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Regional Road 25 widening project now in EA process

By **BERNADETTE WARD**
Special to *The Champion*

It won't happen until 2009, but the process of widening Regional Road 25 to four lanes is about halfway through the Environmental Assessment (EA) process, the details of which were available to the public at the Milton Sports Centre Wednesday.

The information session, attended by about six residents, Regional staff and consultants from URS Canada Inc, took the audience through the EA process in general and gave an update on where they're at currently in terms of the segment of road between Hwy. 401 and Campbellville Road.

"The whole EA process is a way of identifying opportunities to make things better," said Mark Nykoluk of URS.

Mr. Nykoluk used the analogy of a leaking roof to explain the EA process, pointing out that first you have the leaking roof as the problem, and next you need to identify a number of solutions that might range from doing nothing to fixing the roof.

Using Mr. Nykoluk's analogy, the next step is how to fix the roof.

"That's where we're at now; looking at alternative designs," he said.

Some of the alternatives under consideration are widening the lanes, introducing median control, safety improvements, noise attenuation and cross-sectional ele-

ments such as ditches versus storm sewers.

These alternatives will be assessed using an evaluation-criterion that includes the natural environment, the socio-economic environment, technical issues and cost.

"We have to make sure that whatever we're recommending doesn't affect Sixteen Mile Creek," said Mr. Nykoluk.

The second stage of the study, which began in April, has just been completed.

During the second phase, a variety of alternative solutions in the widening and non-widening categories were considered including adding signage, changing the timing of signals and the addition of a turning lane.

Some questions, comments

After the presentation, there were a handful of questions and one observation about public attendance.

"We go to all these meetings because you never know what you can contribute," said resident John Meyer. "Don't complain later on if the road is not to your liking," he said.

For more information about the road widening or to view the presentation, go to the Region's Web site at www.region.halton.on.ca and link to Planning and Public Works and then to Environmental Assessments and then to April 25 Stakeholder Meeting Presentation.

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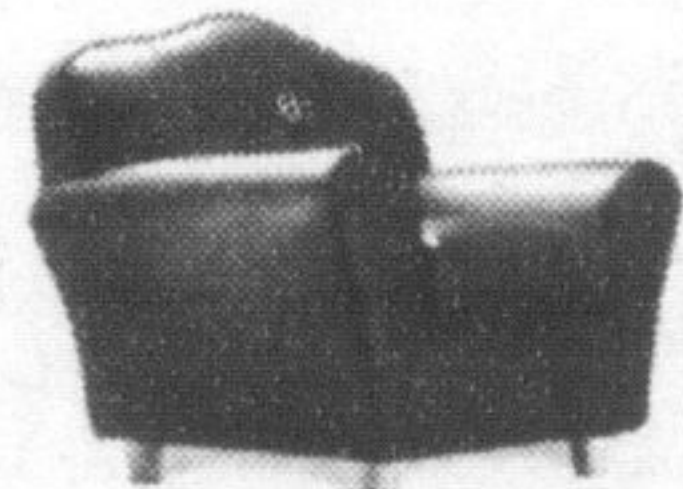
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