

Investment in regional roads reducing congestion: report

Continuing investments in the region's transportation infrastructure is improving road conditions and the commute for Halton residents, according to a report.

The Region's 2012 Transportation Services Assessment Report, received by regional council last week, shows how a variety of programs — including speed reviews, road safety audits, the red light camera program and expanding the regional road network — are helping ensure the region remains a safe community while continuing to meet the transportation needs of current and future residents and businesses. "Halton remains the safest community in the country is critical to Halton regional development," said Regional Chair Gary Carr. "By investing in road safety programs, we're helping drivers remember the rules of the road and help ensure they get to work and home safely."


Red light cameras are one educational tool that can be used to remind drivers to stop on red. "It's not about money, it's about saving lives." In March 2012, regional council introduced a red light camera program to two Halton communities with a camera at Brant Street and Dundas Street in Burlington and one at

Trafalgar Road and Upper Middle Road in Oakville. In nine months, the cameras registered 461 infractions.


Also, the number of serious, right-angle collisions at the intersections reduced by 80 per cent compared to the previous year. To date, the two cameras alone have captured 755 drivers going through a traffic light after it turned red. "Halton's capital budget for roads has increased from \$50 million in 2006 to \$289 million in 2013, Halton's largest investment in road infrastructure" said Carr.

"At the same time, we've achieved an average zero per cent tax increase on regional services, one of the best records in Canada." In 2012, regional council allocated \$159 million to transportation capital projects including the following projects that were completed:

- Building new four-lane section of James Snow Parkway from Sixteen Mile Creek to 60 m west of Mount Pleasant Road
- Widening Winston Churchill Boulevard from Steeles Avenue to No. 5 Sideroad
- Building a new section of James Snow Parkway from Regional Road 25 to Boston Church Road, including grade separation structure at the Canadian National Railway tracks.



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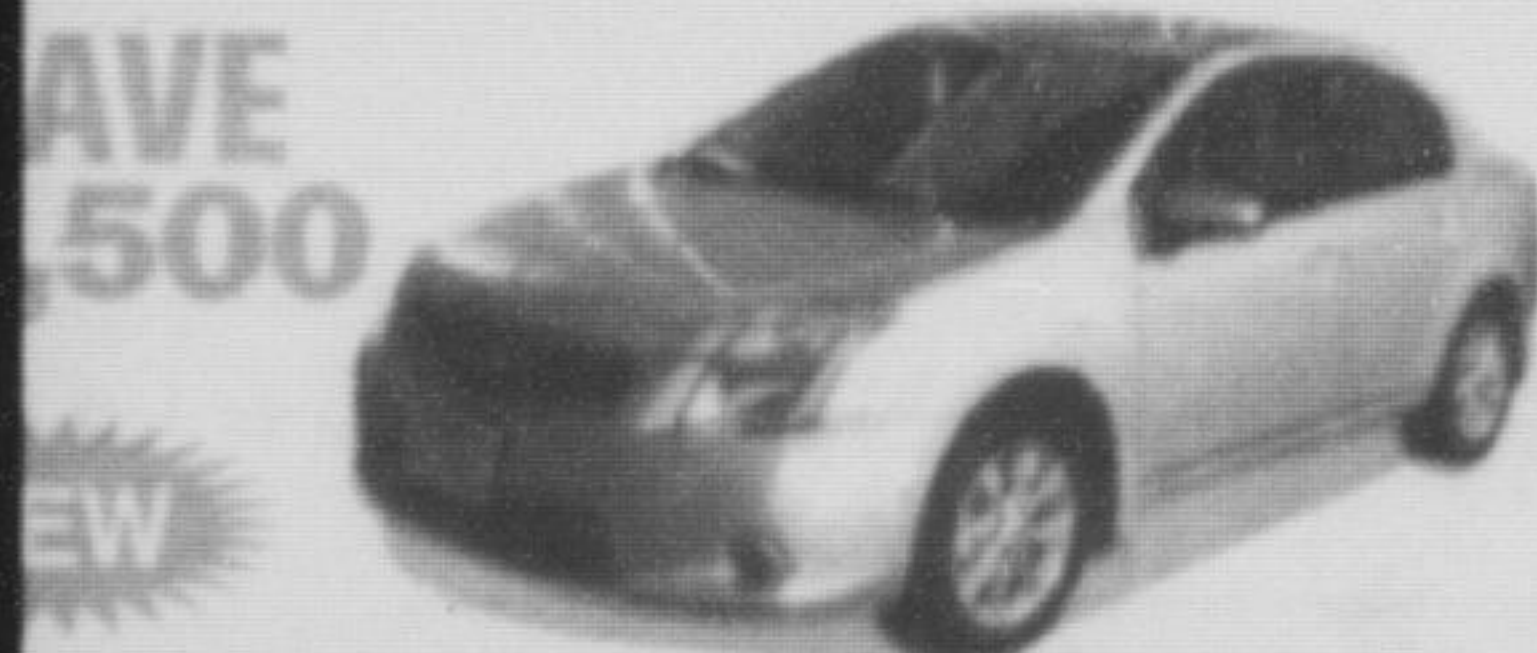
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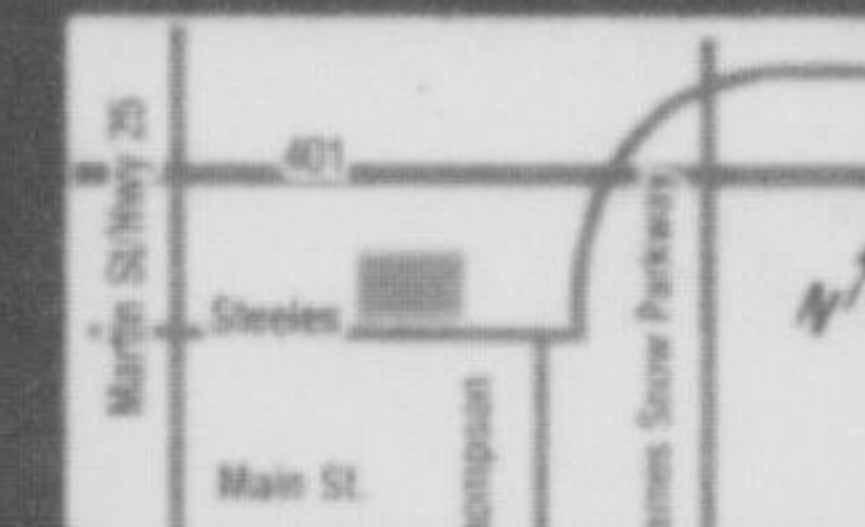
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