



Sent by email

September 5, 2024

Infrastructure and Environment Committee  
Toronto City Hall  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2  
[iec@toronto.ca](mailto:iec@toronto.ca)

Subject: Motion to Establish a Working Group to Study the Widening of Steeles Avenue  
between Ninth Line and Beare Road to Support Regional Growth  
File: A-1000-002

---

Dear Chair McKelvie and members of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for the motion to establish a working group to study the widening of Steeles Avenue between Ninth Line and Beare Road. This initiative is vital to support the growth that we are experiencing across our regions and to ensure that our infrastructure keeps pace with our evolving needs.

The City of Pickering is one of the fastest-growing municipalities in Durham Region and across Ontario. Pickering's population is projected to surpass 150,000 by 2036 and is expected to nearly double in the next 30 years. In addition to this residential growth, Pickering has emerged as a hub for new businesses, bringing significant economic benefits not only to our community but to the province as a whole.

The widening of Steeles Avenue is a shared concern among the City of Toronto, Durham Region, and York Region. The current two-lane stretch from the Scarborough-Pickering Townline to Tapscott Road creates significant congestion and bottlenecks, particularly during peak travel times, causing delays for commuters and residents. These delays not only impact personal travel but also affect the movement of goods and services across our regions, which is critical to our local economies.

Widening Steeles Avenue will do more than alleviate congestion—it will provide the opportunity to expand higher-order transit options along this vital corridor. Improved transit will greatly benefit residents and commuters who travel between the City of Toronto, City of Pickering, and City of Markham, whether they are commuting for work, touring our municipalities, or engaging in daily activities. This enhancement will also support businesses and industries that rely on the efficient movement of goods, ensuring better connectivity across the three regions and further bolstering economic activity.

This would address long-standing transportation infrastructure needs that have been underserved for too many years. To highlight this, while Peel-to-Toronto and York-to-Toronto routes benefit from over 200 and 100 lanes respectively, Durham-to-Toronto connections are limited to less than 20 lanes. This imbalance hampers the flow of goods and people between our regions, and it is vital that this is addressed as our regions continue to grow.

This project is a key opportunity to improve the flow of people and goods across our regions, reduce travel times, and provide long-term solutions to the growing pressures on our transportation network. By collaborating across municipal borders, we can ensure that Steeles Avenue becomes a vital arterial road that supports the needs of all who live, work, and travel in this corridor.

In conclusion, as Mayor of Pickering, I wholeheartedly support this motion. It represents a significant step forward in ensuring that our infrastructure can meet the demands of regional growth, while fostering economic development, reducing congestion, and improving mobility for everyone across Durham, Toronto, and York.

I look forward to working with all of you to move this important initiative forward.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Ashe". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "K" and a cursive "Ashe".

Kevin Ashe  
Mayor, City of Pickering