

Letter to the Editor

Re: Niagara highway route quashed – June 25, 2010

Study proposes options other than a super highway – June 26, 2010-06-26

Citizens Opposed to Paving the Escarpment have been watching the Mid-Peninsula Highway / Niagara GTA Corridor project unfold for close to a decade. The options put forth by the MTO are a partial win but to say the MPH is quashed isn't quite true. The original MPH option "C" is the portion in Hamilton still on the table for a highway: a new cut on the escarpment from the 403 in Ancaster to the 407 in Burlington. This will cut through the heart of Flamborough along the way through Waterdown and over the escarpment in North Burlington.

In 2002, COPE adamantly protested to our political leaders that a new 400 series highway wasn't needed; this included the Flamborough / Burlington portion. From our preliminary review of the NGTA study results, we maintain that this section of highway is not needed. Our concerns regarding the continued under valuation of environmental worth and the impact a highway would have remain.

The NGTA transportation planning team has come up with a better plan including incorporation of expanded transit and widening existing corridors. However, they can only operate within the guidelines set for them by their political masters. We believe that, with political will behind them and guidelines that allow more latitude, the team could remove the highway portion in Flamborough and Burlington as an option.

Given how much the world situation has changed since 2001 with issues such as climate change and peak oil, the continued push to build a highway for a 30 year horizon just doesn't cut it. Not to mention the price tag for the corridor of around \$5 billion in today's dollars which probably translates to \$8 billion down the road.

COPE is working to formalize our position on the study results for submission to the NGTA team by July 31, 2010, as stipulated. They will also be posted to our website at www.stophighway.com.

Susan McMaster
Co-Chair
Citizens Opposed to Paving the Escarpment
