

Ministry of
Transportation

Ministère des
Transports

Office of the Minister

Bureau du ministre

Ferguson Block, 3rd Floor
77 Wellesley St. West
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1Z8
416-327-9200
www.ontario.ca/transportation

Édifice Ferguson, 3^e étage
77, rue Wellesley ouest
Toronto (Ontario)
M7A 1Z8
416-327-9200
www.ontario.ca/transportation



May 4, 2015

To: Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
Room 104, Legislative Building, Queen's Park

Re: Answer to Questions in the Ontario Legislature
April 16, 2015 from Mr. McNaughton, Response to Question 352.
(CO#14840)

I would like to thank the member for his question.

Enquiry:

- **352** - Enquiry of the Ministry — Will the Minister of Transportation please indicate what specific steps he will take to ensure improved winter driving conditions on Highway 402.

Response:

The Ministry of Transportation's focus is keeping our highways safe. Ontario has some of the highest road maintenance standards in North America.

In 2014, we added an extra staff member to oversee the maintenance contract that includes Highway 402 in Lambton County. We also added two cameras to enhance monitoring of maintenance operations.

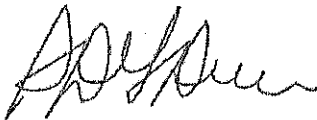
Last year, the ministry specifically reviewed conditions on Highway 402 at the request of area municipalities. This review looked at factors such as pavement condition, traffic and collision data, environmental conditions, pavement material, and maintenance operations on Highway 402 between Airport Road and Nauvoo Road. The review found that winter driving conditions on this stretch of Highway 402 are consistent with other freeways in the province.

Staff presented the findings of this review to municipal and emergency services officials in October 2014. We continue to work with municipalities and emergency services to enhance safety on our highways year round.

As part of this work to enhance safety, the ministry is also working with local conservation authorities and landowners to plant snow hedges along Highway 402. These hedges can provide a windbreak, helping to reduce blowing snow. We planted hedges along approximately 800m of Highway 402 in 2014 and are planning further plantings along another 3.8km section for spring 2016.

In some cases, the appropriate setback distance for hedges is outside the highway right-of-way, so the windbreak program relies on finding willing landowners for the hedges. The time required for the ministry to reach agreements with landowners, and for the hedges to grow to an effective height, means this is a longer term measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steven Del Duca', written in a cursive style.

Steven Del Duca
Minister