

## **Durham won't maintain Pickering noise fence**

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DURHAM -- The Region won't be responsible for maintaining a noise wall that's going to be erected along a portion of Bayly Street in Pickering.

The fence will be along the backyards of homes on Marinet Crescent, which is west of West Shore Boulevard, on land owned by Durham Region.

In February, Pickering council called on the Region to pay the costs to maintain the fence, designed to block sounds coming from nearby Hwy. 401.

The fence is going to cost about \$1 million, with the Province covering 90 per cent of the cost and Pickering the remainder.

Last week, Durham council rejected a request by Pickering Councillor Jennifer O'Connell that the Region be responsible for maintenance costs. A resolution before Regional council noted the Region wouldn't be responsible for the design, construction or maintenance of the fence.

Coun. O'Connell wanted to remove the maintenance portion of the resolution.

"The Region doesn't have to pay any capital costs, even though it's a Regional road," she said.

Removing the maintenance clause "doesn't bind the Region," Coun. O'Connell added.

Regional Chairman Roger Anderson said removing the maintenance provision would push the costs onto Durham.

"In 10 to 15 years, someone will come in here and say it's your fence. We gave them (the Province) the land. It's their fence. You're asking us to maintain it," Mr. Anderson stated.

"The noise fence is a result of (traffic noise from) the 401 and not the result of Bayly Street," Mr. Anderson noted. "What you're saying is in six months, someone will spray paint it and you'll want us to come and clean it."

Works commissioner Cliff Curtis added, "The wall isn't driven by noise on Bayly. It's on our road allowance, but we shouldn't have to bear any costs."