

Ministry of
Transportation

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Ministère des
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JUN 16 2016

Mr. Roger Anderson
Regional Chair and CEO
Regional Municipality of Durham
605 Rossland Road East
Whitby ON L1N 6A3

M2016-2122

His Worship Don Mitchell
Mayor
Town of Whitby
575 Rossland Road East
Whitby ON L1N 2M5

His Worship Steve Parish
Mayor
Town of Ajax
65 Harwood Avenue South
Ajax ON L1S 2H9

Dear Mr. Anderson, Mayor Mitchell and Mayor Parish:

Thank you for your letter regarding cycling and the municipal crossings associated with the Highway 407 East. I appreciate the opportunity to respond.

The Ministry of Transportation understands the importance of cycling. In response, the ministry is investing \$10 million through the Ontario Municipal Cycling Infrastructure Program to help municipalities build new and improve existing cycling infrastructure. Projects proposed by Durham Region municipalities are being considered for funding under this program. The recently announced Ontario Climate Change Action Plan will include increased funding for these programs, as well as a number of other initiatives that will support municipalities to develop additional cycling infrastructure.

The first phase of the Highway 407 East Project includes several examples of pedestrian and cycling infrastructure. The municipal crossing road approaches and bridges include continuous paved shoulders at Brock Road, Ashburn Road, Anderson Street and Simcoe Street, and sidewalks and/or wider shoulders on the bridges at Brock Road at Highway 407 and Lake Ridge Road at Highway 401.

The second and final phase of the project will also include cycling and pedestrian infrastructure. Sidewalks and/or wider shoulders will be constructed at Winchester Road, Langmaid Road, Concession Road 6, Enfield Road, Solina Road at Highway 407, Holt Road, Old Scugog Road, Regional Road 57, Middle Road, Liberty Street, Bethesda Road, Darlington-Clarke Townline Road, Leskard Road, Taunton Road, Bloor Street, Solina Road at Highway 418, Highway 2, and Nash Road. Continuous paved shoulders on the approaches to bridges are provided at Regional Road 57, Old Scugog Road, Leskard Road and Nash Road.

These municipal road improvements represent a significant investment from the province.

Extensive stakeholder and community consultation was undertaken in advance of the Project design, throughout the Environmental Assessment process and continued following the approval of the EA. The Region of Durham, as well as Ajax and Whitby were represented on the three Advisory Groups established to facilitate dialogue amongst the wide range of stakeholders with an interest in the 407 East Highway design.

Sidewalks and bicycle lanes are a municipal responsibility and it is expected that related improvements on municipal crossing roads required to facilitate growth would be undertaken by the region and/or area municipalities. Opportunities for the Region of Durham and area municipalities to cost share enhancements for pedestrians and cyclists with the province were provided prior to contract tendering. The opportunity was not acted upon.

Construction of the first phase of the Highway 407 East Project is nearly complete with a plan to open the highway to traffic for morning commuters on Monday, June 20th. Work continues on the second and final phase of the project. Given the pending traffic opening on the first phase of the project, additional cycling infrastructure cannot be accommodated. I have asked Central Region Regional Director, Teepu Khawja to work with your communities to determine what options may be available and the respective responsibilities that may accommodate cycling infrastructure going forward.

I am confident that with our provincial cycling infrastructure program, continued consultation and a clear understanding of your cycling network, infrastructure improvements can be planned and coordinated in a manner that maximizes the investments of both the ministry and your municipalities.

Thank you again for bringing your request to my attention. Your views are very important and I appreciate being kept apprised of your position.

Sincerely,



Steven Del Duca
Minister