

**Ministry of
Transportation**

Office of the Minister

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**Ministère des
Transports**

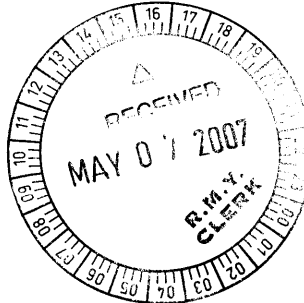
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MAY 01 2007

Mr. Denis Kelly
Regional Clerk
The Regional Municipality of York
17250 Yonge Street
Newmarket, Ontario
L3Y 6Z1



REC
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PO7
Chair
CAO
B. Tuckey

Dear Mr. Kelly:

Thank you for your letter of October 20, 2006, and York Regional Council's recommendations regarding the five-year Southern Ontario Highways Program. I am pleased to update you on the Highway 404 Extension and Highway 427 Extension projects.

The Southern Ontario Highways Program, 2006 to 2010 set the construction start for the Highway 404 Extension to Ravenshoe Road at 2007. The completion is targeted for beyond 2010. While projects planned in our highway program are subject to change based on planning, design, environmental approvals and property acquisition, we are working diligently to move these projects forward.

I appreciate regional council's desire to accelerate projects like Highway 404. On March 6, 2007, the federal government announced funding for transit and highway projects in the GTA. This announcement included the province's goal for construction completion of the Highway 404 Extension, from Green Lane to Ravenshoe Road, by 2012. We will aggressively work towards this completion.

The ministry is not currently proceeding with any further work on the Highway 404 Extension beyond Ravenshoe Road. However, the route beyond Ravenshoe Road is approved and designated as a Controlled Access Highway. This protects the approved corridor for future construction.

The ministry's 427 Transportation Corridor Environmental Assessment is well underway. We are looking for opportunities to address transportation problems related to the current end of Highway 427 in Vaughan. We expect this study to take about three years to complete and that an Environmental Assessment Report could be submitted to the Minister of the Environment by mid-2009. The Environmental Assessment decision may be issued nine to 12 months after the submission. However, approval from the federal government may also be required and this could affect the approval timeframe. The construction timing for this project has yet to be set. Once we receive the Environmental Assessment approval, we will carry out the necessary detail design and property acquisition activities. This can take approximately three to five years to complete.

In addition, the ministry continues to work with York staff in an effort to expedite the construction of York's Interim Arterial Extension. A recent grant of \$1 million was also provided to York by the province to assist in continuing to provide transportation planning to serve the people of Ontario.

The province's Places to Grow Growth Plan - 2006 provides a vision that is guiding the province's and the municipalities' actions and investment decisions. By creating the Greater Toronto Transportation Authority and by planning to add new transportation corridors, we are implementing the long-term vision outlined in the Growth Plan.

I look forward to continuing to work with York Region in moving these projects forward. Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Donna Cansfield".

Donna Cansfield
Minister

c: The Honourable David Caplan, Ministry of Public Infrastructure Renewal
The Honourable John Gerretsen, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing