

REFORM PARTY OF ONTARIO'S "PURPLE BOOK"

November 2009

TRANSPORTATION REFORM

Our Values:

1. The will of the majority must prevail, within the bounds of the Constitution.
11. We believe that Ontario's population, her growth, and her economy must be sustainable in regards to our environment.
12. We believe that both rural and urban Ontario are necessary partners for a bright Ontario future.

Transportation Reform is needed in Ontario:

Ontario's economy has always benefited from its proximity to markets in Eastern Canada, Western Canada, and the United States. We have also had a long tradition of exporting to Europe and Asia. A strong, reliable, and affordable system of transportation networks (highways, railways, airports, sea ports) is needed to allow our businesses to thrive and our people to prosper.

As our population has continued to grow (from 77,000 in 1812 to 13,000,000 in 2009) so, too, have our needs for improvements and expansions to our transportation system. These represent perhaps the best way for government to invest in the economy. Today our highways are clogged with cars and trucks, our rail network is a pale shadow of its glory years, our sea ports are not used enough, and our airports are in demand.

To that end, we propose the following remedies:

1. Rebalance the mix of transportation assets to reduce the reliance on our highways as the best means of shipping goods and people from one point to another. We will pursue a strategy which boosts the use of water and rail transport wherever practical.
2. Since half of Hwy.401 truck traffic sees goods ride along this, our major highway artery, from Montreal, Ottawa, and Toronto to border crossings at Michigan and New York state, it makes sense to shift this Through Traffic onto a high speed rail line running parallel to the 401. This move would extend the life of the 401 and reduce the need for near-term widening and expansion. It would also increase road safety and cut CO2 emissions from diesel transport trucks.
3. This high speed rail line would also incorporate a high-speed passenger service to connect Detroit, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal & Quebec.
4. Our seaports will be expanded to handle larger volumes of traffic in particular through the use of containerized shipments which then connect to the new high-speed rail line as well as to our existing road and rail networks.
5. Alternative methods of air transport will also be explored including the use of airships for domestic travel.
6. Commuter transportation needs account for much of Ontario's total transportation spending to build, repair, & expand the network annually. We will introduce a tax break to encourage Ontarians to live closer to their place of employment, thus reducing the demand placed upon our highway network.
7. In concert with our new manufacturing policies, introduce a tax break for businesses that reduce their reliance on just-in-time delivery.