

The Regional Municipality
of Durham
605 Rossland Rd. E
Whitby, ON L1N 6A3

Town of Whitby
575 Rossland Rd. E.
Whitby, ON L1N 2M5

Town of Ajax
65 Harwood Avenue S.
Ajax, ON L1S 2H9

April 1, 2016

The Honourable Steven Del Duca
Minister of Transportation
3rd Floor, Ferguson Block
77 Wellesley Street West
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1Z8

Dear Minister Del Duca:

The Region of Durham and the Towns of Ajax and Whitby as well as the other local municipalities within the Region are looking forward to the opening of the Highway 407 east extension and Highways 412 and 418. These new transportation routes are much needed and will provide commuters with an alternative to Highway 401.

It is vital that safe cycling and walking connections are provided at the new interchanges from the outset. It is our understanding that the new 407 and 412 bridge deck designs include dedicated cycling infrastructure, however, the bridge approaches do not. Dedicated cycling facilities must be provided on both the bridge decks and bridge approaches.

The over and underpass facilities at these new highway interchanges are critical to advancing the Regional Cycling Network and will have a significant and lasting impact on the cycling connectivity throughout the Region and more specifically between Ajax and Whitby with the opening of Hwy 412.

If this situation is rectified now, while construction is in process, safe cycling connections can be created at a fraction of the cost needed to retrofit these interchanges at a later date. As you know, efforts to create new safe cycling facilities must compete for limited funding and as such we need to plan accordingly to ensure a safe cycling environment.

The Region of Durham, in co-operation with the eight municipalities, are working collectively to create a multi-modal transportation network. This is in line with the Province's increased interest in promoting a multi-modal approach and a safe environment for all road users including specifically cyclists.

We appreciate the continued investment from the Province and look forward to your response and the opportunity to discuss this matter with you further.

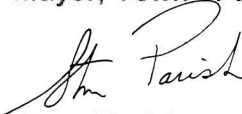
Sincerely,



Roger Anderson
Regional Chair and CEO, Region of Durham



Don Mitchell
Mayor, Town of Whitby



Steve Parish
Mayor, Town of Ajax

c:

Eleanor McMahon, MPP, Burlington
Paul Allore, Director, Planning and Development Services, Town of Ajax
Elysia Leung, Transportation Demand Management Coordinator, Town of Ajax
Susan Siopis, Director of Transportation and Field Services, Region of Durham
Ajax Transportation Advisory Committee
Durham Cycling Coalition
Marlaine Koehler, Executive Director, Waterfront Regeneration Trust