

# Upgrades coming to major intersection south of town

By JASON MISNER  
The Champion

A section of Bronte Road (also called Regional Road 25) in Palermo will undergo traffic improvements in response to the vehicular death of the Halton Sikh Cultural Association's beloved founder two months ago.

And the association says it will keep a close eye on the changes to ensure they're working.

"We're hopeful the changes will make some difference, we will watch it very closely," association trustee Piara Singh Roshan told The Champion.

Halton's Sikh community is still mourning the death of Tarsem Singh Sian, 63, Mr. Roshan said. Mr. Sian was killed in an accident October 25 outside the Halton Gurdwara on Bronte Road, south of Dundas Street (Regional Road 5). "The loss we have suffered is so great."

Regional Road 25 is a vital north-south roadway linking Oakville and Milton. Thousands of drivers use it daily to move back and forth between both municipalities, as well as to get to the QEW.

Halton Region, which owns the busy roadway, approved \$10,000 worth of safety improvements at Wednesday's regional council meeting. They include:

- Reducing the speed limit to 60 km/h from south of Hwy. 407

through to past the Halton Region headquarters. That has already been done.

- Installing two warning signs. The top part of the sign will have a flashing light with the words, "Places of Worship" and a smaller sign underneath will read, "Vehicles Turning." They are expected to be put up in January.

- Road markings warning of left-hand turns into Halton Gurdwara for vehicles travelling southbound along that portion of Bronte Road. (There's no exclusive turning lane). That has already been done.

Also, Halton Regional Police will be asked to increase traffic enforcement in conjunction with the new speed limit.

"We are a little relieved to see some changes coming," Mr. Roshan said.

Mr. Sian, 63, of Creekside Drive in Oakville, was killed while making a left turn into the Halton Gurdwara on Bronte Road just south of Dundas Street. His Toyota was struck from behind by a Honda. The Toyota was forced into the oncoming northbound lane where it was struck head-on by a northbound cube van.

Mr. Sian, a retired civil design engineer with Ontario Hydro, founded the Oakville Sikh Cultural Association in November 1979. In 1999 it became known as the Halton Sikh Cultural Association.

Mr. Sian leaves behind a wife and four adult children.

The Halton Sikh Cultural Association had requested the Region install a dedicated left-turning lane.

Halton traffic experts looked into the request - which would have cost between \$200,000 and \$250,000 if implemented - and found the number of vehicles turning left into Halton Gurdwara didn't warrant such a turning lane.

Also, a report to councillors detailing the Bronte Road traffic improvements states the collision history between Westoak Trail Boulevard and Dundas Street is low, with eight reported accidents between 1998 and 2002. Two of the accidents are related to turning into Halton Gurdwara, but the figures don't include the recent accident that killed Mr. Sian.

"There isn't a safety issue in the area," said Ed Soldo, manager of the Halton's transportation services. "(The improvements) are an added measure to feel safe turning into the site."

Meanwhile, the expectation is traffic around Halton Gurdwara will improve when the Region ultimately completes construction of a bypass road west of Palermo.

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