



Greg Piper MP

Member for Lake Macquarie



MEDIA RELEASE

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MAIN ROAD 217 TORONTO STILL WAITING

Greg Piper, Member for Lake Macquarie, today asked the Minister for Roads about the RTA's plans to improve Main Road 217 in central Toronto.

In Parliament, Mr Piper asked the Minister about the plans and time frame for property acquisition, road widening and traffic management on the section of Carey St Toronto between the Boulevard and Bay St.

In his reply, Roads Minister Michael Daley confirmed that the RTA has plans to widen this stretch of road, but it is not included in the RTA's current forward program. He advised that there would be interim improvements to the existing roadway when investigations are finished later this year.

According to Mr Piper, the steadily increasing development of western Lake Macquarie means that this section of road is a growing problem.

"Carey St is a terrible bottle-neck in peak hours," Mr Piper said. "It needs a proper solution."

"This part of the main road is a problem for traffic merging or turning," Mr Piper said. "Main Road 217 is the most important road in the electorate and it needs to be treated as a high priority."

According to Mr Piper, the Minister acknowledged that most of the properties required for road widening have already been acquired and the land has been rezoned for the road.

The Minister also pointed out that the roads budget for the Lake Macquarie electorate is \$14.3m this year, up from \$12.6m in 2008-9.

Mr Piper has welcomed this increase and stresses the importance of road improvements keeping up with increases in population.

"With so much growth happening around Morisset and Cooranbong Main Road 217 is becoming increasingly important and needs to be improved to a suitable standard," he said.

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