 interchanges at Lake Ridge Road and Stevenson Road, in accordance with the approved cost sharing agreement between the Minister of Transportation and the Region of Durham;
 - iii) Complete the necessary EA and design studies, and budget financing, to widen Highway 401 to a 10-lane cross-section, from Brock Road to Stevenson Road, as the first step in the ultimate expansion program;

- iv) Review and update the previously completed Preliminary Design Report for Highway 401 between Brock Road and Courtice Road, especially as it relates to the location and configuration of future interchanges and grade separations;
 - v) Conduct a study to determine the future configuration of Highway 401 and its interchanges and grade separations, from Courtice Road to the east Durham boundary;
 - vi) Initiate design for the Highway 404 extension and Highway 48 expansion; and
 - vii) Proceed with planned improvements to Highway 7/12 between the north and south junctions of Highway 7; and
- c) THAT copies of this report be forwarded to the Honourable Dalton McGuinty, Premier of the Province of Ontario, the Honourable Harinder Takhar, Minister of Transportation, all Durham MPP's and area municipalities within Durham.
-

REPORT:

1. BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

- 1.1 The Community Strategic Plan (CSP) emphasizes the importance of a strong and integrated transportation system to support the quality of life and long-term prosperity of Durham Region. The CSP recommends "advocating for transportation improvements to address commuter needs and support effective movement of goods and services by all modes" to help this occur. Completion of several key Provincial highway projects, including Highways 401, 404 and 407, is viewed as the desired end result of this strategic action.
- 1.2 Building on the directions of the CSP, the Durham Transportation Master Plan (TMP) includes a series of recommendations related to improving the Provincial highway network in Durham Region. This report provides an overview and status update for each of these projects, which include:
- The extension of Highway 407;
 - The expansion of Highway 401;

- The extension of Highway 404 and related widening of Highways 12 and 48; and
- Improvements to other Provincial highways, in particular Highway 7/12.

2. HIGHWAY 407 EAST EXTENSION

- 2.1 Highway 407 is currently operational from the Queen Elizabeth Way in Burlington to Highway 7 east of Brock Road in Pickering. The highway is proposed to be extended easterly to Highway 35/115 in the Municipality of Clarington, with two freeway connections (links), between Highways 401 and 407.
- 2.2 The critical importance of the Highway 407 East extension to Durham Region has been reported on several occasions. Constructing the highway completes the freeway network in Durham, and is key to achieving many of the Region's growth objectives and to supporting planned development.
- 2.3 In Spring 2002, MTO initiated the Highway 407 East Completion EA Study to obtain approvals for the extension and the links. In May 2003, the draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for the EA Study was made available to the Region and other stakeholders for pre-submission review. In response to a deadline of July 31, 2003, the Region provided its comments on the draft ToR through Report No. 2003-J-18, which was endorsed by Regional Council on July 9, 2003. The report was generally supportive of the approach outlined in the ToR, and recommended that the EA Study be expedited, where possible, to finalize the alignment and proceed with implementation.
- 2.4 The original schedule called for MTO to finalize the ToR, incorporating comments from stakeholders, and submit the document to MOE for approval, some time in September 2003. Recent discussions with MTO staff indicate that the ToR has not been filed with MOE to date. The EA study can only commence with the approval of the ToR by the Minister of Environment.
- 2.5 As documented in the Region's response to the Ministry's draft ToR, there is an urgent need to complete the EA study and finalize the alignment for the extension and the links. To date, the Region has been reviewing development applications to ensure that the previously recommended route

established in the early 1990's (also identified in the Regional Official Plan) is not compromised. However, this alignment can only be formally protected once the EA is approved. For this reason, it is extremely important and urgent that MTO finalize the highway location.

- 2.6 More than six months has passed since the end of the pre-submission review period, and the ToR has yet to be filed with MOE. Given the critical importance of this project, it is recommended that the Provincial Government be urged to resume the EA Study and proceed expeditiously to completion.

3. HIGHWAY 401 EXPANSION

- 3.1 Highway 401 is a vital economic link connecting the State of Michigan and southern Ontario with eastern Ontario and Quebec. About 58 km of this highway passes through the Region of Durham. This heavily travelled section of road serves as the "backbone" of the Region's transportation system, and is of utmost importance to serving local passenger and goods movement needs. Expansion to the capacity of the highway, together with new and upgraded interchanges, are needed to keep pace with growing travel demands and improve road safety.
- 3.2 Table 1 summarizes the present and ultimate configuration of Highway 401 through Durham Region. The existing 12-lane express-collector configuration represents the ultimate cross-section for Highway 401 west of Brock Road. A preliminary design study completed by MTO in 1990, and endorsed by Regional Council, established ultimate plans for the section between Brock Road and Courtice Road. At present, there are no plans for widening Highway 401 east of Courtice Road.

TABLE 1 – PRESENT AND ULTIMATE CONFIGURATION OF HIGHWAY 401 THROUGH DURHAM REGION

Section	Length	Number of Lanes	
		Present	Ultimate
West Boundary – Brock Rd	6.4 km	12-lanes (E-C)	12-lanes (E-C)
Brock Rd – Westney Rd	2.7 km	10-lanes	12-lanes (E-C)
Westney Rd – Harwood Ave	1.5 km	8-lanes	12-lanes (E-C)
Harwood Ave – Lake Ridge Rd	3.3 km	6-lanes	12-lanes (E-C)

Lake Ridge Rd – Courtice Rd	18.5 km	6-lanes	10-lanes
Courtice Rd – East Boundary	26.3 km	6-lanes	Undefined

Note: E-C refers to an "Express-Collector" configuration.

- 3.3 As part of the plan to expand Highway 401, MTO and the Region are working co-operatively, with the assistance of the area municipalities, to advance the construction of new interchanges at Salem Road, Lake Ridge Road and Stevenson Road. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for these works, dated April 8, 1999 between the Minister of Transportation and the Region, also makes provisions for the removal of outdated interchanges at Harwood Avenue and Park Road, and the widening of Highway 401 from Harwood Avenue to Salem Road. The MOU has since been complemented with an agreement to cap the municipal contributions towards these projects.
- 3.4 Table 2 summarizes the status of these projects, which are at various stages of the planning, design and construction process.

TABLE 2 – STATUS OF HIGHWAY 401 INTERCHANGE PROJECTS

Location	Status
Salem Road / Harwood Avenue	• The Salem Road interchange opened and the Harwood Avenue interchange closed in December 2003. • Construction is presently underway to replace the two existing structures over Highway 401 at Harwood Avenue with one bridge capable of accommodating the ultimate 12-lane widening. • The widening of Highway 401 from 6 to 8 lanes, with provision for 10 lanes, between Harwood Avenue and Salem Road is also being carried out as part of this project. The 10-lane widening represents an interim improvement towards the ultimate configuration of 12 lanes. • Construction is expected to be complete by mid-2005.
Lake Ridge Road	• An EA Study is underway. • Timing for construction will be subject to environmental approvals, property acquisition, and funding, but could commence as early as 2006.
Stevenson Road / Park Road	• Detail design is nearly complete. • Construction is anticipated to start summer 2004, subject to property acquisition and funding.

- 3.5 MTO is also undertaking several EA and design studies to prepare for the widening of Highway 401 from Westney Road to Stevenson Road. Table 3 updates the status of these initiatives.

TABLE 3 – STATUS OF HIGHWAY 401 WIDENING STUDIES

Section	Status
Westney Road to Harwood Avenue	• An EA Study has been completed and filed with the Ministry of Environment (MOE) for widening from 8 to 10 lanes. This is an interim improvement towards the ultimate configuration of 12 lanes. • Detail design is anticipated to start in 2004. • Timing for construction has not been finalized. It is expected to occur some time after the completion of the Harwood Avenue structure replacement in mid-2005, subject to funding.
Salem Road to Brock Street	• An EA Study is currently underway for considering widening from 6 to 10 lanes from east of Salem Road to Brock Street. The widening represents an interim improvement towards the ultimate configuration of 12 lanes west of Lake Ridge Road, and 10 lanes to the east. • Timing for construction will be subject to environmental approvals, property acquisition, and funding.
Brock Street to Stevenson Road	• EA Study has just been initiated for considering widening from 6 to the ultimate 10 lanes from Brock Street to Stevenson Road • The study is expected to be complete by the end of 2004. • Timing for construction will be subject to environmental approvals, property acquisition, and funding.

3.6 Once completed, the current projects and studies will enable the expansion of Highway 401 to a 10-lane configuration between Brock Road and Stevenson Road. This will provide some relief to current levels of congestion along Highway 401. It is recommended that MTO proceed expeditiously to complete these studies and construct the proposed works as the first stage in the Highway 401 expansion plan.

3.7 MTO last updated the ultimate expansion plans for Highway 401 between Brock Road and Courtice Road in 1990, and does not have a strategy east of Courtice Road. Given the growth and development the Region has and continues to experience, it is recommended that MTO review and update its long range plans for Highway 401 east of Brock Road, in consultation with the Region and the area municipalities. Special consideration should be given to the location and configuration of interchanges and grade separations, especially in the vicinity of Harmony Road and Townline Road, and east of Courtice Road.

4. HIGHWAY 404 EXTENSION

- 4.1 In August 2002, MTO received approval from the Minister of the Environment for the extension of Highway 404 from Davis Drive to Highway 12. The approved route consists of a new 45 km four-lane, controlled-access highway, which extends north easterly from Davis Drive to Lake Ridge Road (Regional Road 23), and a 9 km transition section between Lake Ridge Road and Highway 12. This transition section, the only portion of the proposed highway within Durham Region, will be achieved by twinning existing Highway 48.
- 4.2 The extension of Highway 404 into Durham and related improvements to Highways 12 and 48 will provide economic and social benefits for the Region's northern communities. These improvements would offer better access to York Region, and would help to relieve truck traffic pressures on Regional Roads within rural communities.
- 4.3 MTO has indicated that construction of the Highway 404 extension will be staged corresponding to future traffic demand. To date, only a small portion of the highway has been constructed between Davis Drive and Green Lane in Newmarket. MTO is currently in the process of retaining a consultant to carry forward with the next phase of the design for the section between Green Lane and Woodbine Avenue. Construction could begin as early as 2006, depending on approvals, property acquisition and the availability of funding.
- 4.4 MTO does not have plans to extend the highway any further at this time. It is recommended that the Ministry, at a minimum, initiate the design work required to obtain approvals, acquire land, and begin construction in the near term.

5. HIGHWAY 7/12 AND OTHER PROVINCIAL HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENTS

- 5.1 MTO intends to improve Highway 7/12 between Columbus Road and Highway 7A, and from Regional Road 13 to the north junction of Highway 7. The scope of works includes resurfacing, the addition of truck climbing lanes, intersection improvements, bridge rehabilitation and the installation of traffic control signals at select intersections. Detail design and property acquisition are nearing completion.

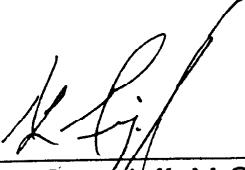
5.2 Deferral of these important works has contributed to localized operational and safety concerns at the intersections of Highway 7/12 and Regional Roads 5 (Myrtle), 13 (just south of Blackwater) and 10 (Sunderland). It is recommended that MTO proceed with these works at its earliest opportunity, in light of these concerns.

5.3 MTO is also in the process of reconstructing Highway 7A east of Port Perry to address pavement conditions, add a truck climbing lane and improve the intersection with Island Road (Regional Road 7), including signalization. This work will be completed in spring 2004. In addition, the Ministry is considering rehabilitating existing Highway 35/115, and twinning Highway 35 north of the interchange with Highway 115.

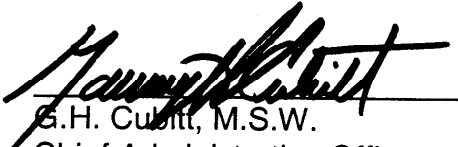
6. **CONCLUSION**

6.1 Continued investment in the Provincial highway network is fundamental to preserving and enhancing Durham's economic competitiveness and to facilitating planned growth. The extension of Highway 407, expansion of Highway 401, extension of Highway 404, and improvements to Highway 7/12 are all integral components of the Region's transportation plan and need to be implemented in a timely fashion. For this to occur, MTO needs to proceed expeditiously with the planning and design of these projects, with funding programmed for their construction.

6.2 It is recommended that a copy of this report be forwarded to the Premier of the Province of Ontario, the Minister of Transportation, all Durham MPP's and the area municipalities within Durham.


A.L. Georgieff, M.C.I.P., R.P.P.
Commissioner of Planning
Clifford Curtis, P.Eng., MBA
Commissioner of Works

RECOMMENDED FOR PRESENTATION TO COMMITTEE


G.H. Culitt, M.S.W.
Chief Administrative Officer

H:\1-2\agendas\2004\02-04-04\Highway Improvements.DOC