



**HIGHWAY 17 EXTENSION  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Monday, February 12, 2018**

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A meeting of the Highway 17 Extension Advisory Committee was held on Monday, February 12, 2018, at 1:00 p.m., at the County of Renfrew Administration Building, Pembroke, Ontario.

Present were: Peter Emon, Chair  
Warden Jennifer Murphy

and Committee Members: Robert Kingsbury, Tom Peckett

Regrets: Kim Love

Staff Present: W. James Hutton, Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk  
Steven P. Boland, Director of Public Works & Engineering  
Craig Kelley, Director of Development & Property  
Lori Dennis, Administrative Assistant

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Chair Emon called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. The roll was called and no pecuniary interests were disclosed.

**RESOLUTION NO. HWY-C-18-02-01**

Moved by: Councillor Peckett  
Seconded by: Councillor Kingsbury

THAT the minutes of the September 12, 2017 meeting be adopted as printed and circulated.

CARRIED.

Mr. Boland overviewed the Highway 17 Extension Advisory Committee Report attached as Appendix A.

A letter that was mailed to Honourable Kathryn McGarry, the new Minister of Transportation was distributed to members. The letter outlines the County's efforts to continue the 4 lane expansion of Highway 17 and requests an opportunity to meet with the Minister to discuss the project.

**RESOLUTION NO. HWY-C-18-02-02**

Moved by: Councillor Peckett  
Seconded by: Councillor Murphy

THAT the Highway 17 Expansion Advisory Committee recommends to the Operations Committee and to County Council that the efforts to promote the further expansion of Highway 417 continue, with a particular emphasis directed towards the newly appointed provincial cabinet ministers and the candidates for office in the upcoming provincial election.

CARRIED

Councillor Peckett inquired if Minister McGarry had been in the County of Renfrew area before. The Committee was advised that Minister McGarry was in the County area before and has more than general knowledge of Highway 17. It was suggested that the Committee request a meeting in the County area with Minister McGarry including her Senior Policy Advisor, similarly to the meeting that Chair Emon had arranged with previous Minister Del Duca in December 2016. Chair Emon commented that the meeting held with previous Minister Del Duca had illustrated the importance of the expansion.

An inquiry was made to determine if there was further information available from Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM).

Chair Emon advised Committee that he is attending the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities conference in May of 2018 as a representative for the Town of Renfrew in order to keep the linkage between them. He further commented that there is no change in the support from FONOM for Highway 17 expansion.

Warden Murphy noted that the Eastern Ontario Mayors Caucus is in support of the initiative to expand Highway 17.

**RESOLUTION NO. HWY-C-18-02-03**

Moved by: Councillor Kingsbury

Seconded by: Councillor Peckett

THAT the Highway 17 Extension Advisory Committee Report attached as Appendix A be approved.

CARRIED.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Committee was advised that if an opportunity arises with Federal Government Departments, the Committee might receive an invitation to present the case for the expansion of Highway 17 to four lanes.

**RESOLUTION NO. HWY-C-18-02-04**

Moved by: Councillor Murphy

Seconded by: Councillor Kingsbury

THAT this meeting adjourn and the next regular meeting be held at 1:00 p.m. on May 14, 2018 in the Township of Greater Madawaska. Time – 1:20 p.m.

CARRIED.

**COUNTY OF RENFREW**

**HIGHWAY 17 EXTENSION REPORT**

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**TO:** Highway 17 Extension Advisory Committee

**FROM:** Steven P. Boland, C.E.T., LEL, Director of Public Works & Engineering

**DATE:** February 12, 2018

**SUBJECT:** Departmental Report

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**INFORMATION**

1. Meeting Schedule

It is proposed that meetings of the Highway 17 Extension Advisory Committee be held immediately following the Operations Committee meetings on May 14 and September 10, 2018. Additional meetings may also be scheduled at the call of the Chair.

2. Future Highway 17 Projects

As reported by the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) representatives, during the November 29, 2017 meeting of County Council, the MTO is proceeding with a number of projects along the Highway 17 corridor in the near future. These projects include:

- Property acquisition and design work for Phases 3 & 4 of the expansion project.
- Ongoing negotiations with TransCanada Pipelines regarding the future crossing near Goshen Road.
- Replacement of various structural culverts.
- Intersection improvements at Highway 41, County Road 508 (Calabogie Road) and Haley Road.
- Replacement of various centreline culverts.
- Ongoing work by TEAM Highway 17.

As further details pertaining to the various projects are presented by the Ministry, they will be forwarded for the information of this committee.

**RESOLUTIONS**

3. Promotion of Highway 17 Expansion

**Recommendation:** That the Highway 17 Expansion Advisory Committee recommends to the Operations Committee and to County Council that the efforts to promote the further expansion of Highway 417 continue, with a particular emphasis directed towards the newly appointed provincial cabinet ministers and the candidates for office in the upcoming provincial election.

## Background

As members of this committee are aware the County of Renfrew has been advocating for the expansion of Highway 17 throughout the County of Renfrew, and beyond, for many years. In August 2017 a letter was received from the Honourable Steven DelDuca, MPP, then Minister of Transportation, indicating the status of the highway expansion project and advising that the approval had been given to advance the detailed design for the section from Scheel Drive to 3 km west of Bruce Street (County Road 20) at Renfrew. While this news was welcomed, at the present time there is no commitment to move forward with the construction of the next phase of the project and there is no indication as to the future plans for the expansion of the balance of Highway 17 through the County of Renfrew.

On January 17, 2018, Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne shuffled the provincial cabinet which resulted in Minister DelDuca moving to become the Minister of Economic Development & Growth. In addition the Honourable Kathryn McGarry, MPP was appointed as the new Minister of Transportation. Minister McGarry was most recently the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry from June 13, 2016 to January 17, 2018 and was the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Transportation from June 24, 2014 to June 22, 2016. While Minister McGarry may have some knowledge of the County's past efforts, she has not been involved in any meetings with County officials regarding the expansion of Highway 17. There is merit in meeting with Minister McGarry to bring her up to speed regarding the County's position that the continued expansion of Highway 417 represents a good investment in the provincial transportation network. It is also suggested that dialogue be continued with Minister DelDuca in his new role as the Minister of Economic Development and Growth.

The upcoming provincial election is scheduled for June 7, 2018. While the slate of candidates running for office has not yet been confirmed, it is anticipated that each of the major political parties, and perhaps others, will have candidates on the ballot for election to represent the riding of Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke in the future. In this regard it is proposed that all candidates in this riding area as well as the adjacent ridings to the west be circulated with information demonstrating the benefits of the expansion of Highway 17 and requested to indicate whether or not they support the project. Similar circulations to, and requests of, the provincial leaders of all of the major political parties should also be made.