

**Ottawa East
Community
Association**



Old Town Hall

February 27, 2012

Manny Goetz (mgoetz@mrc.ca)
McCormick Rankin Corporation

Dear Mr. Goetz:

Comments on Highway 417 Expansion

A number of members of the Ottawa East Community Association attended the public information centre / open house held February 13, 2012 and the Association wants to ensure that MRC and MTO are aware of the concerns of our community which borders the work.

First, the construction impacts on existing cycling / pedestrian routes should be minimized. Specifically, it appears as though the pathways under the Queensway bridge (both on the east and the west side of the Rideau River) will be kept open only in the summer. These pathways are essential through the entire year so that thousands of people can get past the Queensway without having to make lengthy and unsafe detours to the Vanier Parkway or to the Lees bridge.

Second, we were encouraged to see MRC/MTO propose the temporary routing of the "through 200 Lees / uOttawa property" pathway along the river (i.e., from the Queensway bridge then southwest past the area of the proposed stadium/field). We also strongly support the conversion of this temporary routing into a permanent pathway, as per your "Final Stage" drawings. We realize that the City has the responsibility to complete this work yet, given that Official Plan and the Community Design Plan for Old Ottawa East specifically call for the pathway to run along the river, we expect that the City will be supportive.

The lengthy closure of the on-ramp of Lees Avenue has the potential to cause both considerable inconvenience and additional congestion for residents of Old

Ottawa East. In terms of inconvenience, residents will not be able to access the eastbound Queensway except by going to the Metcalfe or Vanier Parkway on-ramps. What is more serious is that other motorists may be detouring through Ottawa East, causing congestion on Lees, Main, and Hawthorne. These residential routes are already very busy and the potential of additional traffic may result in gridlock, particularly around Pretoria Bridge. We ask you to assess the impacts on Old Ottawa East as a result of the closure of the on-ramp at Lees and for you to discuss with the Ottawa East community proposed mitigation measures to minimize the impact of the resulting additional traffic in the community.

One possible impact of Queensway widening should be the additional capacity across the Rideau River screenline. We are interested in knowing what additional volumes will be accommodated by virtue of the expansion. Also, if there are available multi-year volume counts of traffic going on and coming off the Queensway at Lees, Nicholas and Riverside Drive / Alta Vista Drive we would appreciate knowing where we could access such data.

Sincerely,

Ron Rose
Director, Transportation
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cc Councillor David Chernushenko
Yasir Naqvi, MPP
Guy Gigere, Glebe Community Association