Transportation infrastructure must keep up with growth, says councillor

This frustration with the plan, saying he keeps hearing about how The Big Move plan will benefit everyone, but he doesn't see how it will improve the transportation system.

"The idea is to maintain current service levels, which are already not acceptable to a lot of people in the GTA," he said.

Milton Councillor Colin Best noted one only needs to look at Hwy. 401 between James Snow Parkway and Mavis Road to see the problem Halton faces and will face if infrastructure doesn't keep up with the growth imposed on it by the Province.

He said the Province needs to step g up and fund its share.

He said he would also like the provincial government to step back and evaluate the end goal of what the growth will mean, because he isn't seeing the benefits, especially if the municipalities aren't getting the support they need to flourish.

Committee members also expressed concern about the plan as a whole,

This important message has been brought to you by

these concerned community minded businesses and



Recent changes to Metrolinx's The Big Move plan include delaying the development and implementation of a two-way, all-day rail service along the Milton Line between Meadowvale and Milton and the Kitchener Line between Mount Pleasant an Georgetown from a 15-year timeframe to a 16- to 25-year timeframe.

File photo by Graham Paine / Canadian Champion (Follow on Twitter @halton_photog)

strongly opposing the use of any investment tool that impacts Ontarians property taxes. They're worried as well that regional com-

muters will be paying for a disproportionate amount of Metrolinx's \$2 billion annual regional transit expansion. The committee discussed inviting representatives from Metrolinx, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Ministry of Infra-

structure and the Ministry of Transportation to give a presentation to the planning and public works committee addressing growth and the transportation projects proposed for Halton in The Big Move.

Members also supported a recommendation to inform Metrolinx that it should co-ordinate its investment strategy with the forecasts, targets and policies of the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe before it delivers the strategy to the provincial government June 1.

It should also provide a sustainable strategy for the funding of all 62 projects identified in the Big Move capital program, including those projects directly benefitting Halton and, if this is not achievable, that the Province be requested to revisit the growth plan assumptions to reflect the existing economic realities and a slower growth scenario.

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 If you have to drive make sure you reduce fuel use by driving the speed limit, checking your tire pressure regularly and bringing your vehicle in for regular tuneups.

 Ask your company if they'll provide a discount on public transit to employees.

Better yet, work from home!

At Work

 Avoid litter when buying your lunch. Bring your own plate or container to the cafeteria or take out counter.

 Bring your own coffee mug to work. Most coffee chains offer a discount if you bring your own mug.

Buy a water filter for your office to discourage the purchase of bottled water.

 Find out if there are ways you can improve your office recycling program.

 Reduce the amount of paper waste by using scrap paper in the printer and photocopier for non-essential items. When buying paper for the office do some research and only buy from companies with sustainable forestry practices and significant post consumer content. For outside print jobs find out if the company you deal with uses vegetable based inks, and 100% postconsumer paper.

 Set up a composting bin and disposal schedule in your office kitchen.

 Encourage bus and train travel for long distance meetings instead of air travel. Better yet, encourage tele-conferencing.

• Ensure that all outdated electronics are recycled.

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