



# PROPOSED RESOLUTION TO OCC AGM



## *Highway 6 Extension between Highway 401 and South of Morriston*

### **Co-Sponsors:**

Guelph, Hamilton, Flamborough and Center Wellington Chambers of Commerce

### **Issue:**

The draft Transportation Development Strategy for the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) West Corridor will not provide sufficient infrastructure for the long term to support economic growth in the North-South corridor west of the GTHA.

### **Background:**

Extending Highway 6 South from Guelph to south of Morriston would reduce costs relating commuting time and freight shipment delays, as well as providing opportunity to retain and grow manufacturing and food processing businesses in Waterloo, Wellington, and Hamilton.

### **Commuter Travel Time:**

- Estimated annual value of commuter travel time saved during peak periods with the proposed bypass applied to 2011 traffic is \$13.1 Million dollars
- Estimated value of future commuter time savings with proposed bypass is \$23.4 (2021) and \$31.3 (2031) million respectively

### **Commercial Vehicle Travel Time:**

- Based on 2009 MTO estimates of commercial vehicle traffic volumes and our analysis of travel time differences with the proposed bypass, we estimate a realized cost savings of \$2.2 Million dollars annually (2011 figure)
- Survey results suggest that more consistent travel times with a proposed bypass are important for business supply chain demands

### **Accident Reduction:**

- Based on a model introduced by the Ontario Road Safety Annual Report (ORSAR, 2004), a reduction in accidents associated with the introduction of the bypass is estimated to reduce costs by \$762,300 dollars (based on 2009 accident rates) annually

### **Economic Development Impacts:**

- Analysis of Statistics Canada, Trucking Commodity Origin Destination data for the region influenced by the corridor illustrates that the corridor is a key link in our trade with the United States
- Over the past 20 years, the loss of economic opportunities, challenges in retaining labour, and reductions in productivity are difficult to quantify without a more sophisticated and significant analysis effort, but there is no doubt that these are significant factors in assessing the proposed bypass project economic impacts
- The overall assessment would see the highest economic benefits of the proposed bypass for travel time, reduced local bottlenecks, and improved labour market access.