

Region committee agrees public input necessary during bypass EA study

By LISA TALLYN
Staff Writer

After representatives of area residents groups spoke at a regional planning and public works committee meeting Wednesday, the committee did some minor tweaking to recommendations regarding the class environmental assessment study for the extension of 10 Sideroad and a Norval bypass.

The committee supported a recommendation to receive the study outline for the Class Environmental Assessment (EA) study and to augment the steering committee's mandate by adding a line about finalizing the study outline with public input.

The committee, consisting of a regional councillor, Halton Hills councillor, regional staff, Town of Halton Hills staff, Region of Peel staff, City of Brampton staff and Ministry of Transportation staff, is to select a consultant to undertake the study and provide ongoing directions.

Committee also supported a recommendation that Halton Hills, Peel Region, City of Brampton and Ministry of Transportation appoint appropriate staff to the steering committee and contribute toward the cost of the study.

In the actual study outline the committee added quality of life and health and safety as part of the criteria to measure each alternative route and added another public meeting to the process.

A site visit to the Hall Rd. area, suggested by Neil MacKinnon and Norm Bergeron of

Save Our Street (SOS), was also included.

The recommendations approved by the planning and public works committee are to be before regional council today (Wednesday).

SOS said their group represents about 500 families that live on and in the area of Hall Rd. They requested the steering committee actually visit the site and wanted the cost estimate for extending Hall Rd. to be restated in the study process.


Michael Keough of Protect Our Neighborhood (PON) said they have collected 450 signatures of Georgetown South residents who are opposed to the Tenth Line-Hall Rd. option for the bypass and they would like to see the option removed from the assessment process as soon as possible.

Dr. Deborah Zeni of the Maple Ave. Residents Association made several suggestions to the planning and public works committee. Among them were the desire to have the project called the Georgetown/Norval bypass consistently, the addition of terms of reference for the study steering committee, the need for safety as one of the criteria used to measure each alternative, and the inclusion of police and advisors from the boards of education on the technical advisors committee.

The region is anticipating hiring a consultant to complete the Class EA in December with the first public meeting to be held in January to review the purpose of the study, examine all possible alternatives and seek consensus on the evaluation criteria. A preferred alternative is expected in about February or March and the completion of the Class EA is targeted for October 2000.

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