



May 3, 2005

The Honourable Harinder S. Takhar, Minister  
Ministry of Transportation  
77 Wellesley Street West  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Ferguson Block  
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1Z8

Dear Minister:

The Burlington Chamber of Commerce represents over 1,000 local businesses. Based on the diversity of our business community, transportation of both goods and people is a key concern of our members.

We believe that effective transportation is critical to the success of business in Burlington and the surrounding area. The Burlington Chamber of Commerce supports, in principle, the need for a Niagara to GTA transportation corridor.

We do believe, however, that the construction of any new highway must be carried out in a planned and strategic manner. We urge the Minister to ensure that the details of the Niagara to GTA Transportation Corridor be developed within a framework of an inter-regional transportation strategy (such as the Greater Golden Horseshoe Master Transportation Plan) taking into consideration growth in outlying areas.

Further, we urge the Minister to ensure that from an ownership and operating perspective:

(a) the provincial government retains ownership of the new highway; (b) the construction of the highway be paid for with tolls; and (c) the tolls be removed when the capital cost of the highway is recovered.

We look forward to your reply on this important issue affecting business in Ontario.

Sincerely,

Richard Burgess  
Chair

Keith Hoey  
President

cc. Cam Jackson, MPP Burlington  
John Taylor, Councillor, City of Burlington  
Jack Dennison, Councillor, City of Burlington  
Walter Williams, Political Action Committee Chair, Burlington Chamber of Commerce  
Len Crispino, President & CEO, Ontario Chamber of Commerce