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Hurry and fix bridge, Town of Milton will tell Province

Melanie Hennessey

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The Town is urging the Province to hurry up and fix the Guelph Line bridge at the Hwy. 401 interchange.

Milton council passed a motion to that effect last week after hearing from the Province on the improvements it has planned for the area around the interchange. But the work isn't slated to happen until sometime between 2008 and 2010.

The \$2.5-million project would see the bridge -- which currently has traffic squeezing through a dangerously narrow three-lane passage -- turned into a two-lane roadway and lights installed at the busy intersection of Reid Sideroad and Guelph Line.

The work would also entail moving the carpool lot and relocating the access point to one of the 401 eastbound on-ramps to Reid Sideroad, since the bridge's third lane is the current access point.

While councillors around the table said they supported the project, they also voiced concern over the fact the improvements won't be made in the near future.

"This is not a huge project. I don't think there's any need for delay," said Wards 1 and 3 Councillor Barry Lee. "I really think this has gone on far too long."

Wards 2 and 4 Councillor Colin Best shared similar sentiments. "This bridge is long overdue and they (the Province) can certainly do it this year."

Ward 3 Councillor Jan Mowbray noted many school buses pass over the hazardous bridge every day and that it would look really bad on the Province if a bunch of children were killed there. "It's such a rotten piece of road work to subject people to."

Lee said there's been some speculation in the community that the improvements are being made to accommodate haul routes for trucks heading to the proposed Flamborough quarry.

Dave Emery of Stantec Consulting Ltd., the Province's consultant, assured council the project has nothing to do with the quarry proposal.

In the end, council passed a motion endorsing the project and petitioning the Province to expedite the work for 2007. It'll now be forwarded to the Region for support.

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