

**Start driving your auto insurance savings further...**

**Lora Greene, Agent**  
211 Guelph Street  
Georgetown, ON L7G 5B5  
Bus: 905-873-1615  
lora@loragreene.ca

**...with up to 30%\* in savings & discounts**

- Winter tires? Save up to **5%\***
- Multiple vehicles? Save up to **15%\***
- Hybrid or electric vehicle? Save up to **5%\***
- College or university student? Save up to **10%\***
- Additional savings\* if you have multiple policies with State Farm®

**PLUS, save up to an additional 25% with our new smartphone app TELEMATICS!¹** A convenient app to help you learn more about your driving habits, and potentially save. **Call me today.**

**State Farm®**

\*Conditions apply. ¹Certain products and services may not be available in all provinces and territories. The discount does not apply to certain endorsements and additional coverages. Please note that the savings will automatically be applied to the premium at renewal. Certain conditions and restrictions may apply.  
State Farm branded policies are underwritten by Certas Home and Auto Insurance Company.  
© State Farm and related trademarks and logos are registered trademarks owned by State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company, used under Licence by Certas Home and Auto Insurance Company, 1510024CN

NEWS

# Traffic congestion costs average GTA household \$125 a year, report says

FRANCINE KOPUN  
fkopun@thestar.ca

Smart traffic signals, clearing accidents quickly and opening up paved shoulders to vehicles during rush hour would improve congestion on GTA highways - a problem that is costing the average household \$125 a year, according to a report from the Toronto Region Board of Trade. One million tonnes - \$3 billion worth of goods - are trucked through the region every day, according to the board.

But congestion on the highways connecting the cities is creating delays that cost \$500 million to \$650 million per year in higher prices.

"What surprised me the most I guess was that for a region of this size - Greater Toronto, Hamilton, Barrie, Kitchener-Waterloo - which we are calling the corridor - we currently don't have a regional strategy," said the author of the report, Natasha Apollonova, assistant vice-president, policy, Toronto Region Board of Trade.

"I think there needs to be someone who is co-ordinating all of this and who has the responsibility for really driving the regional strategy.

"The report points out that much of the road network in the corridor doesn't take full advantage of even

existing technologies and could benefit from emerging technologies like smart signals.

Smart signals use cameras and sensors embedded in the pavement to respond to traffic patterns in real time, according to the report, for example, eliminating an advance left turn signal if no cars are waiting in line to turn left. Smart signals can allow extended green signals for turning trucks trying to clear an intersection.

Efforts should be made to maximize the existing infrastructure, including permitting vehicles to use paved shoulders on the Don Valley Parkway in peak traffic; variable speed limits and rapid accident clearance, which would help avoid long unexpected delays, according to the report.

The report cites as an example the Ontario Provincial Police and Halton region, which are using drones to quickly record accident scenes, reducing the clearance process from 15 minutes from between one and two hours.

The report also calls for smarter enforcement, including cracking down on vehicles that block traffic by making illegal turns. It suggests moving truck traffic to Highway 407 by providing financial incentives to trucking companies.

The solution would also include improving public transit in the region, to get more passenger cars off the roads.

"It highlights a whole bunch of the work that we have on the go now," said Barbara Gray, general manager, transportation services, City of Toronto, adding that the city is about to embark on a citywide look at freight and goods movement with stakeholders. In November the city announced it was launching a pilot project to test smart traffic signals at 22 intersections across the city.

The project is part of a city initiative to modernize its traffic signal systems. It will take a few more months to gather data from those trials, said Gray. "Smart signal technology is really going to be a game changer. I know that in those jurisdictions that have started some testing, they've seen some real benefits," she said.

Gray pointed out that while Toronto was an early adopter of adaptive traffic technology when it first emerged, it's time for an update.

Whether or not shoulder lanes on the DVP could be used as extra lanes during peak periods remains to be seen, said Gray: currently they provide a quick way for emergency vehicles to get to the scene of an accident or clear a stalled vehicle.

**LODUCA CERAMIC TILE**

**Decorators' Choice 2016**  
Favourite Contractor  
6 years in a row!

- Ceramic & Porcelain Tile Installation
- Bathroom Renovations
- Kitchen Backsplashes
- Heated Floors

**Dave LoDuca**  
Cell: 416-989-7809

**castle building centres LEATHERTOWN LUMBER**

**SERVICE AND QUALITY YOU CAN BUILD ON**

**HOT BUY!**

**\$199.99** WAS: \$299.99  
**X-treme Pro Pneumatic Stapler**  
16 gauge, drives staples up to 2". 3/8" hose fitting, 7/16" standard crown. 160 staple capacity, 80 to 120 PSIG. 9448879

**DOOR BUSTERS**

**\$8.99** WAS: \$15.99  
**10-Pc. Insert Bit Pocket Set**  
Manufactured with heavy-duty, cold-forged, high-grade steel. Black oxide finish resists corrosion. Includes Phillips, square & T25 torx bits in a case. 8787202

**DOOR BUSTERS**

**\$24.99** WAS: \$29.99  
**Dual Receptacle/USB Ports**  
2 pole, 3 wire grounding. Combination dual USB ports with a tamper resistant AC receptacle. Charge electronic devices directly from a standard outlet. 1452879

**LIMITED QUANTITIES. WHILE SUPPLIES LAST.**

**Leathertown LUMBER**

264 Main Street North, Acton  
519-853-1970 416-601-1259

[www.leathertownlumber.ca](http://www.leathertownlumber.ca)

**Upper Credit Humane Society Thrift Shop - February auction**

**Featured items include: Diamond ring, guitar, game boy set, mantle clock, vintage books and more!**

The Upper Credit Humane Society  
February 2018 auction will take place on  
**Saturday, February 24, 2018 with live bidding beginning at 4:30 p.m.**

Book bidding is available in advance at the  
**Thrift Shop at 68 Main St. North in Georgetown, ON.**  
**Telephone bids are not accepted**

**Diamond Ring**

**UPPER CREDIT HUMANE SOCIETY**  
Thrift Shop - 68 Main St. N., Georgetown (Moore Park Plaza)  
thriftshop@uppercredit.com | 905.702.8661 | uppercredit.com  
Charitable Registration #893738872RR0001