

Greg Lawrence

Potential road widenings alarm residents

By IRENE GENTLE

The Champion

Some residents are concerned that a regional road study is driving in the wrong direction, Halton's planning and public works committee heard recently.

The objections were to a final draft report of the Halton Functional Road Network Study, drawn up by consultants McCorkmick Rankin Corporation.

The mandate of the report is to look at road functions up to 2016, factoring in population growth and usage.

Some residents were alarmed at potential road widenings in their neighborhoods.

Sherry Bain, a representative of the South Iroquois Ridge Society, appeared before committee to ask the region to keep its hands off of her Oakville neighborhood.

She was particularly concerned about possible widening of Oakville's Upper Middle Road, which is classified in the report as a major arterial road.

"There's an awful lot of shocked people "This provides the basis for long-term seeing what's in this report for the first time," said Ms Bain. "I don't think it's fair."

After being received for information at committee level, the draft report is scheduled to make a pit stop at all four municipal councils in April.

A final report will come back to committee in late May.

Without the report, the region will not be able to apply development charges to road work, explained Halton's finance guru Joe

The report provides the technical information needed for the region to replace current by-laws, which expire this summer, he said.

"Your by-laws expire August 31, period," Mr. Rinaldo advised committee. "There is no mechanism to recover anything for roads until you pass a new one."

Passing the draft report doesn't mean that every project identified in it will come to pass, assured the region's planning chief Pat Murphy.

planning and development charges," he said. "What it does not say is that Upper Middle Road will be widened for certain."

The report is meant to identify possible projects. Each one would then have to go through extensive environmental assessments and public consultations before being widened, said Mr. Murphy.

"This is not the end of the process," he said. "Each road that needs to be widened will have its own public consultation."

The long-range view of the study

works for them."

angered Halton Hills resident Earnest Ball.

"People care about what is going to happen tomorrow morning, and the day after that, and the day after that," he said. "They don't care about 2016."

Mr. Ball was angered that the designation given to Maple Street in Georgetown will not turn away the gravel trucks that rumble along it each day.

"We have 2,000 children each morning being slowly asphyxiated on Maple Road but we can't tell a gravel truck to go 2 kms out of its way," he said.

Regional council should divert the trucks a few miles out of the way to preserve the neighbourhood, said Mr. Ball.

"You say they'll go out of business if they do that. Well, I don't believe it," he said. "So, let's try it. If they do go out of business, then you'll be right and I'll apologize."

Oakville councillor Kevin Flynn objected to what he felt was a pressure to pass the report quickly in order to meet the August deadline.

Greg J. Lawrence B.Sc., D. Ch.

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• from LITERACY on page 9

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It starts the week of April 5th and continues every other week on your Blue Box day until the week of November 29th 1999. Place materials curbside by 7:30 a.m.

- Please keep Yard Waste separate from your garbage and blue box. This avoids confusion during collection.
- Yard Waste must be placed in clear plastic bags (dark bags will not be collected), large paper yard waste bags or open containers (no garbage cans).
- Brush must be bundled and tied, not bagged, no larger than 4 feet long by 2 feet diameter with branches a maximum of 3 inches diameter.
- Yard Waste bags or containers must be no heavier than 23 kg (50 pounds).

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- plants
- leaves
- grass
- small branches
- hedge clippings

small bundles of brush



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