

Brian Masse

Member of Parliament  
(Windsor West)



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES  
CANADA

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May 22, 2013

The Honourable Denis Lebel  
Minister of Transportation, Infrastructure and Communities  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, On  
K1A 0A6

*Denis*

**HAND DELIVERED IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS**

Dear Minister ~~Lebel~~,

Recently I met with the President of the contracting firm for the Rt. Honourable Herb Gray Parkway (The Parkway) project—Dominic Amicone. That discussion centered around the possibility of using fill material from The Parkway project for the construction requirements of the bridge plaza for the New Crossing (The Plaza) connecting Windsor-Detroit. The contractors are proposing to place and compact the material at no charge to the eventual concessionaire responsible for building the plaza.

My initial reaction is that this proposal warrants serious and immediate consideration by your government given its potential positive economic and environmental.

It's worth noting that The Parkway contractors are prepared to provide the necessary performance bonds guaranteeing their work. They indicate as well that their work in the capacity proposed here will comply with the technical specifications of the end user.

According to The Parkway contractors this proposal could save the eventual concessionaire responsible for building the new plaza over \$1.1 million. It's clear the savings could be substantial if the fill material is appropriate for this proposed use and could make the project more attractive to bidders, potentially rendering the procurement process more competitive which ultimately may save tax payers money.

Also it's clear that this proposal could mitigate some avoidable negative environmental impacts. The Parkway contractor's analysis of the requirements for the Parkway project with respect to fill material is 60,000 tri-axle dump truck round trips originating from The Parkway to whatever site or sites is/are eventually determined to be the designated disposal site.



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This proposal could dramatically reduce vehicle emissions related to the transportation of The Parkway fill material as well as mitigating any increased congestion on our roadways given the proximity The Parkway to The Plaza. If this solution is implementable we would therefore be reducing risks for motorists as well as building this infrastructure in a more environmentally sustainable manner.

Also it will demonstrate good planning and common sense. The anticipated volume of fill material required to elevate The Plaza (600 000 cubic meters) is roughly the amount of fill material that must be excavated and moved to accommodate The Parkway. In addition to eliminating the 120 000 trucking round trips to transport new fill material to The Plaza it will eliminate the need to excavate what may otherwise be productive agricultural lands in the region.

Very simply there is an enormous amount of dirt being excavated to accommodate the construction of The Parkway, it needs to be transported somewhere. Conveniently the Plaza will require an almost equal amount of dirt to meet its designed grade requirements.

As you know The Parkway construction is currently well underway and the question of what represents the best use of this fill material should be addressed without delay, particularly given the possible benefits of this proposal. The benefits are potentially extremely significant if this proposal sufficiently meets the requirements of The Plaza. I am strongly urging you to immediately give this proposal a comprehensive vetting in order to determine its viability.

Looking forward to your reply,



Brian Masse M.P.  
Windsor West

c.c. The Right Honourable Stephen Harper—Prime Minister of Canada  
Joe Comartin—M.P. (Windsor Tecumseh)  
Dominic Amicone—President, Amico Infrastructures Inc.

enc. Amico proposal for Parkway fill material