

## **Trains over trucks**

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THE HAMILTON SPECTATOR

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Re: 'Mid-Pen road would ease QEW snarl' (opinion, Jan. 12)

Most people's mentality seems to be still in the past when gasoline was cheap and plentiful. The effects on environment never entered their thinking.

Why build a new highway through agricultural land when there are other options that would relieve the snarl on our existing highways? Why not improve the railways instead? The technology exists; take a look at any major sea port. There are movable cranes that pick up containers and deposit them wherever they have to. Would it not be environmentally better if rail yards were equipped with similar cranes so when the shipping containers arrived at the yard they would immediately be picked up and deposited on a particular flat car? Using trains would reduce the number of trucks on the highways.

The initial cost may seem high, but it would eventually be more economical than trucking, more environmentally friendly and safer from the border security perspective. The containers on the train would be easier to inspect, so they would be cleared more quickly.

The idea is viable only if those responsible for improvement in transportation start to think outside the box.