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NEWS

MUNICIPALITIES PROVIDE UNITED FRONT AGAINST CN'S PROPOSAL

Continued from page 11

gion's haul route analysis and traffic modelling.

"Based on this modelling, project-related trucks are not likely to cause a significant adverse environmental effect on road safety, but are likely to cause increased traffic congestion, amounting to a significant adverse environmental effect," notes Zuidema. "Further, if project container throughput increases, roadway safety will also likely become a significant adverse environmental effect."

Following a lengthy in camera session to discuss the matter, regional council unanimously endorsed the submissions of the Halton municipalities to the panel.

Staff's detailed work in preparing the documentation was lauded by those around the table, with coun-

cil members also speaking in favour of the panel review process.

"I think this is a momentous opportunity for this council and our community," said Burlington Coun. Paul Sharman.

Oakville Mayor Rob Burton shared similar sentiments, extending his thanks to the federal government for the chance to share local concerns with the intermodal plans.

"This is an issue that affects every single municipality and will have impacts well beyond the immediate boundaries," added Burlington Mayor Marianne Meed Ward. "That's why all four municipalities and the region are united in our re-

sponse on this."

Milton Mayor Gord Krantz - who has been dealing with variations of CN intermodal plans since they first came forward in 2001 - said while there's still a lot of work to be done, he predicted the matter will come to a head within two to three years.

"That's moving ahead with municipal, regional, provincial and federal blinding speed when it comes to this," he said.

The public hearing will commence June 19 starting at 9 a.m. at the Holiday Inn Express in Milton and run until July 17.

Further details can be found at <https://ceaa-acee.gc.ca>.

STORY BEHIND THE STORY:

Our newsroom has covered the controversial intermodal plans since they first came forward in 2001 and continues to follow how it will impact local residents.

HALTON HILLS MAYOR SPEAKS OUT AGAINST BILL 108



Alex Heck/Metroland

Rick Bonnette has been serving as a local politician for over 36 years and has been Mayor of Halton Hills since 2003.

Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette is speaking out against recently passed Bill 108.

Known as the More Homes, More Choices Act, Bonnette said the bill will impact municipal land planning processes, including how development charges are collected and applied.

"It is not just disappointing that the province did not listen to us, but it is disconcerting," Bonnette said. "This is not how we build partnerships."

The bill affects 13 different statutes including the Endangered Species Act, the Cannabis Control Act, the Development Charges Act and the Environmental Assess-

ment Act.

"This bill will mean new growth will pay even less of its true costs and you, the existing taxpayer, will have to make up the difference," Bonnette said.

Bonnette said the province will return to the Ontario Municipal Board rule, as opposed to the current Local Planning Appeal Tribunal, which would effectively give the tribunal the final say in municipal planning decisions.

The mayor's full statement is available at haltonhills.ca/Mayor/column.php.