



John Tory
Mayor

April 22, 2016

The Honourable Kathleen Wynne, MPP
Premier of Ontario
Room 281, Main Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

The Honourable Steven Del Duca, MPP
Minister of Transportation
77 Wellesley Street West
Ferguson Block, 3rd Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 1Z8

Dear Premier and Minister:

Re: Highway 401/Yonge Street Improvements Environmental Assessment

The Yonge Street/Highway 401 interchange is a major transportation junction accommodating regional traffic along the east/west Highway 401 corridor. It serves the City of Toronto along Yonge Street, both north and south and is an interchange that has been experiencing significant congestion and delays.

Under the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe (Growth Plan), the North York Centre is designated as a Major Growth Centre. The *Places to Grow Act, 2006* includes a framework that requires the City to accommodate growth in the North York Centre and population forecasts anticipate significant numbers of new residents and employees by 2031. Metrolinx's Regional Transportation Plan, the Big Move, recognizes the North York Centre as an Anchor Mobility Hub, which has strategic importance given its relationship to a Major Growth Centre.

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To accommodate the build out of the North York Centre, the Growth Plan requires that the infrastructure needed to support these growth forecasts be identified and implemented by the City. Provincial priority will be given to infrastructure investments made by the Province that support the policies and schedules in the Growth Plan.

In partnership with the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (MTO), the City of Toronto Transportation Services initiated a Feasibility Study to assess potential infrastructure improvements at the Yonge Street/Highway 401 interchange. Following completion of the Feasibility Study, an Environmental Assessment would be needed to examine the alternatives in greater detail prior to implementation of any infrastructure improvements.

To conclude the Feasibility Study, a Public Information Centre (PIC) must be held. This PIC is on hold pending agreement from MTO on the content of the material to be presented at the PIC and clarity of MTO's position regarding the Feasibility Study and its' recommendations. Once public input has been received and staff have had an opportunity to address the feedback, the Feasibility Study can be finalized and a decision made about whether to proceed with an Environmental Assessment.

On a number of occasions to date, the City has requested the MTO to provide a written position about the results of the Feasibility Study. MTO's concurrence with the Feasibility Study recommendations is significant because all of the alternatives developed involve physical and operational changes that are within the limits of MTO's jurisdiction. Whether MTO participates in or agrees to fund the subsequent EA, MTO's approval is required in order to implement any physical or operational change that are proposed within its jurisdiction.

At its meeting of December 9, 2015, City Council made the following requests:

1. City Council request Mayor John Tory to convey to the Premier of Ontario and to the Minister of Transportation that the relief of traffic congestion in the Yonge Street/401 interchange, Yonge Street/Sheppard Avenue area is a high priority for the City of Toronto.
2. City Council request the Province of Ontario, in collaboration with the City of Toronto, to proceed expeditiously with the construction studies, and the commencement of design and construction work to complete the much-needed improvements to the Yonge Street/401 interchange.

The Toronto City Council decision and staff report are appended and can be found at the following link:

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2015.PW9.7>

On behalf of Toronto City Council, I am writing to request that the Province of Ontario work with the City in order to finalize the Feasibility Study and participate in a subsequent Environmental Assessment.

The City of Toronto looks forward to working with the Government of Ontario, the MTO and community partners on these initiatives in order to support traffic congestion management efforts at the Yonge/401 interchange.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Tory", written in a cursive style.

John Tory
Mayor of Toronto

- encs. 1. Toronto City Council Decision
- 2. Staff Report

- c. Stephen Rhodes, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Transportation
- Peter Wallace, City Manager, City of Toronto
- John Livey, Deputy City Manager, City of Toronto