



MP Del Mastro's rail link push backed by new study

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By Lauren Gilchrist

Local MP Dean Del Mastro says a report completed by a team of civil engineers at the University of Toronto detailing the need for a high-speed rail link backs up what he's been saying all along.

"I'm happy to see that somebody did a second study and happy to see they found the same conclusion that I found," he said Tuesday morning.

MP Del Mastro says the report, titled "Infrastructure And The Economy: Future Directions For Ontario" was commissioned by Premier Dalton McGuinty.

The report, written by a group of civil engineers at the University of Toronto, proposes 560 kilometres of high-speed electric track running from Toronto, north to Orillia, east to Peterborough and west to a corridor that includes Waterloo and Niagara Falls.

The report suggests it would take a decade to build and cost anywhere from \$4 billion to \$20 billion, depending on the route chosen and the technology used.

That report was recently given to economist Roger Martin and urban theorist Richard Florida, who have been appointed by Premier McGuinty to look at Ontario's economic future.

The recommendations in the report are likely to form part of final report to Premier McGuinty expected in February. "They [the engineers] basically came out and recommended a number of commuter lines, which I have been a proponent of...always have been," says MP Del Mastro.

With files from the Toronto Star