

Review of Alternative Modes of Transport

It is a requirement of the City of Hamilton Terms of Reference to conduct a **Review of Alternative Solutions**. By this it is meant that SMC should consider various possible modes of transport of aggregate material from the quarry and document the reasons for the selection of the Preferred Solution.

The options considered included the following:

- from quarry to destination by truck
- from quarry to destination by train
- from quarry to transfer point by train and from transfer point to destination by truck

As a fundamental characteristic of the aggregate materials market, it should be noted that the quarry is a single point of origin of material that serves a wide range of customer destinations which are constantly changing as some construction projects are completed and new projects are started.

Assessment

From quarry to destination by truck

- by far the most common method of aggregate because it serves the market well in what has been demonstrated to be the most cost effective manner available
- large numbers of trucks appear near the quarry site and on the designated routes
- shipment by truck may generate local impacts on several environments

From quarry to destination by train

- extremely rare form of transport of aggregates to customer destinations
- there is no rail service currently present at the quarry
- developing rail service to the quarry would require significant land acquisition, level road crossing, and potentially significant environmental impact
- shipment by rail may generate significant impacts on several local environments
- there is no rail service at the majority of customer destinations
- developing rail service at numerous customer destinations is not feasible

From quarry to transfer point by train and from transfer point to destination by truck

- rarely used form of transport of aggregates to market
- there is no rail service currently present at the quarry
- developing rail service to the quarry would require significant land acquisition, level road crossing, and potentially significant environmental impact
- shipment by rail may generate significant impacts on several local environments
- requires the acquisition and operation of a transfer facility (presently not existent and location unknown)
- requires stockpiling and three times handling of material
- large numbers of trucks appear near the transfer site and on designated routes
- shipment by truck may generate significant local impacts on several environments in the vicinity of the transfer facility