



## STAFF REPORT

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**Meeting Date:** February 1, 2022

**Title:** MTO Letter Re: Extension of Highway #502 – Follow Up

**Prepared By:** Blake Poole

**Department:** Public Works

**Report Number:** Public Works-2022-005

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### **Recommendation:**

**THAT, Council accepts this report for information purposes and requests direction from Council on how they wish to proceed and respond to the attached letter.**

### **Background:**

The City's Chief Administrative Officer, Roger Nesbitt, received a letter from the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) on May 07/2021 titled Re: Extension of Highway 502. (attached) A report was then presented to Council to get direction on the request in the letter.

Background Information for this report can be found in the attached council report presented titled **MTO Letter RE: Extension of Highway #502** presented to council June 14/2021.

Council was given multiple Options on how to proceed:

- Proceed with the resolution.
- Negotiate a deal on the Highway #594/Duke Street Assets and a new Highway #502 corridor through staff or council.
- Turn down the request for a resolution.

Discussion was held at this meeting and staff were directed to ask the Ministry of Transportation to attend a Council Meeting to make a presentation regarding their

proposal of the extension of Highway 502 via Gordon Road following which Council would be better prepared to respond to it.

### **Discussion:**

A presentation was made at the January 10/2022 Committee of the Whole meeting by MTO representatives John McClelland and Jamie Taylor on the Extension of Highway 502. A question-and-answer session followed.

The city also received a letter addressed to Mayor Wilson from MTO Director Franca Sacchetti dated January 12/2021. (Attached)

The letter included the following statements:

"As John McClelland noted, if the ministry were to assume Gordon Road as an extension of Highway 502:

- The Duke Street Connecting Link would remain compliant and eligible with our Connecting Link Policy for eligibility as long as an at-grade railway crossing exists on Gordon Road; and
- Should a railway overpass be constructed in the future, the ministry would not seek to revoke the Duke Street Connecting Link unless there was a change in direction requiring us to do so.

Additionally, the ministry will work with Dryden to put in place measures, such as business district signage, to direct travelers to Dryden's downtown for services. It is not our desire to direct traffic away from Dryden's downtown; our interest is to resolve the challenges with Gordon Road's shared administration and its placement in the Local Roads Board program.

As a next step, we are seeking a resolution from the City of Dryden approving our proposal to proceed with establishing the new route for Highway 502 along the corridor that was selected as part of the 2006 Dryden Area Highway Planning Study."

The resolution would be worded:

*That the City of Dryden approves of the Ministry of Transportation's proposal to proceed with assuming Gordon Road and Marguerite Street so as to establish the new route for Highway 502 along the corridor that was selected as part of the 2006 Dryden Area Route Planning Study.*

### **Financial Implications:**

#### **Current Budget Allocation:**

#### **Account #:**

**Attachments (Reference Material):**

Ministry of Transportation Letter Re: Extension of Highway #502 Jan 12/2022

Council Report - MTO Letter Re: Extension of Highway #502 June 04/2021

Ministry of Transportation Letter Re: Extension of Highway #502 May 07/2021