

STAFF PHOTO/MIKE BARRETT

Ontario Transportation Minister Brad Clark told area chambers of commerce Thursday in Markham that traffic gridlock in Southern Ontario will not be cured overnight.

Gridlock cure will take 10 years

BY CAROL COOPER
Special

Commuters could be curled up with their kids instead of tied up in traffic under a 10-year provincial plan to end gridlock, said the minister of transportation in Markham Thursday.

Speaking before members of the Markham Board of Trade and the Richmond Hill, Vaughan and Scarborough chambers of commerce at the Radisson Hotel, Minister Brad Clark outlined the plan. As traffic on Hwy. 7 outside the hotel crept along, he described a seamless transportation system, moving people and goods effortlessly between transportation modes of choice, creating jobs and strong communities.

"Our government believes this new transportation network will help define the province," Minister Clark said. "It is fundamental to the economy, the environment and our quality of life."

Commuters would be encouraged to leave their cars at home by an efficient, integrated transit system, accessed by one pass for all of Ontario, the minister said. He said transportation is the most important issue in the province.

When the government reassumed responsibility for GO Transit on Jan. 1, it implemented an important part of its plan, he said. Without offering details, Minister Clark said the government wants to expand and strengthen GO Transit, which he called the cornerstone of Ontario's economic prosperity.

By funding the system, the province has freed up \$140 million over 10 years for York Region to invest in its own transit system. And the government is studying a central transportation corridor in the GTA and bus lanes for provincial highways, Minister Clark said.

Throughout his speech, long on generalities and short on details, the minister emphasized the importance of public and private sector partnerships. "Our government knows that it cannot build all the infrastructure the province needs solely on the provincial tax base."

And while noting both the provincial and municipal governments have pledged \$3 billion to improve transit, Minister Clark called on the federal government to come forward with an equal amount.

After attending a transportation workshop on Wednesday and hearing the speech on Thursday, President and CEO of the Markham Board of Trade Ruth Burkholder said she was satisfied with Minister Clark's plans. The almost constant traffic gridlock concerns the business community, because it inter-

feres with the efficient movement of goods and contributes to employee stress, she said.

"It was the fact that the provincial government has provided some funding

See MIXED page 9.

The Regional Municipality of York
THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO BE INVOLVED IN
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HIGHWAY 7 CORRIDOR TRANSITWAY STUDY

As one of the fastest growing municipalities in Canada, York Region is facing a number of transportation challenges. A top priority of the Region is to ensure the development of a high quality public transit system.

Highway 7 is one of the busiest transportation routes in York Region and past studies have identified that a rapid transit service is essential in improving the traffic movement in this corridor. The Region has consequently initiated the Highway 7 Corridor Transitway Study to address these needs.

The first step in the transitway study is to develop the Terms of Reference, as required under the Individual Environmental Assessment process. The scope and success of this study depends greatly on public input and participation.

The second round of Public Consultation Centres will be held on the following dates. The purpose is to obtain public input about the study findings.

Saturday, March 2, 2002
Markville Mall, Markham
5000 Highway 7 East (Hwy. 7 & McCowan Rd.)
12:00 pm - 5:00 pm

To receive further information on this study, please refer to the project web site at: www.region.york.on.ca and click on "Sustainable Transportation Initiatives".

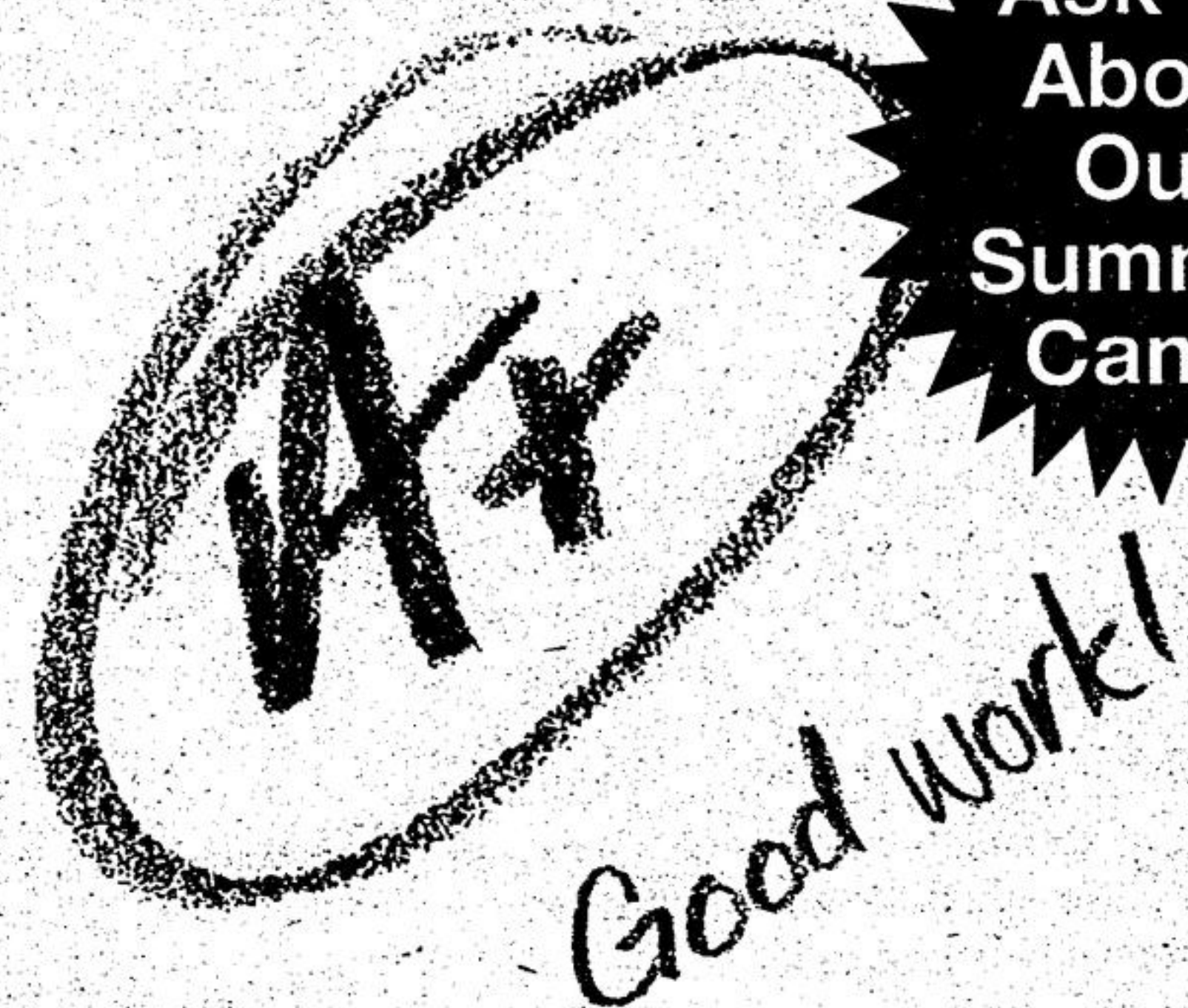
If you wish to have your name placed on our mailing list, or to direct questions and comments please contact:

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NOTICE

Markham Stouffville Hospital is inviting applications to serve on the Board of Directors of the Hospital. The Board is composed of community volunteers with a mix of skills and experience necessary to provide leadership to the Hospital in meeting its community's health care needs. Board members provide governance to the Hospital Corporation. Working closely with senior management and medical representatives, the Board is responsible for establishing policies and procedures, monitoring hospital performance, and ensuring proper fiscal management of resources.

For 2002/03, the Board has a minimum of 4 vacancies to be filled. The Nominating Committee is specifically seeking individuals with one or more of the following skills:

- Corporate and/or strategic marketing
- Experience in senior management and leadership roles in the public or private sectors
- Real estate and/or land development experience

To be eligible, an individual must be a resident or employed or carry on business in the catchment area of Markham Stouffville Hospital. Candidates will be assessed and interviewed to ensure the Board has the right combination of expertise and community representation to fulfill its mandate. Volunteers receive no monetary compensation and should be prepared to devote 10-15 hours a month to Board activities.

All interested persons are invited to attend an information session on Thursday, February 28, 2002 at 7:30 p.m. in the hospital auditorium.

Applications including a résumé or letter outlining your experience should be sent by March 15th, 2002 to:

Nominating Committee of the Board of Directors
Attention: Ms. Karin Lewis
Markham Stouffville Hospital
381 Church Street, P.O. Box 1800
Markham, Ontario L3P 7P3

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