

## **HIGHWAY 17 NORTH IMPROVEMENTS**

**Mover:** Matthew Shoemaker

**Seconder:** Paul Christian

**WHEREAS** during the winter of 2021-2022, Highway 17 north of Sault Ste. Marie has been closed on at least 11 occasions due to inclement weather or collisions; and

**WHEREAS** the close of any highway, especially a two lane highway in remote areas of Ontario presents life-safety risk to any persons that need essential services that are offered in urban centres; and

**WHEREAS** for many years Sault Ste. Marie and surrounding communities have sought highway improvements, especially ongoing calls to 4-lane Highway 17; and Whereas improvements to Highway 17 north are urgently needed to ensure uninterrupted access by residents and seasonal users of hospital and other essential services only offered in Sault Ste. Marie; and

**WHEREAS** the Provincial Government has recently announced a plan to invest \$82 billion in transportation improvements over the next year, not all of which should be spent in the GTA as is often the case with provincial transportation dollars; and

**WHEREAS** a provincial election is near where all parties will be looking to champion local issues;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the City of Sault Ste. Marie call on all provincial political parties to prioritize improvements to Highway 17 north of Sault Ste. Marie in their policy platforms and that the Mayor be requested to draft correspondence to the local candidates in the upcoming provincial election setting out this Council's position.