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February 25, 2011

The Honourable Kathleen Wynne
Minister of Transportation
Corporate Correspondence Unit
3rd Floor, Ferguson Block
77 Wellesley Street West
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1Z8



REGION OF YORK
CLERK'S OFFICE

FILE No. - P43

Dear Minister Wynne:

RE: Highway 427 Extension – Ministry of Transportation Southern Highways Program 2010-2014

At the regular meeting of Council held on February 22, 2011, Council received Report PD-2011-010 regarding the Highway 427 Extension – Ministry of Transportation Southern Highways Program 2010-2014. The following was adopted:

That Report PD-2011-010 regarding Highway 427 Extension -Ministry of Transportation Southern Ontario Highways Program 2010-2014 be received; and

That the Minister of Transportation be requested to amend the Southern Ontario Highways Program 2010-2014 to include the Highway 427 Extension from Highway 7 to Major Mackenzie Drive; and

That the Ministry of Transportation be requested to initiate a planning study to examine a possible future extension of Highway 427 to at least as far north as Highway 9 to meet longer-term needs; and

That a copy of Report PD-2011-010 and the resulting Council resolution be forwarded to the Ministry of Transportation, the Regions of Peel & York and the Cities of Brampton, Mississauga & Vaughan.

Attached please find a copy of Report PD-2011-010.

If you have any questions regarding the report, please contact Kant Chawla, Senior Transportation Planner at 905-584-2272 ext: 4293 or kant.chawla@caledon.ca.

Yours truly,

Barbara Karrandjas
Legislative Administrator
e-mail: barbara.karrandjas@caledon.ca

cc Kant Chawla, Senior Transportation Planner
Region of Peel
Region of York
City of Brampton
City of Mississauga
City of Vaughan



PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
Policy Section Report
Report PD-2011-010

To: Mayor and Members of Council
From: Mary Hall, Director of Planning & Development
Meeting: February 22, 2011
Subject: **HIGHWAY 427 EXTENSION - MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION
SOUTHERN ONTARIO HIGHWAYS PROGRAM 2010-2014**

That Report PD-2011-010 regarding Highway 427 Extension -Ministry of Transportation Southern Ontario Highways Program 2010-2014 be received;

That the Minister of Transportation be requested to amend the Southern Ontario Highways Program 2010-2014 to include the Highway 427 Extension from Highway 7 to Major Mackenzie Drive;

That the Ministry of Transportation be requested to initiate a planning study to examine a possible future extension of Highway 427 to at least as far north as Highway 9 to meet longer-term needs; and,

That a copy of Report PD-2011-010 and the resulting Council resolution be forwarded to the Ministry of Transportation, the Regions of Peel & York and the Cities of Brampton, Mississauga & Vaughan.

ORIGIN/BACKGROUND

In November 2010, the Minister of Environment (MOE) granted approval to the Environmental Assessment (EA) study for the extension of Highway 427 submitted by the Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) in accordance with the Environmental Assessment Act.

The EA Study identifies the preferred solution and documents the study process, findings and the consultation completed. The preferred alternative includes the 6.6 km extension of Highway 427 northerly from Highway 7 to Major Mackenzie Drive with three interchanges and property protection for a Transitway along the west side of the highway. It is also noted that the preferred solution will not preclude or predetermine planning for potential future transportation corridors such as the GTA West Corridor or a future northerly extension of Highway 427.

Recognizing the importance of the identified section of the extension, Caledon staff has maintained throughout the EA study process that MTO should formulate an implementation plan to expedite construction of the extension of the '427 Transportation

Corridor' to help address current and projected short-term transportation needs in South-east Caledon. Additionally, the Town has continued to express that in order to satisfy medium to longer-term transportation demands, MTO should initiate a study to examine the need for a further extension of Highway 427 beyond the current terminus at Major Mackenzie to at least as far north as Highway 9.

DISCUSSION

As noted in the preceding section, "427 Transportation Corridor" Environmental Assessment (EA) has been approved by the MOE in order to proceed to undertake detailed design and construction process. Caledon staff maintains that the timely construction of the highway extension is critical for the Town of Caledon to address current and projected short-term transportation needs in South-east Caledon. It would also help alleviate traffic congestion on Highway 50 and would give much needed relief at the intersection of Highways 50 and 7. Importantly, the Highway 427 extension will facilitate efficient movement of goods and help ease traffic situation in the adjacent neighbourhoods.

The Town of Caledon commends the efforts of MTO for the completion of the EA Study process, however staff continues to express that in order for the construction of the highway extension to occur in the timely manner, it is important that the extension of Highway 427 to Major Mackenzie Drive is included in the Province's five-year investment plan for highway construction program in Southern Ontario.

It is understood that the Provincial Southern Ontario Highways Program is a five-year plan for investment in the building of new highways & bridges, and the repair, expansion and rehabilitation of existing highways & bridges under the jurisdiction of MTO. Below is the summary of the program presenting the most recent annual update of the five-year construction program for Southern Ontario highways and bridges in Peel Region:

Southern Highway Program

(a) Planned Improvements for 2010-2014

Within Peel, the following expansion projects are planned for completion between 2010 and 2014:

- Highway 401 – Highway 410 to Hurontario Street, Mississauga, new patrol yard, target completion date: 2010
- Highway 401 – Highway 410 to Hurontario Street, Mississauga, new interchange and widening, target completion date: 2013

In addition, the following rehabilitation projects within Peel are planned for completion between 2010 and 2014:

- Highway 9 – West of Peel Regional Road 50 to West of Peel Regional Road 7 (Infrastructure Stimulus Fund), resurfacing, target completion date: 2010, 7.5 kms
- Highway 10 – Highway 410 to Peel Regional Road 9, resurfacing, target completion date: 2010, 5.1 kms

(b) Planning for the Future (beyond 2014)

The Southern Ontario Highway Program outlines the projects that will be constructed over the next five years; however, it also highlights the need to plan for the long-term and lists projects that are subject to further study and prioritization which may be considered for future construction.

Projects of note to the Region of Peel are:

- Highway 401 from Mississauga to Milton
- Highway 403 from QEW to Highway 407
- Highway 410 from Highway 401 to Bovaird Drive
- QEW from Highway 403 to Highway 427

Town staff is concerned that the Highway 427 extension from Highway 7 to Major Mackenzie Drive is not included in the Southern Ontario Highways Program, both in the 2010-2014 list, as well as in the list of future projects beyond 2014 time-frame. As mentioned earlier that the recommended extension is extremely important for the Town of Caledon to address current and projected short-term transportation needs in South-east Caledon. Accordingly, staff recommends that the Town Council request the Honourable Minister of Transportation to include the Highway 427 Transportation Corridor extension project in the Southern Ontario Highway Program 2010 to 2014.

Caledon staff has noted that the analysis and findings of various studies including the Caledon Area Transportation Needs Study, Region of Peel Long Range Transportation Plan and a recent joint municipal 'Highway Peel-427 Extension Area Transportation Master Plan' Study with technical participation of MTO have revealed that there is a need for an extension of Highway 427 to Highway 9 and beyond over the medium and long-term horizons.

Based on the recommendations of various studies and past Council resolutions, Staff is therefore reinforcing that MTO should initiate an appropriate Planning/EA study for further extension of Highway 427 beyond the interim terminus at Major Mackenzie Drive to at least as far north as Highway 9 to meet longer-term needs.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The adoption of subject report has no immediate financial implications to the Town of Caledon. Any potential longer term cost implications to the Town by implementing the recommendations of the report are unknown at this time, and new initiatives requiring budget considerations would be subject to future Council approval.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications perceived for Caledon at this time.

NEXT STEPS

Town staff will continue to work with MTO, affected Municipalities and other relevant jurisdictions to monitor the Southern Ontario Highway Program affecting the initiation of detailed design study and construction of Highway 427 extension to Major Mackenzie Drive. Staff will also continue to express the Town's longer-term needs at appropriate forum in order for MTO to undertake a future planning/EA study to examine the need for a future extension of Highway 427 to at least Highway 9.

POLICIES/LEGISLATION

Town of Caledon Official Plan
Region of Peel Official Plan
427 Transportation Corridor Environmental Assessment Study.
The *Places To Grow Act, 2005*, and the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe;
The *Greenbelt Act, 2005* and the Greenbelt Plan; and
The Regional Transportation Plan-The Big Move (Metrolinx)

CONSULTATIONS

Consultation occurred with Regional Staff at the Transportation Planning division of Public Works.

ATTACHMENTS

Not Applicable

CONCLUSION

The Highway 427 Extension will help to address current and short-term transportation needs in the study area. However, the detailed design and construction process of this facility is currently not funded, and should be included in the Provincial Southern Ontario Highway Program of 2010-2014 to undertake its construction at the earliest possible opportunity.

Additionally, in light of longer-term needs identified through various studies, MTO should initiate an appropriate Planning/EA study to examine further extension of Highway 427 beyond the interim terminus at Major Mackenzie Drive.


Prepared by:
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Recommended by:
Tim Marley
Acting Manager of Policy


Approved by:
Mary Hall
Director of Planning & Development


Approved by:
Douglas Barnes
Chief Administrative Officer