



April 11, 2018

The Honourable Kathryn McGarry
Minister of Transportation
3rd Floor, Ferguson Block
77 Wellesley Street West
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1Z8

Dear Honourable Minister McGarry:

Re: OGRA Delegation re Highway 3

On behalf of Essex County Council and all the residents of Essex County, I extend our collective appreciation for the opportunity to meet with you and your staff at the Ontario Good Roads Association conference this past February 27, 2018 in Toronto.

As we discussed during our presentation, Highway 3 is a vital regional and international transportation link that bisects the County of Essex. With our Essex County communities experiencing continued growth in greenhouse operations, agri-business, tourism and warehouse and logistics, Highway 3 continues to attract increasing volumes of commercial, industrial, commuter and tourist vehicles. Traffic volumes exceed original projections and the proportion of commercial vehicles has and will continue to escalate substantially, as further highlighted below. As a consequence, the level of service along the unimproved two lane roadway between Leamington and Essex has degenerated, resulting in an elevated risk for all users, commercial vehicles and passenger vehicles alike.

During our presentation, we highlighted for yourself and staff, the extensive growth in our greenhouse industry and agri-business, which has positioned the Essex County to be the second largest greenhouse cluster in the world, with approximately 2,300 acres of greenhouse production, 75% of which, (> \$3 billion industry) is exported to the United States, utilizing Highway 3. Unfortunately, we also highlighted during the presentation, the significant volume and frequency of motor vehicle collisions along this corridor and the severity of the accidents associated with the volume, mix and speed of



commercial traffic combined with tourists and commuters along this busy highway corridor.

From our discussions, your Ministry had requested additional information regarding:

1. anticipated continued growth in greenhouse industry and agri-business
2. additional details regarding accident history along the affected corridor

1) Subsequent to our meeting, County staff further engaged in discussions with the Towns of Kingsville and Essex, the Municipality of Leamington and the Windsor Essex Economic Development Corporation regarding planned and proposed expansions of greenhouse and agri-business for the affected area, revealing the following additional insights:

- Greenhouse industry, in Leamington alone, accounted for \$103 million in construction activity in 2017, a 45% increase over 2016 values.
- Approximately 150 acres, consistent with the historic 6% annual compound rate of growth for this industry, is expected to be constructed within Essex County in 2018. Conservative estimates for this sector over the next 5 years is expected growth of another 600-700 acres, resulting in: over \$650 million in direct construction investment; anticipated creation of over 3,700 jobs, and over \$500 million to the Ontario economy.
- Completion of the new Hydro One transmission lines in the south-east quadrant of the County, slated for commissioning in June 2018, will finally allow for expansion of growing lights for the greenhouse industry, expected to increase productivity in the current sector by 25% without increases in acreage. It is estimated that this increase alone will account for an additional 150 tractor trailers using Highway 3 on a daily basis.

- 2) As discussed and highlighted in the attached map (page 9 of the presentation) there were 193 calls responded to by Essex-Windsor EMS from 2013 through 2017, along the affected corridor. Calls are categorized according to Canadian Triage Acuity Scale (CTAS). CTAS was developed for use in hospital Emergency Departments (ED's) to sort and prioritize patients as they enter the facility. CTAS is a five (5) level scale with the highest severity being Level 1, resuscitation and Level 5 being non urgent. Of the 193 calls identified, over 60% of the calls identified were of a critical nature: CTAS 1 (resuscitation), CTAS 2 (emergent), CTAS 3 (urgent) or fatal.

Minister, again on behalf of Essex County Council and our residents and businesses, we truly thank you for providing us the opportunity to expand on our discussions from the February meeting and reiterate the importance of this vital link to a growth industry and expanding market for Essex County and the Province of Ontario, while addressing the health and safety of our community.

Accordingly, in an effort to enhance regional economic vitality and promote the safe and efficient movement of people, goods and services into and out of the region, it is requested that the Ministry of Transportation:

1. Expedite the completion of the Detailed Design and Tender Package preparation for the section from County Road 8 to County Road 23 under the recently approved EA Addendum.
2. Immediately commence the Detailed Design and Tender Package preparation for the sections of highway not impacted by the EA Addendum from County Road 23 to County Road 34.
3. Provide funding through the Southern Highways Program or other programs to allow the construction to commence immediately upon completion of the Detailed Designs.
4. Commence the Environmental Assessment and Detailed Design for the section of Highway 3 from County Road 34 to Highway 77 and further provide funding to allow construction to commence upon completion of the Detailed Design.

Should Ministry staff require any further detail with respect to the operation and functionality of Highway #3, please encourage staff to contact officials at the County of Essex.

I look forward to positive updates from the Ministry in the near future with respect to the status and funding of this essential project.

Yours truly,



Tom Bain
Warden

c.c: Mayor Aldo DiCarlo, Town of Amherstburg
Mayor Ron McDermott, Town of Essex
Mayor Nelson Santos, Town of Kingsville
Mayor Ken Antaya, Town of LaSalle
Mayor John Paterson, Municipality of Leamington
Mayor Gary McNamara, Town of Tecumseh

Taras Natyshak, MPP, Essex
Rick Nicholls, MPP, Chatham-Kent-Essex

EMS Call Response

Highway 3 Incidents - Motor Vehicle Collisions (Dispatch Only)

Based on count volume of call pickup location data (2013-2017) within a 1km grid

