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## **Broken roads, broken promises; CAA demands the mayor keep his promise to clear Toronto's 300 million dollar mess**

**THORNHILL** – Toronto city council is putting the safety of Toronto residents at risk by ignoring its crumbling infrastructure.

In December 2005, city council decided to take the advice of their staff and budget for a 10-year plan to address the current 300 million dollar road repair backlog.

“Mayor David Miller and the rest of council has decided to break that promise, shortchanging the safety of Toronto taxpayers instead,” says Faye Lyons CAA SCO government relations specialist.

Rather than allocating the proper resources to fix Toronto's growing infrastructure problem the city has decided to spend just 5 million dollars this year on the backlog. This is despite warnings from city staff that ignoring the road repair backlog would see it balloon to 700 million dollars in the next 10 years.

“This is unacceptable,” says Lyons. “Toronto residents deserve a council that keeps its commitments and takes care of the infrastructure they depend on. By not allocating more money you are putting the safety of Toronto residents at risk.”

Recently, a piece of concrete fell from the elevated Gardiner Expressway. Fortunately, no one was injured. But what will happen the next time?

“The Gardiner alone, currently requires 87 million dollars worth of repairs,” says Lyons. “Ensuring a well maintained and efficient urban road network is vital to all road users, 5 million dollars is not even close to being enough.”

City Staff have told CAA SCO that for road safety features like sensors and Intelligent Transportation systems (ITS) to work properly our roads need to be in good condition. If the roads where these sensors are located are crumbling, the sensors will not be able to alert staff to dangerous road conditions such as ice and snow so work crews can be dispatched to make them safer.

That's why CAA SCO is demanding Toronto stick to a 10-year plan of spending 30 million dollars a year to tackle the backlog of road repairs. It is also imperative that Mayor David Miller and his city council sustain funding for our traffic signal and technology operations that improve the safety of Toronto streets.