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DATE: December 2, 2010

REPORT TITLE: **MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION SOUTHERN HIGHWAYS PROGRAM  
2010-2014**

FROM: Dan Labrecque, Commissioner of Public Works

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Minister of Transportation be requested to amend the Southern Highways Program 2010-2014 to include the Highway 427 Extension from Highway 7 to Major Mackenzie Drive;

And further, that the Minister of Transportation be requested to initiate a study to examine a further extension of Highway 427 to Highway 9 and beyond to meet longer-term needs;

And further, that a copy of the report of the Commissioner of Public Works, dated December 2, 2010, titled "Ministry of Transportation Southern Highways Program 2010-2014" be forwarded to the Minister of Transportation, Minister of the Environment, GO-Metrolinx, York Region, the Cities of Brampton, Mississauga and Vaughan, and the Town of Caledon, for information.

### **REPORT HIGHLIGHTS**

- The Southern Highways Program outlines construction and maintenance projects planned for roads under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Transportation.
- Several expansion and rehabilitation projects within Peel Region are planned.
- The Minister of the Environment recently approved the environmental assessment study for the extension of Highway 427 to Major Mackenzie Drive, however, this project has not been included in the 2010-2014 Southern Highways Program.
- Regional staff will continue to work closely with Ministry of Transportation staff in implementing the planned improvements outlined in the Southern Highway Program 2010-2014.

## DISCUSSION

### 1. Background

The Southern Highways Program is a five-year plan for investment in the building of new highways and bridges, and the repair, expansion and rehabilitation of existing highways and bridges. This document presents the most recent annual update of the five-year construction program for Southern Ontario highways and bridges, providing benefits to both citizens and the economy as a whole through the creation of jobs and provision of new, and maintenance of existing, roadways and bridges.

Additional funds are also available through the Federal Infrastructure Stimulus Fund (ISF), valued at \$4 billion. Ontario has agreed to match federal funding and work together with the Federal government to ensure funds are delivered expeditiously and efficiently for the rehabilitation of existing assets and new construction, provided the projects can be completed by October 31, 2011.

Peel Region is a major goods movement hub, and 30 per cent of Peel's jobs are in the transportation and manufacturing sectors. The investments planned through the Southern Highways Program, along with improvements to municipal roads, play an important role in supporting Peel's economic growth.

### 2. Summary of the Program

The Southern Highways Program lists projects from roughly Windsor in the west to Ottawa in the east. This section lists the Southern Highways Program projects located in Peel Region. Appendix I shows the geographical location of the completed and planned improvements in Peel Region.

#### a) 2009 Highlights and Completed Construction

Within Peel, the following expansion programs were completed in 2009:

- Highway 10 – 1 km north of Regional Road 24 to Highway 9, widening from 2 to 4 lanes (Phase 1 of 2)
- Highway 10 – 1 km south of Regional Road 24 to 1 km north of Regional Road 24, widening from 2 to 4 lanes (Phase 2 of 2)
- Highway 401 – McLaughlin Road, bridge replacement
- Highway 410 – Mayfield Road to Highway 10

In addition, the following rehabilitation projects within Peel were completed in 2009:

- Highway 427 – Highway 401 to Queen Elizabeth Way (QEW) (southbound express lanes) reconstruction and bridge rehabilitation
- Highway 10 – King Street northerly to south of Forks of the Credit, resurfacing
- Highway 401 – McLaughlin Road to Winston Churchill Boulevard, resurfacing

#### b) 2010-2014 Planned Improvements

Within Peel, the following expansion projects are planned for completion between 2010 and 2014:

- Highway 401 – Highway 410 to Hurontario Street, Mississauga, new patrol yard, target completion date: 2010

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- Highway 401 – Highway 410 to Hurontario Street, Mississauga, new interchange and widening, target completion date: 2013

In addition, the following rehabilitation projects within Peel are planned for completion between 2010 and 2014:

- Highway 9 – West of Peel Regional Road 50 to West of Peel Regional Road 7 (Infrastructure Stimulus Fund), resurfacing, target completion date: 2010, 7.5 kms
- Highway 10 – Highway 410 to Peel Regional Road 9, resurfacing, target completion date: 2010, 5.1 kms

**c) Planning for the Future (beyond 2014)**

The Southern Highways Program outlines the projects that will be constructed over the next five years; however, the document also highlights the need to plan for the long term and lists projects that are subject to further study and prioritization and may be considered for future construction.

Projects of note to the Region of Peel are:

- Highway 401 from Mississauga to Milton
- Highway 403 from QEW to Highway 407
- Highway 410 from Highway 401 to Bovaird Drive
- QEW from Highway 403 to Highway 427

**3. Analysis**

Staff note that the Highway 427 Extension from Highway 7 to Major Mackenzie Drive is absent from the Southern Highways Program, both in the 2010-2014 list, as well as the list of future projects. The Environmental Assessment for this project has recently been approved by the Minister of the Environment. Regional Council at its meeting held December 10, 2009 requested that the Ministry of Transportation include the Highway 427 Extension from Highway 7 to Major Mackenzie Drive in the Provincial Southern Highways Program (Resolution 2009-1408). Therefore, there is a need to urge the Province to amend the Southern Highways Program 2010-2014 accordingly.

The Highway 427 Extension to Major Mackenzie Drive addresses relatively short term needs. Previous studies by both the Province and the Region identified a need for a further extension to Highway 9 and beyond. In light of this, there is a need for the Province to undertake a study to re-examine this need.

**4. Suggestion for the Future**

Environmental Assessments (EAs) for Provincial highway facilities are currently conducted to a time horizon of 2031. Considering the length of time needed to conduct the EAs, together with the need to protect corridors in a timely manner, a 20-year planning horizon is proving to be inadequate for highway planning. It is important for the Province to initiate a planning study to determine the long term highway system needs in Ontario for the next 30 to 50 years so that appropriate and timely actions can be taken to protect the corridors.

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Dan Labrecque  
Commissioner of Public Works

**Approved for Submission:**



D. Szwarc, Chief Administrative Officer

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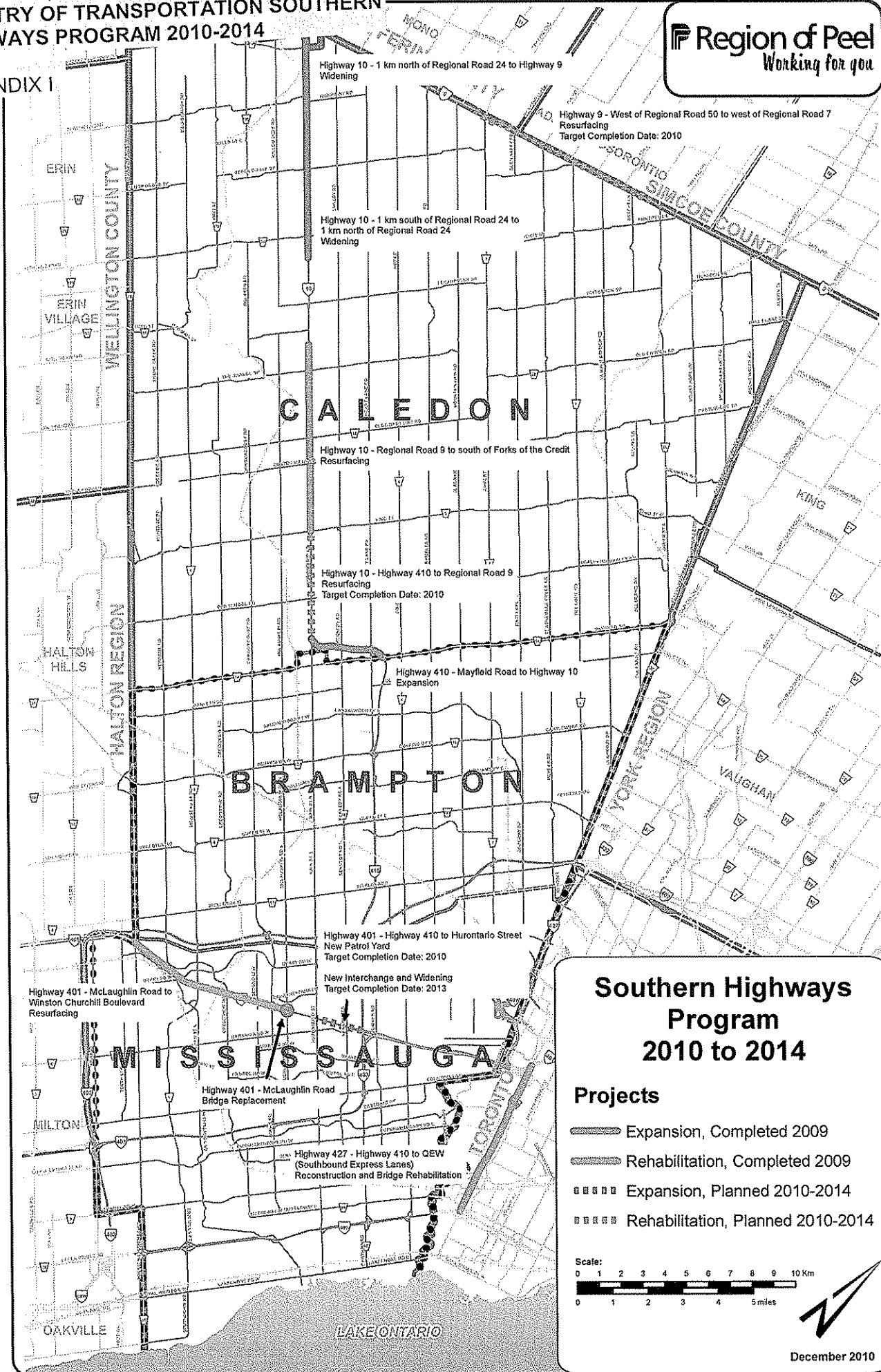
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c. Legislative Services

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APPENDIX I



### Southern Highways Program 2010 to 2014

**Projects**

- Expansion, Completed 2009
- Rehabilitation, Completed 2009
- Expansion, Planned 2010-2014
- Rehabilitation, Planned 2010-2014

Scale:  
 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Km  
 0 1 2 3 4 5 miles

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