
HIGHWAY 17/417 EXPANSION: BUILDING SAFER ROADS AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES

Overview

The County of Renfrew is asking the Province of Ontario to expedite the extension of Highway 417 from Scheel Drive (near Arnprior) to Bruce Street (in Renfrew/Horton) and begin a phased upgrade of Highway 17 between Renfrew and Deep River. These highways are vital for connecting communities, supporting industries, and ensuring safe travel.

Why It Matters

Highways 17 and 417 are the main routes for transporting goods and people in Eastern Ontario. Since rail service ended in 2010, these roads have become essential for businesses like Garrison Petawawa and Canadian Nuclear Laboratories. They also play a key role in moving resources from Northern Ontario to the Port of Montreal.

Current Issues

- The Highway 417 extension promised in 2019 still has no completion date.
- Highway 17 has 11 signalized intersections, many of which are accident-prone.
- Only 19% of the 110 km stretch between Renfrew and Deep River has passing lanes, leading to risky driving.

Proposed Solutions

- Replace traffic signals with roundabouts and interchanges to improve safety and traffic flow.
- Add passing lanes or use a 2+1 highway model (three lanes with a center passing lane that switches direction).
- Include Highway 417 west of Arnprior in Ontario's Major Highway Projects Division.

Benefits

- Safer roads for drivers.
- Better support for local industries and economic growth.
- Stronger connections between communities and major cities like Ottawa and Toronto.

Conclusion

This isn't just about building roads – it's about building opportunity. As Minister Bethlenfalvy stated "we're making the investments in workers, infrastructure and services that will protect Ontario, no matter what." The County of Renfrew is ready to work with the Province to make these vital improvements a reality.