

July 30, 2008

Gary Kirchknopf
Traffic Department
City of Hamilton

Re: Truck Route Study Municipal Class EA Master Plan

Dear Gary,

Let me first thank you for taking the time on Tuesday July 15th to meet with members of the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce to advise us of the progress of the above mentioned study. It was encouraging to see that the City and its associated partners in this study are striving to take the required measures to reach a decision on this matter. As you know, goods movement is an integral component to the success of not only our Chamber members, but also the broad business community. Hamilton's successes are largely reliant on a sound road network that supports goods movement without sacrificing people movement elements.

Notwithstanding the above paragraph, the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce strongly encourages the City and associated partners in this study to carefully evaluate the tenor of contributory comments received. As the foremost recognized representative of businesses in Hamilton, it is our duty to advocate that best practices are carried out when resolutions are approaching that could impact the current nature of business conduct. We understand there is a small window to complete this study and from such, forward recommendations to City Council. Concomitantly, there exists an opportunity to bypass key contributor feedback due to the shortened window of approach. The Hamilton Chamber of Commerce would like to encourage the City and the involved partners on the aforementioned study to ensure that not only Public Information Centres are held on this important piece of transportation planning, but that necessary steps are also taken to discuss the concerns and required input from those closely tied to the industry; namely ArcelorMittal Dofasco, U.S. Steel Canada, Fluke Transport, and Hamilton Port Authority, to name a few. These companies are but a small snapshot of the potential impacts of a revised Truck Routing that may hinder their successes, which in turn will reflect on the successes of Hamilton as a Community.

The Hamilton Chamber of Commerce encourages that any proposed changes to the current Truck Route mapping should not carry restrictive measures that would hinder the progression of Brownfield development, increased transportation cost measures to current or future stakeholders, or cause businesses to relocate due to ineffective accessibility measures. For example, it seems to us to be of vital importance in that regard to establish and maintain an effective East-West linkage in the North End of the City that would allow Employers in the North-East end to have an viable route to/from Highway 403, to in turn access the markets and suppliers both eastward and westward, such as the Detroit-Windsor/Sarnia boarder crossings, which are the busiest in Canada. Another potential issue is effective access routes to Highway Number 6 South to access Nanticoke and the US Steel Lake Erie works; but also the potential Lake Eire cross lake truck ferry there.

The essential point being that the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce views the future growth of Jobs and Prosperity in Hamilton inexorably linked as a transportation and distribution hub – our basic geography dictates this. To illustrate this fundamental point, one day's truck travel from Hamilton, effectively a circle of 800 km, reaches a market of 120 million people. One third of local GDP is due to activity of the Port of Hamilton. Also about one half of our GDP is due to trade with the US. Hamilton is a natural gateway to access this market. Thus fully integrated planning of all transportation assets on an intermodel basis (i.e. rail, air, shipping and roads) involved in goods movement is absolutely vital to this City. Any effective truck route study therefore must at a strategic level be closely linked directly to the City's overall integrated intermodal strategic transportation plan. At a detailed level it must also look at the destinations and major supplier points of Hamilton's existing and potential employers if it is to be effective.

Our Transportation Committee member, Frank Rao, sits on the formed Technical Advisory Committee and will continue to work towards keeping the Chamber informed of its progress. We would like to extend a return visit of City staff and associated partners in September to review progress and provide input as needed.

Sincerely,

Dan Rodrigues
Chair, Transportation Committee
Hamilton Chamber of Commerce

Tyler MacLeod
President

Cc: All Directors, Hamilton Chamber of Commerce, including Chairs of Ancaster and Dundas Divisions
All Members, HCC Transportation Committee
All City Councilors.
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