



Ministry of Transportation
Queen's Park/Minister's Office
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July 25, 2015

Attention: The Honourable Steven Del Duca, Minister of Transportation

Dear Minister,

We are the ***Durham Region Cycling Coalition***, which represents the five largest cycling clubs in the Region of Durham, or approximately 2,000 active club cyclists in the area. Over the past few months, we, along with a few of our local clubs, have made presentations to Regional and Municipal political leaders to promote safe cycling throughout the Region. One of our major concerns was in regard to the new bridges being built over the 407, 412 and 418 highways. This came to light last fall after attending a 407 Public Information meeting where project staff indicated that no special provisions were being taken to accommodate safe cycling in the new construction.

This past week the first of these bridges, on Ashburn Road just north of Whitby, was opened. Ashburn is a quite secondary road used by many cyclists. Sadly, the approaches to the bridge do not include paved shoulders (see photograph) even though the bridge itself includes a cycling lane.





When made aware of this situation, the Town of Whitby took quick action and managed to delay the bridge construction over Anderson Street so as to include paved shoulders on the approaches. This should never have happened. Paved shoulders should be part of the **base design**, not an afterthought.

From your own website we quote "Ontario is taking action to implement #CycleON: Ontario's Cycling Strategy through a series of ongoing, multi-year action plans. The first, #CycleON Action Plan 1.0, identifies clear actions that Ontario government ministries and agencies will be working on in 2014 and beyond to make Ontario a more cycling-friendly province". The new 407, 412 and 418 highway bridges clearly miss this new edict.

On occasion we have spoken to the 407EDG team, but they have provided no meaningful input other than the typical "thanks for your feedback".

The new 407, 412 and 418 highways and the existing highway 401 effectively create a "box" around the municipalities of Pickering, Ajax, Whitby, Oshawa and much of Clarington without any safe way out for cyclists either over or under. To alleviate this problem the municipalities would have to spend precious tax dollars installing paved shoulders which could have been accomplished at a fraction of the cost if they had been included in the original design. Consequently, we would urge the Ministry to take quick action to rectify the situation and implement the necessary design modifications as soon as possible.

We have spoken with Whitby MPP Christine Elliott's office explaining our concerns and we were encouraged to contact your office directly to make you aware of the situation. We would, therefore, appreciate your response to our concerns at your earliest convenience.

Yours truly,

Bruce MacDonald

For the Durham Region Cycling Coalition

CC: Christine Elliott, MPP Whitby

Eleanor McMahon, MPP Burlington

Dave Ryan, Mayor of Pickering

Steve Parish, Mayor of Ajax

Don Mitchell, Mayor of Whitby

John Henry, Mayor of Oshawa

Adrian Foster, Mayor of Clarington