

Re: \$200,00 corridor report 'redundant,' Clark says  
September 27/07 Edition

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I attended the September 26th council meeting where this study on the Niagara to GTA corridor, commissioned by the City of Hamilton and Niagara Region, was presented. I fully agree with Councillor Clark's comment that it is redundant. It was encouraging to see councillors ask hard and pertinent questions about the reason for even commissioning the report when the Ministry of Transportation is currently completing a more thorough study on the corridor. They also asked about pertinent factors not considered in the report that impact the assumptions greatly.

Having reviewed the study I found it eerily similar to, but not as thorough as, the original Mid-Peninsula Highway Needs Assessment that was found to be inadequate and subsequently withdrawn. The missing information renders the Wilbur / Smith report useless for any meaningful decision making. The numbers forecasting employment are highly questionable. The economic benefits can't be considered as reasonable since no costs were considered. It would be like buying a house and pretending that the only expense is the mortgage - and someone else will pay for that. In this case that someone else sited is the provincial government. The reality for us taxpayers is we pay for it either way.

Sincerely,

Sue McMaster  
Co-Chair  
Citizens Opposed to Paving the Escarpment