



Email: durhamrcc@gmail.com
www.durhamsafecycling.ca

Promoting Safe Cycling Throughout Durham Region

Lorne Coe, MPP
Room 430,
Main Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1A8

January 18, 2017

Attention: Lorne Coe, MPP

Re: Henry Street Bridge Reconstruction, Whitby

We understand discussions are currently underway regarding the replacement of the Henry Street bridge over Highway 401 in The Town of Whitby. This is in preparation for the longer term commitment to widen Highway 401 through Whitby and Oshawa. **We need your assistance to ensure this request has the proper attention. We believe the Henry Street bridge reconstruction requires special attention to accommodate all users for the following reasons:**

1. The bridge reconstruction is a provincial undertaking and should recognize the Town's planned and current **active transportation** initiatives.
2. Henry Street is currently the north-south route to and from the **GO station, the Water Front Trail and the recreational facilities** south of Hwy #401 and is consequently subject to **all modes** of transportation.
3. Henry Street is a two-lane residential street and future widening to four lanes is unlikely. It is used by **cyclists of all ages** to connect from the lakefront to the downtown core as well as to the Greenbelt Route farther north.
4. Last year the Town received a grant from the Province as part of CycleON funding in 2016 for a section of the link from the Water Front Trail to the Greenbelt Route. This is currently being built thus recognizing the importance of a safe and continuous link between the two significant recreational networks. It includes crossing over the existing and replacement Henry Street bridge.
5. The Town is committed to providing safe infrastructure for all modes of active transportation. It has established an Active Transportation Committee and may soon receive the Bronze status as bicycle friendly community.



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From the above it is clear that the Henry Street bridge is a vital link in the Town's recreational infrastructure but is also subject to additional vehicular and AT traffic associated with the Go train. Therefore we strongly recommend that the bridge reconstruction includes the recommendations given in the Ministry of Transportation's Book 18 namely that there is a segregated sidewalk and **Cycle Track** (as opposed to the lesser bicycle lane) in each direction to protect the most vulnerable of bridge users.

We thank you for your ongoing support to the local cycling community and we look forward to hearing from you about how we can make this happen.

Yours truly,

Bruce MacDonald

Director, Durham Region Cycling Coalition

CC: Town of Whitby

Region of Durham

Share the Road Coalition

Metrolinx