

DEPUTATIONS IN WRITING

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

FEBRUARY 11, 2021

Subject: Item E.2.1. Greater Toronto Area West Transportation Corridor Update – Submitted by 191 Individuals

Brief summary of issue or purpose of deputation:

The following form letter, some with minor variations, was received by the Regional Clerk from the individuals listed at the bottom of this document.

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.

This mega-highway will rip through our community with devastating impacts on our homes, our communities, our farmland, our wetlands, and will pave over many hectares of Greenbelt in Vaughan despite the Province's promises to protect the Greenbelt. It will also add more polluting cars and trucks to our roads and increase the region's greenhouse gas emissions.

Despite these impacts, York Regional Councillors voted to support the Province's GTA West Highway in December 2019, stating that "York Region supports the decision to resume the Greater Toronto Area West Transportation Corridor Environmental Assessment and requests that the highway be constructed as soon as possible."

This endorsement came with no consultation, and it came at a time when many of York's municipalities like Newmarket and Vaughan have declared a climate emergency. This is a commitment to strong action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Endorsing the GTA West Highway directly conflicts with these commitments.

Since your 2019 endorsement of the highway, more than 10,000 people across the GTA West corridor have signed petitions asking their MPPs to reconsider this highway. More than 500 phone calls have gone to MPPs from concerned residents just in King-Vaughan. In the last 48 hours alone, almost 5000 people have asked the federal government to step in to perform a federal environmental assessment for this project.

On February 11th, I am calling on you to take action, and withdraw York Regional Council's support for this highway.

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Agenda item E.2.1 “Greater Toronto Area West Transportation Corridor Update” proposes further road widenings and harmful impacts to adjacent communities. Instead of adopting more road widenings, Council must move to withdraw its previous support for the GTA West Highway corridor, in light of the potentially devastating impacts to York Region residents’ communities, farmlands, wetlands, forests, and green spaces.

The Province has proposed weakening environmental assessments for the GTA West Highway to the point where they are essentially meaningless, allowing “early works” like bridges and waterways to be built before the environmental impacts are fully known. Your constituents could see devastating impacts to their farms, wetlands, and water sources that will not be known until it’s too late. Your continued endorsement of the Province’s plans for this highway tells residents that York Regional Council does not support preserving the Greenbelt, prime agricultural land, wetlands and water sources, and urgent action on climate change.

The decision on whether or not to build the highway rests with the Province. But the decision on whether or not to declare your support for the highway rests with you. Halton Region, Orangeville, and Halton Hills have all chosen to oppose Highway 413 based on local opposition. We are asking you to do the same.

Enough is enough. Please listen to your constituents, and withdraw your support for the GTA West Highway.

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The form letter was submitted by the following individuals:

Ofelia Lombardi	Lorenzo S
Anna Chetti	Eric Noce
Christine Warner	V. Mazzoli
Anne Kaufmann	Sergio Simone
Tina Barhagh	Sarah Van Loon
Debbie McCloskey	Katie Monat
Anna Agranat	Charlene Fernandes
Luca Scaturchio	Dan Ifrim
Michael Thies	Adam Socha
JP Mihok	Judy Debeer
Tony Kiru	Rick Digregorio
Desirae Miceli	Teresa Paz-Soldan
Michelle Kenney	Sandra Cassidy
Colleen Frankovich	Flavio Vanacore
Debbie Speyer	Masha Nadtotchii
Olga Kasjanova	Hanna Milne
Laura Tipton	Tess S
Trina West	Brad Abernethy
Heather Sanham	Donna Castledine
Leslie Lawson	Louis & Tony Santoro
Julie R	Gord Donaldson
Rosella Polera	David Forgione
Caleb McLean	Toni Carlin
Greg Brad	Phil DiFonzo
Alexandra Robertson	Judith Tenenbaum
Wolf Saxler	Michael Birman
Nancy Phillips	Naomi Geller
Elizabeth Allsopp	Maanya Sheth
Alessia De Marchi	Rachel R
Rena Sutton	Tony Malfara
Andrew Moscoe	Samantha Dunlop
Stephen Cockle	Clair Barrey-Junop
John Willson	Bob Belcher
Elizabeth Lawson	Linda Keith
Karen S	Michael Macciachera
Stephanie Burdon	Matthew Muto
Beverley Golden	Dave Hamilton
Iain Scott	Bill Sedgwick
Shannon Duncan	Angela Grella
Mindy Sachdev	Lesley Peressotti
Stuart Moscoe	Suki Mac

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Norma McClinton	Aleisha Panno
Sharon Willan	Solmaz A
Dave Johnson	J. Leithwood
Anna Basatskaya	Bogdan Hlevca
Taylor Simpanen	Pietro Ingraldi
David Bergart	C. Gray
Josie Cramarossa	Joan Wierzbicki
Sonia Fiorini	Maret Aun and Steve Caruso
Bendt Jorgensen	Brenda Hammond
Bessie Koutroulakis	Clara Frascchetti
Phil Gilmour	Bill Foster
Tai Pang Lui	Pat Watson
Norine Thomason	Mary Dennis
Mary Asselstine	Jill Tate
Lorraine Valenzano	Rolf Ehrat
Ruth Haines	Barb Macdonald
Ashley Gardner	Elisabeth Tan
Ashley Bell	Marion Ford
Shannon Josselyn	Franca Colagiaco
Doreen Smith	Diane and Bill Willcocks
Reid Rusonik	Nicole Debeer
Laura McKinnon	Lou Boswell
D. Danyliw	Dawn Pick
Jim Baur	Nicolas Ruiz
Valerie Tate	Nuno Alexandre
Sandra Johnson	Sophie Katzenberg
D. Houlden	Ruth Patterson
Bill Kafkis	Wendy Butt
Rick and Claudia Wardell	Roland Gatti
Susan Sigrist	Rose Rayfield
Janet Bartram-Thomas	Maria O'Loughnan
Mary Russell	Mintzy Clement
Nixon P.	Carissa Torchetti
Mark Harper	Angela O'Neill
Helen Doner	John and Babs Bradbury
Sarah Peters	Wendy Kenyon
Anica Birtasevic	Rick C
Jim and Sharon Bradley	Katrina Caldwell
Brian Ford and Jessica Kroes	Sigrid White
Meagan Potter	Kirill Shorupsky
Sharon Katz	Negar Shaghadami

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Angela Frustaglio	Leslie Jandreau
Lu Dobson	Eileen Melia
Amanda Oakes	M. Hernandez
Lori Puzzolanti	Derek Sawyer
Adam and Valerie Saunders	Grace Asselin
Eunice Reynolds	Lenore Black
Michael Mikhailovsky	Allan Briesmaster
Valerie Burke	Vicki Costoff
Natalie Telfer	Iain Smith
Ian Dinsdale	Candace Cook
Rosie Pavicic	Elisha G
Dante Sanchez	Martha Bell
Lilly Fogelman	Susan Sheard
Gail Lavery	

*Regional Clerk's Office received additional submissions similar to the above where the name of the individual was not shared.

