

**Transportation & Infrastructure Task Force**  
**Annual Update**  
**2008-2009**

---

**Chair: Judy Daschuk**

**Co-Chair: Marc Lapalme**

**Mandate**

The Transportation & Infrastructure Task Force is a standing policy committee of the Timmins Chamber of Commerce. It serves as the “Voice of Business” in developing advocacy positions to improve transportation and infrastructure within Timmins, the region and the province.

**Members**

Dan Charbonneau, *Gord's Rentals*  
Judy Daschuk, *Personal Member*  
Anne Marie Farrington, *Air Creebec*  
Rob Galloway, *Galloway and Galloway Executive Services*  
Marc Lapalme, *Timmins Snow Mobile Club*  
Gary Marriott, *NorthernTel*  
Lloyd Richards, *L. Richards Moving & Cartage Limited*  
Clayton Richard, *Air Creebec*  
Greg Reynolds, *Drei Publicity and Public Relations*

**2008-2009 Year in Review**

- Monitored City Council's decisions and funding announcement for Barber's Bay Bridge reconstruction (October 2008-February 2009);
- Received Motor Vehicle Collision Report from Timmins Police Services. Noted that top accident spots are Brunette Rd. & Algonquin Blvd. E. and Theriault Blvd./Cameron St. S. & Algonquin Blvd. West (October 2008);
- Discussed Roadwork Report issued by City of Timmins (October 2008);
- Monitored funding plans and sources for municipal sewer infrastructure upgrades, including the “West End Sanitary Sewer Extension project” (October 2008);
- Raised concerns over absence of Air Canada service representative and direct phone line to Air Canada representative out of Timmins' airport;
- Hosted presentation with Luc Duval (Director, Public Works and Engineering, City of Timmins) to address DSSAB contributions by the municipality, traffic issues regarding Lake Shore Gold developments and the anticipated impact trucking will have on city roads. Also: new DSSAB building and concerns over location and EMT response times (high volume of traffic and accidents at new location) (November 2008);
- Worked on development of “Adequate Infrastructure Essential to Northern Ontario Economy” concept paper; policy supported by board;
- Monitored progress and development with the Airport Steering Committee – Airport has the power to become a strong economic development tool. Noted that features like a longer runway would allow additional carriers and larger planes to fly in and out of the airport (December 2008);
- Investigated and discussed how railway freight is being used to ship goods and equipment from Timmins to coastal communities. Noted that some organizations are shipping via rail, accessing railway via Hallnor Road;
- Hosted guest presentation with Gary Scripnick regarding concerns over obtaining funding for new DSSAB infrastructure; noted that gas tax is not sufficient to maintain Timmins' roads; learned more about Timmins Transit and school board busing issues; Timmins Ambulance and Airport

- recommendations. Councillor Scripnick suggested that committee identify its top 10 traffic/infrastructure concerns (January 2009);
- Developed 10 point plan for City re: Infrastructure/Transportation for Board review, as per Councillor Scripnick's suggestion.
  - Held presentation with Steve Trinier from DSSAB board regarding ambulance traffic at new DSSAB facility. Mr. Trinier addressed the concerns of the committee regarding traffic flow and the new location of the ambulance base. Need exists for a secondary (non-emergency) transportation structure to save money: Idea to get resources together and capitalize opportunities for synergies e.g. sharing of infrastructure and human resources: new DSSAB office is high traffic area, but with EMT lights and sirens should slow traffic to be unproblematic (March 2009);
  - Reviewed and discussed Hwy 11 signage and discussed how (and who) to better promote the amenities of the City of Timmins along that highway;
  - Shared information about the Streetscape master plan – a beautification initiative in the city and at the airport: a decorative head frame will be built at the airport, consistent with the being developed for the downtown core (February 2009);
  - Followed up on 25-year time capsule at the Victor M. Power Airport; unfortunately, time capsule deteriorated over time. Planning a 2009/60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Time Capsule (May – June 2009).

### **Key Issues**

- Ensuring that the City of Timmins constructs and maintains infrastructure that is safe and conducive to a productive and vibrant regional centre;
- Ensuring that the municipality receives appropriate, adequate and justifiable provincial and federal funding to maintain essential infrastructure in the region;
- Monitoring the municipality's upgrades and new developments of sewer and water treatment infrastructure;
- Ensuring the municipality produces and maintains proper roadway and highway signage;
- Ensuring that the entrances and exits to the City of Timmins are accessible, safe and well maintained;
- Monitoring municipal and/or private plans to develop a bypass route; evaluating its anticipated impacts on regional business; gauging and communicating member support for an alternate route;
- Proper maintenance and improvement strategies to our "connecting link" highway (a segment of Highway 101 that includes Algonquin Boulevard);
- Monitor and provide input on potential strategies for maintaining and preserving Algonquin Boulevard, improving traffic flow, minimizing damage to the roadway and to the adjacent buildings);
- Monitoring the development and improvement to transportation services into and out of the city, including bus and aircraft travel;
- Monitor developments with the Victor M. Power Airport;
- Ensuring municipal services (such as snow removal, roadway maintenance) enable efficient operation of businesses and daily activities within the City's jurisdiction.