

Safe Intersections Along Highway 17

Highway 17 is the primary route of the Trans-Canada Highway through Ontario and extends from the Manitoba boundary to Amnrior in southeastern Ontario. In Greater Sudbury, it follows the southwest and southeast bypasses, along the southern end of the municipality. Recently, the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) has identified two intersections along Highway 17 that have a collision history including fatalities: Highway 17 and Fielding Road, and Highway 17 and Municipal Road 55 (MR 55). The MTO has completed environmental assessments for future grade-separated improvements, however, the projects have not been funded and there is no schedule for these safety improvements. The MTO is currently reviewing interim measures to improve safety at these intersections. These proposed measures have impacts to the local economy, emergency services response times and traffic flow.



Why is this important?

The MTO is considering temporary or permanent intersection changes at two locations on Highway 17 that will negatively impact municipal roads .

The proposed change at the intersection of Highway 17 and MR 55 (near Penage Lake Road) would remove access or egress to the westbound bypass from MR 55. This area is home to a large volume of seasonal residences.

The proposed change at the intersection of Fielding Road and Highway 17 would remove access or egress from Kantola Road and Fielding Road to the Highway 17 bypass. Kantola Road leads to a residential area, while Fielding Road houses industrial businesses that support the local and provincial economy.

Significant volumes of highway traffic will be diverted onto municipal streets with low traffic volumes and are not designed for these increases. There will also be delays to emergency vehicles and permanent lengthy detours.

A grade-separated interchange is the best solution; however, it has not been identified for funding. It is under the decision authority of the Ministry of Energy and Mines.



Supporting information

Most residents and industries in northern Ontario use the highway network as their primary means of daily travel. It is important to connect northern Ontario with other areas of the province and national and international destinations and markets, but also to ensure people and goods can move efficiently and safely throughout the north.

How can senior levels of government support us?

The City requests that minimizing the municipal impacts remain a priority when considering all alternatives.

The City requests the Province fund a grade-separated interchange that provides the least number of impacts to local roads, access and egress, local businesses and residents, and emergency response times.

Alignment with government policies/priorities

“Collaboration and partnerships are essential in order to deliver an integrated transportation network that is safe, reliable and leads to longterm prosperity and more opportunities for individuals, families and businesses. Ontario is committed to working with, and gathering input from, the Federal Government, municipalities, Indigenous communities, transportation agencies, industry and local businesses to achieve our shared goals and build a better transportation network for the north.”

– Connecting the North: A Draft Transportation Plan for Northern Ontario



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