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## NEWS

# Town denied funding for Acton truck bypass study

By Melanie Hennessey  
 Special to The IFP

The Town's application for provincial funds to help offset the cost of a truck traffic strategy and Acton bypass study has been turned down by officials at Queen's Park.

But Mayor Rick Bonnette isn't letting the issue rest and plans to push for funding in person when he meets with Minister of Transportation Steven Del Duca next month.

Council learned via a staff memo last week that the study was deemed ineligible for funding through the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund.

Town Commissioner of Planning and Infrastructure Chris Mills explained that since the study isn't tied to a major construction project, it didn't make the cut. He added that the Town's previous applications to the fund have been turned down due to the municipality's ability to pay for its projects.

"I'm disappointed we didn't qualify," said Bonnette, noting he knows it's "next to impossible to compete with so many smaller communities that don't have resources" that are also applying to the fund.

The Town had applied for \$100,000 in funding to help offset the cost of a truck traffic strategy and Acton bypass study. Town staff wants to commence the study next year at a cost of \$200,000 and is proposing a 50/50 cost sharing arrangement with the Province. The Town's portion has already been approved in the 2016 budget.

Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnett has arranged a meeting with Del Duca on Jan. 20 to discuss the need for a long-term truck strategy in Halton Hills, including the possibility of an Acton bypass. Bonnette, council and Halton Regional Chair Gary Carr have all been invited to the session.

"This (funding) will be one of topics we're discussing to see if they can find \$100,000 to match our \$100,000 to do a traffic impact study," said Bonnette.

Arnett had also tabled a Private Member's Resolution in the Ontario Legislature calling on the Minister of Transportation to prioritize an Acton bypass by placing it on the Southern Highways program, the Ministry's five-year plan for highway construction. He intends to make reference to the resolution in the months ahead to continue to highlight the issue.

## Town approves changes to subdivision plan

Halton Hills Council has approved the Zoning Bylaw Amendment for a development on the east side of Georgetown South between Monarch Dr. and Tenth Line, and Davis Cres. and Danby Rd.

The land, according to Town's Senior Development Planner Mark Kluge, represents the final phases of greenfield development within Georgetown South.

At the request of the Halton District School Board, the developer Halton Hills South Property Corporation has revised its plan to create a larger elementary school block, a reconfigured neighborhood park, revised road layout and smaller lot frontag-



es on some streets to accommodate 15 on-street townhomes.

The revised development was approved by the Ontario Municipal Board in July 2015.

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