

Looking down the line

Would the Hamilton-Nanticoke line ever be used as a commuter line similar to the present GO service between this city and Toronto?

Not likely. At least not in the foreseeable future.

The province has committed itself to improving the highway between Hamilton and the Erie industrial site as part of the services corridor — like pipelines and power electric cables.

The Ministry of Transportation and Communications did look at a rail commuter service back in

the early planning stages for the Nanticoke area.

Says Roy Kidman, manager of the MTC's transit planning office: "It was very briefly considered, but it wasn't studied in any depth basically because we didn't think there would be sufficient patronage to warrant updating from freight with the costs needed to do it."

He said the cost of new roadbeds and operating equipment would not justify what would basically be twice-daily use for a commuter train.

Mr. Kidman said the possibility of a bus link between Hamilton and Nanticoke has been studied with commuters driving to designated parking areas along the route to board the bus.

This, however, has been ruled out for the present time.

Most workers, mainly construction laborers, now travelling between here and Nanticoke are in car pools.

According to a Stelco public community relations spokesman, such will likely be the transportation mode for some time to come.