

**Transportation & Infrastructure Task Force**  
**Annual Update**  
**2007-2008**

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**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**

Judy Daschuk, *National Car and Truck Rental* – **Chair**

Marc Lapalme, *Algonquin Business Computers* – **Co-Chair**

Dan Charbonneau, *Gord’s Rentals*

Anne Marie Farrington, *Air Creebec*

Gary Marriott, *NorthernTel*

Gregory Reynolds, *Drei Publicity & Public Relations*

Lloyd Richards, *L. Richards Moving & Cartage Limited*

Marilyn Wood, *Mikro-Tek Inc.*

Tina Junkala, *Junkala & Associates*

Joel Bergeron, *BMT Insurance & Financial Services*

**2007-2008 Year in Review**

- Received presentation from Luc Duval, Director, Public Works and Engineering (City of Timmins) regarding ongoing engineering projects in Timmins, such as sewage systems, water treatment/water filtration plant upgrades, landfill operations and road studies (September 2007);
- Provided input for the Chamber’s annual budget deputation to City of Timmins. Recommendations included: ceasing continued exploration of an alternate route that directs traffic away from the city’s core, reinstating the Algonquin Blvd. Safety Committee and; exploring means alternate to a broad tax increase to water and sewer rates, such as implementing a metered system for homeowners (December 2007);
- Monitored municipal infrastructure improvements, including: Barber’s Bay Bridge reconstruction and estimated costs; reconstruction of Highway 101 and Highway 11 intersection;
- Held an information session with Mark Jensen, City of Timmins Development Department, regarding development issues and municipal projects, including upgrades to Victor M. Power Airport, Community Improvement Plan and the city’s plans for an alternate route (January 2008);
- Monitored the city’s current and future plans to upgrade the Victor M. Power Airport (January 2008);
- Recommended that the City of Timmins look into conducting an efficiency study of the Victor M. Power Airport (January 2008);
- Drafted a concept paper “*Adequate Infrastructure Essential to Northern Ontario Economy*”, outlining the current and pending implications for taxpayers and business owners and infrastructure due to the 1997 provincial downloading of highway maintenance responsibilities to municipalities (February-May 2008);

- Received presentation from City of Timmins CAO Joe Torlone and Engineer Luc Duval regarding the impacts of provincial downloading of highway maintenance on municipal budget
- Monitored and explored various options for the improvement of traffic flow, safety and accessibility of Algonquin Boulevard (Highway 101), a main artery and “connecting link” highway within the City of Timmins.

### **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;
- Lobbying the city to ensure that regional bridges are structurally sound and that maintenance is approached proactively so as to guarantee the structural integrity and safety of bridges;
- 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);
- Ensuring accessibility and parking availability for the downtown core.
- 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.