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**THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA**  
**JOINT MEETING OF THE**  
**PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES COMMITTEE**  
**PLANNING SERVICES COMMITTEE**  
**AND**  
**TRANSPORTATION STRATEGY**  
**STEERING COMMITTEE**  
**REPORT PW 7-2003, PSC 7-2003 & TSSC 3-2003**

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Minutes of a joint meeting of the Public Works and Utilities, Planning Services and Transportation Strategy Steering Committees, held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Tuesday, March 25, 2003 commencing at 11:35 a.m.

**ATTENDANCE**

Committee: Councillors Smeaton, Co-Chair, presiding; Rigby, Co-Chair; Badawey, Co-Chair; Zimmerman, Regional Chair; Beamer, Burroughs, Davidson, Forster, Harry, Hildreth, Marshall, Anderson, Fertich, Bald, Wing, Berkhout, Irvine, Sibbald.

Staff: Messrs. Neville, Commissioner of Public Works; Cambray, Commissioner, Planning and Development; Barr, Consultant; Ms. Pilon, Legislative Assistant.

Other: Councillors Muir; Foster.

**ADMINISTRATION**

1. Resolution of Support for the  
Proposed Mid-Peninsula Transportation Corridor  
**PWA 39-2003/DPD 40-2003**

The Committee was advised that the Public Works and Utilities Committee at their March 11, 2003 meeting approved the PWA 39-2003/DPD 40-2003, however, the Planning Services Committee at their meeting of March 12, 2003, referred the report to Regional Council on March 20, 2003, which was subsequently referred to a Joint Meeting of the Public Works and Utilities, Planning Services and Transportation Strategy Steering Committees.

The Committee discussed the Planning Services Committee's concern with stipulating the John C. Munro Hamilton International Airport in the resolution and that further clarification from Regional Chair Zimmerman would be required before the Committee would feel comfortable with the proposed wording of the resolution.

Regional Chair Zimmerman provided the Committee with an overview of the work that has been jointly accomplished by the Niagara Region, City of Hamilton, and the Region of Halton and that the reference to the John C. Munro Hamilton International Airport is in support of the City of Hamilton's future plans for the airport.

The Committee members provided input as to additional statements as well as the amendments to the original wording of the resolution; it was therefore:

Moved by Councillor Rigby  
Seconded by Councillor Beamer

That Report PWA 39-2003/DPD 40-2003, March 11, 2003, respecting the Resolution of Support for the Proposed Mid-Peninsula Transportation Corridor, be received.

That Council adopt the following resolution of support for the Mid-Peninsula Transportation Corridor and forward it to the Ministers of Transportation and Environment, with copies to all members of the Provincial legislature;

WHEREAS international trade with the United States exceeds \$360 billion in total annually, with over \$104 billion flowing through Niagara;

WHEREAS the Mid Peninsula Transportation Corridor is an essential component of an international trade route from Florida through Niagara to the Greater Toronto Area and 95% of the commercial traffic through Niagara originates or is destined to the Greater Toronto Area;

WHEREAS Niagara's tender fruit land is threatened by urban pressures along the QEW corridor;

WHEREAS development pressures will result in the QEW being widened to 8-lanes if no alternative is found;

WHEREAS 90% of the approximately fifteen million tourists that visit Niagara annually arrive by auto;

WHEREAS the Mid-Peninsula Transportation Corridor is only one component of a comprehensive transportation strategy which includes rail, marine, air, cycle and pedestrian components and was developed through a wide consultative process by the Regional Municipality of Niagara with the participation of local municipalities;

WHEREAS the Mid Peninsula Transportation Corridor will provide direct access from Niagara to the John C. Munro Hamilton International Airport and supports the City of Hamilton's plans for the airport;

WHEREAS the corridor shown in the Regional Niagara Policy Plan is not considered the preferred route by Regional Council due to considerable development that has occurred in this area over the last 10 years;

WHEREAS Niagara Region will provide documentation to support a preferred southerly route through the Environmental Assessment process;

WHEREAS the Regional Municipality of Niagara has been supporting the establishment of a Mid-Peninsula Transportation Corridor since the adoption of the first Regional Niagara Policy Plan in 1973;

WHEREAS the Regional Municipality of Niagara supports an expeditious process for the completion of the Environmental Assessment;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Council of the Region of Niagara supports the building of a Mid-Peninsula Transportation Corridor extending through Niagara, and connecting to a 400-series highway to be determined by the Environmental Assessment process, to create an alternative route for international trade passing through Niagara; to divert truck traffic away from the QEW; to divert development pressures away from the tender fruit areas north of the escarpment; and to encourage economic development in South Niagara; and

That Council call on the provincial government, through a letter to the Ministers of Transportation and the Environment copied to all Members of the Ontario Provincial Legislature, to move without delay through the Environmental Assessment, Design, Financing, Property Acquisition and Construction of the Mid-Peninsula Transportation Corridor.

That Council forward the above resolution to the Councils of local municipalities within Niagara and the Councils of the City of Hamilton, Region of Halton and Counties of Haldimand and Norfolk, and other stakeholders, and request that they adopt the resolution or a similar resolution of support for the proposed Mid-Peninsula Transportation Corridor.

Carried.

*(Please note that the list of 'other stakeholders' has been attached to these minutes for information purposes.)*

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

2. **Thank You and Best Wishes!**

Regional Chair Zimmerman extended her thanks and best wishes to Mr. John Barr, who will be retiring from the Region's employ as of Friday, March 28, 2003.

The Committee responded warmly with best wishes.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Committee adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Bill Smeaton  
Co-Chair

Tim Rigby  
Co-Chair

Vance Badawey  
Co-Chair

Janet Pilon  
Legislative Assistant

Thomas R. Hollick  
Regional Clerk