



Chamber of Commerce
Brantford • Brant

Transportation Policy

Issue:

Equally impacting both citizens and businesses, transportation affects all Brantford Brant residents and plays a pivotal role in Brantford and Brant County's economic growth and development. The current transportation infrastructure deficit, combined with upcoming future population growth will result in increased congestion and decreased business productivity. Today's inconveniences, if ignored will become tomorrow's gridlock for business and citizens.

Background:

1) **Capacity Stress:** Continued inadequate investment in transportation infrastructure will eventually lead to more crippling congestion. The Transportation Master Plan for the City of Brantford and the proposed Transportation Master Plan for the County of Brant, project that with no investment, "travel delays on the City's roads are forecast to basically double in 15 years" if there are no capacity improvements.

2) **An area of growth:** Provincial legislation, such as the Planning Act, 1990, and the Places to Grow Act, 2005, and Provincial policies, such as the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, 2006 all acknowledge that our communities are poised for significant growth. Because of tremendous geography, both the City of Brantford and the County of Brant are expected to experience significant population growth in the coming decades. Forward looking leadership requires transportation planning to accommodate that growth. In June of 2013, the Province updated their Population and Employment Projections to 2041 and the expectations are that the City of Brantford will grow to a population of 163,000, the County of Brant will grow to a population of 57,000 and there will be significant population growth on Six Nations of the Grand River Territory. That increase in population will add further capacity stress to the current transportation challenges.

3) **Effective Transportation makes our Community Competitive:** An efficient and effective transportation system is crucial to the economic well-being of Brantford and Brant County. The efficient movement of goods and people around our community and connectivity to other communities affects business and impacts our ability to compete with other jurisdictions. To help facilitate the movement of goods and people, transportation planning at the local, regional and provincial levels needs to anticipate future needs and be proactive rather than the current reactive state of fixing deficits.

4) **Transportation within our Community:** There is a need to move products and people efficiently around our community. People and business need easy access from all corners of the community to the 403. Business don't want their trucks full of goods idling inefficiently in traffic, nor do citizens want them navigating through residential areas. Expansion of the Veterans Memorial Parkway and the linkage to the 403 through the Oak Park extension represents a solution to the transportation challenges of the continued growth in the Southwest.

5) Connectivity to other Communities: We cannot build a prosperous Brantford and Brant without effective transportation connections to our neighbouring communities. Business and citizens need effective transportation corridors in all directions, north/south and east /west. The development of an efficient and safe route north to the 401 needs to be a priority resulting in improved citizen safety and providing business with an efficient way to get their goods to market. Additionally, the expansion of GO service to our community represents a natural outcome of the Provinces “Places to Grow” strategy and will give our community better access to the economic and cultural opportunities that exist in the Greater Toronto Area.

Our Position:

Transportation affects people’s everyday lives—it also plays an important role in Brantford and Brant County’s economic growth and development. All levels of government need to work together to address the current transportation infrastructure deficit and focus major new investments to overcome existing constraints that will hamper our future growth and prosperity.