



Sent Via Electronic Submission

March 17, 2020

**The Regional  
Municipality of  
Durham**

Planning and  
Economic  
Development

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Cheryl Davis

Environmental Policy Office, Ministry of Transportation

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Toronto, ON

M7A 2J8

**RE: Draft Transportation Plan for Southwestern Ontario –  
Durham Region Comments**

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Ms. Davis,

The Region of Durham, Planning Division – Transportation Planning Section appreciates the opportunity to review the 'Connecting the Southwest: A Draft Transportation Plan for Southwestern Ontario' document; and we have the following comments to offer:

- 1) A time horizon should be associated with the transportation plan:
  - A target horizon year would assist to identify population and employment forecasts and other growth trends and what infrastructure is needed to support it.
  - By comparison, the GGH Area Transportation Study, led by MTO's Central Region, has 2041- and 2051-time horizons.
- 2) Figure 1, Southwestern Ontario's Transportation Network Today, page 5 of PDF, should be updated:
  - The Figure is very conceptual, and it is difficult to identify, which upper- and single-tier municipalities are captured within the transportation plan area.



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- An additional map showing the transportation plan extents should be included, or this map along with Figure 3, Southwestern Ontario intercommunity bus and passenger rail service, could be improved to show these municipalities.
  - With the GGH Area Transportation Plan covering parts of MTO's Western Region (e.g. Waterloo Region, Dufferin County), it should be clear that the plan only incorporates the portion of MTO's Western Region that is outside of the GGH.
- 3) The transportation plan actions should be updated:
- The transportation plan actions several highway infrastructure projects, but a broader vision of road widenings and other improvements (e.g., interchange modifications, roundabout installations, reconstruction, new carpool lots) and potential phasing, is not included in the transportation plan.
  - The transportation plan should provide a longer-term vision to the five-year Southern Highways Program published by MTO (although it hasn't been updated since 2017).
- 4) Action 12 should be updated:
- There is no reference in Action 12 (working with municipal and federal partners to support active transportation connections), or in the transportation plan itself, to the provincial #CycleON initiative in terms of advancing the provincial cycling network.
  - #CycleON recently released "Action Plan 2.0", outlining the second wave of initiatives to achieve the vision of #CycleON: Ontario's Cycling Strategy. Both documents



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would be useful resources for information, direction and initiatives surrounding active transportation.

- Action 12 references the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) funding for cycling projects, which would be related to transit projects to be eligible for ICIP funding (but this is not noted).
- There is no mention of the Ontario Municipal Commuter Cycling (OMCC) Program which was specific funding for cycling projects to be completed by year-end 2020, which would also support expanded cycling connections within communities.

In addition to the above-noted comments regarding the plan, it should be noted that background information, such as research, modelling and stakeholder input, was not provided with the Notice. This information should be included where possible for future draft plan reviews.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this document, and we look forward to being kept informed of the plan's progress.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Pereira'.

Gregory Pereira, MCIP RPP  
Manager, Transportation Planning