



Infrastructure Submission by
HAMILTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
September 3, 2010

To: Honourable Brad Duguid, Minister of Energy and Infrastructure

Responses to the Ministers' Questions of Aug. 4, 2010 -.10 Year Infrastructure Plan

Note: These questions are answered from the collective lens of our 1,200 members and their 75,000 employees, via the City of Hamilton as a community, not necessarily the Chamber as an "organization" per se.

1. *"What types of public infrastructure assets do you or your organization use (or need) most?"*

- Expediently commit to full funding development of LRT, plus,
- All day, two way GO train service to and from a central location in Hamilton;
- Ability to service employment lands particularly with water and wastewater management;
- Generally, transportation infrastructure, particularly roads & bridges; but within the broader context of comprehensive strategically planned goods movement and logistics needs with a long-term (30 year plus) planning horizon; and,
- Readily available, predictable and affordable energy supply.

2. *"What are the key economic and social trends that you think will most affect the province's infrastructure needs over the coming decade?"*

- Aging infrastructure,
- Aging population;
- Which together create huge financial pressures on particularly older municipalities with a limited/reduced municipal tax base to fund them;
- Costs of energy (particularly fossil fuels) and the reliability/predictability of supply;
- Greater demands for efficient public transit;
- Intensification of urban areas;

- All placing heavy and growing demands on existing infrastructure (e.g. transportation and sewage/waste water treatment plants).
- Growing dependence on International trade, linking both overseas and US markets; i.e. Southwestern Ontario's position as a genuine goods movement transportation gateway to/from Central North America to global markets;
- Within that context, expediting goods movement, in particular to/from the US; and
- Increasing importance of Small to Mid-sized Enterprises to our economy and helping them remain competitive.

3. *“Given the deficit challenges Ontario faces, what do you think the most important infrastructure investment priorities should be in the next 10-years?”*

- Modernization and expansion of wastewater facilities;
- Need to strategically plan & efficiently move goods, with particular emphasize on inter model systems (an economic development fundamental), plus, people;
- Need to consider alternative means to deal with waste (landfills are not a solution);
- Need to explore diverse reliable alternative sources of energy;
- High-speed fully integrated public transit network, including GO Transit and local LRT; and
- Strategically expand designated growth areas to enhance private sector jobs and prosperity growth.

4. *“In your opinion, how could we transform the delivery, financing or management of infrastructure to better meet provincial needs?”*

1. **Provincially:**

First absolute priority must be to **focus on infrastructure that drives private sector job and prosperity growth**. The results will be a *"rising tide that floats all ships"*, e.g. by increasing non-residential assessment. Plus, aggressively explore more public/private partnerships, i.e. having more private sector leaders on public sector boards for strategic recommendations and consultative advice, including more usage of arms length corporations (e.g. MetroLinx). Look at issues from a more regional perspective with a long term planning horizon

2. **Municipally (e.g. City of Hamilton):**

Both the Provincial and Federal governments have to consider a different funding formula for older municipalities that are struggling to maintain infrastructure let alone install new infrastructure. 40 years ago it was manufacturing centres like Hamilton, Toronto, St. Catharines, Welland, London, Windsor that were making huge contributions to the provincial coffers which financed a lot of the growth in the GTA - its time that \$ flow back.

If any of the above matters require clarification, please contact Chamber CEO, John Dolbec at 905-522-1151 ext. #229 or j.Dolbec@hamiltonchamber.on.ca

Respectfully submitted by Hamilton Chamber of Commerce