**Council Direction:**

Public Works Committee at its meeting of September 20, 2010, approved the following:

“(a) That Report PW10089 be submitted to the Minister of Energy and Infrastructure as the City’s comments on the Province of Ontario’s Ten Year Infrastructure Plan that is under development;

(b) That staff continue to communicate with the Minister’s office on opportunities to partner with the Provincial Government on funding public infrastructure within the City of Hamilton, through a Ten Year Infrastructure Plan;

(c) That staff report back on any infrastructure funding opportunities either with the Provincial or Federal levels of Government to support sustainability, derived through this dialogue with the Province of Ontario;

(d) That copies of this report be sent to the local Members of Provincial Parliament, local Members of Parliament, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Regional Public Works Commissioners of Ontario (RPWCO) and Federation of Canadian Municipalities.”

**Information:**

On August 4, 2010, the City of Hamilton was invited to take part in a stakeholder discussion with the Minister of Energy and Infrastructure, the Honourable Brad Duguid, and seventeen other agencies and municipalities. This stakeholder session was one of many scheduled by the Province to receive feedback as they prepared the Government of Ontario’s Ten Year Infrastructure Plan.
The Minister of Infrastructure, the Honourable Bob Chiarelli, provided an update regarding the progress of the development of this Ten Year Infrastructure Plan in correspondence dated March 25, 2011 (copy appended to this report). The correspondence summarizes the consultation that has taken place to date regarding the infrastructure plan, past Provincial investments in infrastructure and the vision for the Ten Year Infrastructure Plan.

Report PW10089, and the City’s comments to the (then) Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure recognized the importance of planning, building, maintaining and funding infrastructure in a manner that is flexible and fiscally responsible and the importance of recognizing existing and future demographics when planning major infrastructure investments. The March 25, 2011 correspondence from Minister Chiarelli also recognizes the continued demand for public infrastructure and the demographic and economic changes that we see in Ontario, such as an aging, growing and increasingly diverse population. Roads, transit, health care infrastructure will be the resultant demands of these changes. Minister Chiarelli’s letter also highlights the importance of fiscal responsibility and flexibility in delivering the infrastructure plan.

Next Steps:

The Province of Ontario continues to move forward with the development of the Ten Year Infrastructure Plan. Priorities will be determined according to the following principles:

- Matching our infrastructure to economic and demographic changes;
- Building core economic infrastructure to lay the foundation for economic competitiveness and growth of the Province;
- Receiving better value through improved management of assets.

Additional engagement by the City of Hamilton with the Ministry of Infrastructure is encouraged in the closing of the March 25, 2011 correspondence. See Appendix “A”.

Vision: To be the best place in Canada to raise a child, promote innovation, engage citizens and provide diverse economic opportunities.

Values: Honesty, Accountability, Innovation, Leadership, Respect, Excellence, Teamwork
March 25, 2011

Correspondence from the Honourable Bob Chiarelli, Minister of Infrastructure

From: Ministry of Infrastructure [mailto:info.moi@ontario.ca]
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 03:11 PM
To: Murray, Chris
Subject: Letter from Hon. Bob Chiarelli, Minister of Infrastructure

Ministry of Infrastructure
Office of the Minister
5th Floor, Mowat Block
900 Bay Street
Toronto ON M7A 1C2
Tel: 416 325-5270
Fax: 416 325-8860
www.ontario.ca/infrastructure

March 25, 2011

His Worship Bob Bratina
Mayor
City of Hamilton
mayorfred@hamilton.ca

Dear Mayor Bratina:

This letter is to update you on the progress of the Government of Ontario’s 10-year infrastructure plan. As you know, in March 2010, the government committed to a 10-year infrastructure plan, which we plan on releasing later this year.

As we set out to craft the plan, the Ministry of Infrastructure embarked on a series of province-wide consultations, in which the public was invited to deliver oral and written submissions. So far, more than 200 submissions have been received and reviewed by my ministry.

That’s why, at this point in the process, I felt it important to contact you today and provide an update on the approach we’re taking as we move forward in developing the plan.

Ontario’s Infrastructure History

A good system of public infrastructure, we can all agree, takes a long time to build and requires a long-term commitment by government. [See Figure 1] As you can see, a tremendous level of infrastructure investments occurred in the 1950s and the 1960s. The results are still with us today. That’s when we started to build the 400-series highways. That’s when the Toronto subway system was built. That’s when we laid the foundations of our present-day system of community colleges. Subsequently, from the 1970s until the millennium celebrations, infrastructure investments were drastically reduced.
You will be aware that, in 2005, the Government of Ontario embarked on an ambitious plan – ReNew Ontario – which delivered over $30 billion in much needed infrastructure investments across all sectors. Originally set out as a five-year vision, it was delivered in four years and helped expand and rebuild public infrastructure in communities across the province.

For the past two years, Ontario, Canada, and most of the world have been coping with the greatest global economic downturn since the Great Depression. In conjunction with our partners at the federal and local levels, we have combined our efforts to create jobs and stimulate the economy, and have done so through an unprecedented infrastructure stimulus investment.

What we have accomplished together is nothing short of remarkable. Nearly 10,000 stimulus projects have been approved across Ontario in the last two years. These projects are helping to create and support over 70,000 jobs in Ontario and will generate a series of legacy projects across the province.

**Your Infrastructure Priorities**

Ontario’s partnership with municipal governments has resulted in dramatic capital investment over the course of the last few years. [See Figure 2]
Since 2003, we’ve built or repaired 700 bridges and over 5,500 km of roads (roughly equivalent to driving from Ottawa to Toronto and back six times). We’ve invested nearly $11 billion in public transit so that communities across Ontario can undertake the most significant and extensive expansions in local public transit in a generation. Together we have built, renovated or expanded 13 courthouses; built 400 new schools, with 100 more underway; and committed almost $1.8 billion in grants for municipal water and wastewater infrastructure.

Along with our government’s ongoing municipal uploading, the fiscal impact for municipalities has indeed been dramatic. More specifically, municipal uploads will result in a net benefit of $1.5 billion to municipalities by 2018. As a former Regional Chair and Mayor of Ottawa, I understand the pressures that municipal leaders face and recognize that ongoing funding from the Government of Ontario has gone a long way towards assisting local community planning.

Vision for the 10-Year Infrastructure Plan

The 10-year plan consultations that I mentioned earlier have highlighted for us the continued demand for public infrastructure. All sectors of the economy are in need of public infrastructure to meet the significant demographic and economic changes that are underway. Our population is growing. Our population is aging. Our population is increasingly diverse. These changes will result in demand for more transit, better roads, and more effective health care infrastructure, among other public
infrastructure demands.

As we set out to craft a vision for the next 10 years, the Ministry of Infrastructure is conscious of the need to present a framework that is fiscally responsible and allows for medium-term flexibility, while still setting a clear course for infrastructure investment.

Fiscal responsibility has always been the core lens through which this government has operated. In the three years prior to the onset of the recession, the provincial government posted three consecutive balanced budgets – at a time when ReNew Ontario was investing in communities across the province. At this time, with most comparative jurisdictions facing similar deficit levels, we cannot proceed without regard for the fundamental fiscal realities.

Medium-term flexibility is also a key factor as we seek to lay out a vision for the future. The Government of Ontario is obligated to present a plan that continues to make prudent assumptions about future economic growth. In our view, there exists a balancing point between providing stable funding and maintaining flexibility – and this is an area where we are devoting significant consideration.

Given these realities, we will prioritize our investments over the next 10 years according to key principles: matching our infrastructure to economic and demographic changes; building the core economic infrastructure that lays the foundation for Ontario’s competitiveness and potential for growth; and getting better value through improved management of our assets. To be clear, we aim to set out a framework for continued infrastructure investments and will seek to ensure that you – our partners in the broader public sector – will always know what our conditions and criteria will be as we evaluate future needs.

I want to thank you for all the work that you and the staff of your organization have undertaken both as part of our capital planning process and to help ensure that we deliver infrastructure projects that meet the needs of Ontario communities. Working together, we will continue building a lasting infrastructure legacy that all Ontarians will be proud of.

In providing you with this update to our long-term planning process, I seek to continue the healthy dialogue and exchange of ideas that have been at the heart of our shared success. Over the next few months, as we continue to craft and finalize our long-term vision, I would encourage you to continue to engage with the Ministry of Infrastructure.

Please accept my very best wishes.

Sincerely,

Bob Chiarelli
Minister of Infrastructure

cc: Mr. Chris Murray, City Manager (Acting), City of Hamilton