

**From:** Erik Wright

**Sent:** Monday, February 8, 2021 4:33 PM

**To:** Regional Clerk <ClerkGeneralLine@york.ca>

**Subject:** Please Oppose Highway 413 - From A Resident Living on the 407

Dear York Regional Councillors and Mayors,

As a York Region resident I am calling on you to oppose the Province's construction of the GTA West Highway (also known as Highway 413) at the upcoming York Regional Council meeting on February 11th.

I live in Vaughan Metropolitan Area which is a huge logistics center near Highway 400 Highway 407 - I see the impacts of congestion and transportation everyday so I understand both sides of the issue. I am incredibly disappointed that the recommendations made to allow trucks on the 407 without charge as a compromise to not building the 413 is not being considered. There is an incredible demand for renewal of our existing infrastructure, and it makes no sense to spend so much money on a shiny new highway when our existing roads need attention. Not to mention the irreversible impacts on the environment and urban sprawl. This type of development also flies against most of our planning policy statements which are focused on intensification, not expansion.

Benefits of the Compromise Solution (open up the 407 and cancel the 413):

- Less congestion on the 401 for commuters
- More safety due to fewer trucks on the 401
- Support for the trucking industry at a time when carbon taxes are increasing
- Prevents wasteful spending on a highway we don't need
- Aligns with other planning directives not to create sprawl
- Protects the environment
- Increases the capacity for government to address unfunded *existing infrastructure*, which we cannot even manage without building a shiny new highway
- Keeps the overall size of government smaller

I will be actively monitoring your decisions leading up to the 2022 elections. Please consider the pragmatic win-win-win option and resist the temptation for a shiny new highway. There is a lot of benefit to showing you are pragmatic decision maker trying to manage what we have and keep costs low.

Thank you,

Erik Wright