

TOWN CALLING FOR 407 ETR TOLL SUBSIDY

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Halton Hills Council is voicing its support for a provincial subsidy to help divert traffic — particularly trucks — off the busy Highway 401 and onto the 407 express toll route (ETR).

A motion to this effect was unanimously passed by local councillors during their March meeting. The resolution, put forth by Coun. Jane Fogal, also stipulates that the municipality continues its strong opposition to the "environmentally destructive" proposed Highway 413.

"We certainly do have a congestion problem on the 401, and it needs a speedy solution," said Fogal dur-



Graham Paine/Metroland
Halton Hills Council contends that 407 toll subsidies would help alleviate Highway 401 congestion.

ing the meeting. "But building a new 400-series highway — it might take 10 years before that actually connects from one highway to the next."

She said the more immediate solution, as proposed by a provincially appointed expert panel, would be to incentivize the use of the 407 for truckers by subsidizing tolls.

The concept was supported by Mayor Rick Bonnette, who seconded the motion.

"If we can get the trucks onto the 407 and subsidize them, I think that is a win-win," he said.

Coun. Clark Somerville went on to suggest adding the word "vehicle" to the motion to address all types of traffic currently clogging up the 401.

"Every car we get off the 401 and onto the 407 is reducing congestion on the 401," he noted.

The motion suggests that the toll subsidies could be covered by reintroducing the licence sticker program and enforcing \$1-billion financial penalties the provincial government can levy against 407 International Inc. when traffic fails to meet contractual targets.

The resolution will be forwarded to Premier Doug Ford, Minister of Transportation Caroline Mulroney, GTA MPPs and all GTA municipalities.

CRIME

SUSPECTS SOUGHT IN ALLEGED PURSE AND WALLET THEFTS

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Halton police are turning to the public for help identifying a group of suspects in a series of alleged purse and wallet thefts that have taken place throughout the region. Between April 2021 and March 2022, police say there have been 16 thefts involving a group of six different suspects they've identified.

"The suspects typically target older adults in retail and grocery stores throughout the region," states a police press release.

SUSPECT 1



SUSPECT 2



SUSPECT 3



Halton police photo

Halton police say they've identified these six suspects in a string of alleged purse and wallet thefts.

"In many cases, the victim's personal identification number was also stolen, and the tap functions of their financial cards were used to make fraudulent purchases."

According to police, the suspects worked in pairs and distracted their victims while shopping, with one suspect engaging the victim in conversation while the other stole a wallet and/or purse. In some instances, police say older adults' vehicles have also been entered while one suspect distracted the vic-

tim by loading their groceries. The estimated total losses of these 16 occurrences total more than \$25,000.

Anyone with information regarding this investigation is asked to contact Det. Const. Derek Gray of the 3 District Criminal Investigations Bureau at 905-825-4777, ext. 2344 or email Derek.gray@haltonpolice.ca.

Tips can also be submitted anonymously to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or haltoncrimestoppers.ca.

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