

**Ministry of Public
Infrastructure Renewal**

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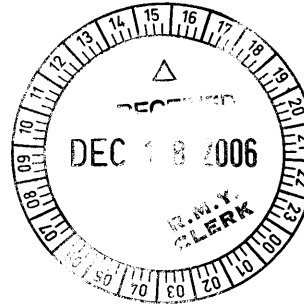
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PIR1826MC-2006-333
December 12, 2006

Mr. Denis Kelly
Regional Clerk
York Region, Corporate Services Department
17250 Yonge Street
Newmarket, Ontario
L3Y 6Z1

Dear Mr. Kelly:

Thank you for your letter and attached recommendations on behalf of York Regional Council regarding the Southern Ontario Highway Program. I appreciate being kept apprised of council's views.

As you know, in June 2006, my ministry released the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe (GGH), which provides the government's vision for building stronger, prosperous communities by better managing growth in this fast growing region until the year 2031. Schedule 6 in the Growth Plan for the GGH provides a strategic framework for future investment decisions in the GGH. Schedule 6 also includes the Highway 404 extension to Ravenshoe Road in Georgina. Transportation corridor projects that are not included in the Growth Plan at this time are being considered as a longer-term priority in the larger picture of growth management.

The environmental assessment study process for the Highway 427 extension to the inter-modal facility in Vaughan is progressing, and the public consultation is scheduled to begin in early 2007. I see you have also written to my colleague the Honourable Donna Cansfield, Minister of Transportation. I am confident that she will provide you with an update on highway projects in York Region.

I also note that you have forwarded a copy of your correspondence to my colleague the Honourable John Gerretsen, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. I trust that he, too, will give council's recommendations every consideration.

Mr Kelly, thank you again for writing and council's continued support in the *Places to Grow* initiative.
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Caplan".

David Caplan
Minister

c: The Honourable Donna Cansfield
The Honourable John Gerretsen