

September 26, 2024

VIA EMAIL

Infrastructure and Environment Committee

Toronto City Hall

100 Queen Street West

Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

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,

We are writing to express our 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 essential to accommodate the growth our regions are experiencing and to ensure our infrastructure meets evolving needs.

The Ajax-Pickering Board of Trade (APBOT) has represented the voice of business in Ajax and Pickering for nearly 70 years, with 650 members spanning various sectors from small local businesses to large multinationals.

As one of the fastest-growing municipalities in Durham Region, Pickering's population is projected to exceed 150,000 by 2036 and nearly double in the next 30 years. This growth, along with the emergence of new businesses, brings significant economic benefits to our community and the province.

The current two-lane section of Steeles Avenue from the Scarborough-Pickering Townline to Tapscott Road creates congestion and bottlenecks, particularly during peak times. These delays affect both personal travel and the movement of goods and services, which are vital for our local economies.

This widening Steeles Avenue will alleviate congestion and enhance higher-order transit options along this crucial corridor. Improved transit will benefit



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residents and commuters traveling between Toronto, Durham and York Regions while supporting businesses that rely on efficient logistics.

This project addresses long-standing transportation infrastructure needs that have been neglected for too long. While Peel-to-Toronto and York-to-Toronto routes boast over 200 and 100 lanes, respectively, Durham-to-Toronto connections are limited to fewer than 20 lanes. This imbalance must be rectified as our regions grow.

By partnering across municipal boundaries, we can upgrade Steeles Avenue into an essential thoroughfare that supports the needs of residents, workers, and travelers. This initiative is a key opportunity to drive economic growth, ease congestion, and enhance mobility throughout Durham, Toronto, and York.

Thank you for considering this important motion.

Sincerely,

Alli Leetham

Alli Leetham
Executive Director
Ajax-Pickering Board of Trade

Joan Wideman

Joan Wideman
Chair, Government Relations Committee
Ajax-Pickering Board of Trade



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