



Received in the Office of the Clerk via
the Office of the Mayor on June 26, 2013.
For the information of the Mayor and
Members of Council.

Tuesday, June 25, 2013

Dear Students, Parents/Guardians and Staff of Mother Teresa Catholic Elementary School:

Over the last month there has been considerable discussion regarding the proposed Highway 406 Interchange at Third Avenue and its potential impact on the Mother Teresa Catholic community of students, staff and families. Through a combination of concerns expressed to Principal MacDougall and recent conversations that Kathy Burtnik, Maurice Charbonneau and I have had with some Mother Teresa Catholic parents, we have listened to, and heard, the concerns for student, staff and family safety.

Last Thursday, June 20th, 2013, Niagara Catholic hosted a meeting with representatives from the Region of Niagara directly involved with the proposed Highway 406 Interchange. The meeting was candid, where we listened to the rationale for the interchange; expressed our focus on student, staff and family safety; discussed interchange alternatives; shared safety concerns as related to us by Mother Teresa Catholic families, and provided recommendations on traffic calming measures to be implemented should the interchange be constructed. We were very clear in expressing our continued commitment to the safety of students and staff at Mother Teresa Catholic Elementary School.

While the final decision on the proposed interchange will be made by the Region of Niagara and the Ministry of the Environment, it was the consensus of those in attendance at the June 20th, 2013 meeting that our concerns and recommendations were taken seriously. This belief was confirmed on June 24th, 2013 in a letter we received from the Region of Niagara noting the following points as quoted directly below:

“Safety is paramount and has been an important consideration in our evaluation criteria while selecting a ‘preferred design’. The following are some of the measures incorporated in the design that will address safety concerns in the community:

- *A south bound off-ramp and a service road to channel the southbound traffic directly to Fourth Avenue without the need to access the local roads.*
- *Widening the existing bridge structure from two to four lanes to have a dedicated right turn lane to channel north bound traffic via Hwy 406 loop ramp that could otherwise enter neighbourhood streets.*
- *A dedicated left turn lane between First Street and the bridge structure to make it safer for traffic making a left turn at the signal.*
- *A dedicated left turn lane on First Street to direct school traffic into the Grapeview parking lot to enable pick-up and drop-offs to take place inside the school parking lot.*

Furthermore we are in discussion with the City (of St. Catharines) staff to consider a commercial truck traffic ban on Third Avenue and First Street in order to improve traffic safety in the areas around the two area schools. In addition the City staff is exploring further traffic calming measures that will address the neighbourhood concerns.

With regards to some of the parents' concerns expressed through your offices that due to the upcoming summer vacations there may not be sufficient opportunity for the residents, stakeholders/agencies to adequately review the document, we have decided to move the filing of the ESR to September. Under the EA process there will be a 30 day review period after the filing. Should any one feel that his/ her concern has not been considered can still request for Part II Order (or bump-up requests) the details for the request would be in the ESR document.

The Region's project website is continually updated and we will have more information as we proceed through the study process. The site can be accessed via:"

<http://www.niagararegion.ca/living/roads/406-interchange/default.aspx>

As partners with our Mother Teresa Catholic families and staff, we wanted to share this most current information with all families prior to the beginning of summer holidays.

Please be assured that Niagara Catholic will continue to monitor the progress of the proposed Highway 406 Interchange as it works its way through the proposal process and continue to work with the Region of Niagara and the City of St. Catharines for the safety of our students, staff and families. It is highly recommended that families continue to view the Region's Project Website for current information on the proposed Highway 406 Interchange.

On behalf of Kathy Burtnik, Chair of the Board, Maurice Charbonneau, Vice-Chair of the Board, Family of Schools Superintendent Yolanda Baldasaro, Controller of Facilities Services Scott Whitwell and Principal MacDougall, we wish all students, staff and families of Mother Teresa Catholic Elementary School God's blessings on a safe and enjoyable summer.

Sincerely,



John Crocco
Director of Education

cc. Kathy Burtnik, Chair of the Board
Maurice Charbonneau, Vice Chair of the Board
Yolanda Baldasaro, Family of Schools Superintendent of Education
Scott Whitwell, Controller of Facilities Services
Gary Burroughs, Regional Chair
Brian McMullan, Mayor of the City of St. Catharines