



Niagara to GTA Corridor PIC # 4

COPE again says NO – MPH under another name is still MPH

Eight years ago, citizens around the Golden Horseshoe formed Citizens Opposed to Paving the Escarpment (COPE) in opposition to the provincial government's proposed Mid Peninsula Highway (MPH). COPE members were concerned about cuts through the Escarpment and continued unsustainable reliance on cars and trucks to move people and goods. Building of this highway would encourage this reliance and would make new cuts through the Escarpment, pave over farms, wetlands and woodlots. COPE, and others, urged government to seek alternatives to roads, to take the opportunity to develop an environmentally sustainable transportation plan for the 21st century.

COPE's efforts resulted in the government's revised Niagara to GTA corridor project. COPE's comments on the NGTA project can be found on our website at www.stophighway.com.

MTO Announces PIC # 4 Dates for the NGTA Corridor:

Purpose: "Select preferred transportation alternative(s) and recommend a multi-modal Transportation Development Strategy for the Niagara to GTA Corridor."

Thursday June 17th, 2010

4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Royal Canadian Legion
Upstairs Hall
383 Morningstar Avenue,
Welland

Monday June 21st, 2010

4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Ancaster Fairgrounds
Marritt Hall
630 Trinity Road, RR #1
Jerseyville

Wednesday June 23rd, 2010

4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Holiday Inn Burlington
Halton Hall
3063 South Service Road,
Burlington

Highlights:

- The project is nearing the end of EA phase 1 and the recommendation of a Transportation Development Strategy.
- In addition to the NGTA corridor, other corridors are being planned including Regional Road 24 (Hwy 424 corridor) and the GTA West

Corridor. When viewed as a whole, they form a Ring Road around the Golden Horseshoe. Due to the status as separate projects, a full environment assessment on the cumulative impact of such a monstrous undertaking has not been completed.

COPE's main concerns are:

- The continued threat of a new highway being built on the Niagara Escarpment.
- The need for placing a higher priority on Environmental Considerations.
- The creation of a Ring Road.
- See COPE's submission on PIC # 3, posted to our website, for further details.
- COPE will post our position on the PIC # 4 information within the next few weeks.

Tax dollars have been spent on consultants for a Niagara-GTA Corridor Planning and Environmental Assessment Study. Draft of the Phase One Study is to be released in June. A preview has been given to the Citizens Advisory Group which includes COPE. We are concerned with what we're seeing.

Rail and water transportation systems under federal jurisdiction have been mentioned in the study. Unfortunately the lack of federal government participation rendered the efforts meaningless. Metrolinx was embraced and relatively low cost HOV lanes and other ideas to alleviate traffic congestion have been put in place. There were no new ideas. The initial statements of a "unique approach" for "multi-modal transportation development strategy" and "no pre-defined undertaking" have not been fulfilled. The report identifies impact to environmentally sensitive areas than identifies road widening and / or building of a new highway as necessary. The options for a new highway all closely resemble the original MPH.

Since the study began Climate Change Since the study began, Climate Change has become undeniable and the cost of gas has more than doubled. These incredibly important issues bear no weight in the NGTA process; the environmental impact continues to be undervalued.

Building roads is unsustainable and destructive to ecosystems.

Please join COPE in sending our governments a message: work collaboratively on an environmentally sustainable transportation plan for the 21st century.

You can join COPE through the website or by writing to:

COPE

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Burlington, Ontario, L7P 0A4

www.stophighway.com

e-Mail : mail@cope-nomph.org

Web: www.stophighway.com

COPE is looking for new members to join our Steering Committee. If you can devote some time to an important cause, please e-mail us at:

mail@cope-nomph.org