

From: Dean Orr

Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2021 11:38 PM

To: Regional Clerk <ClerkGeneralLine@york.ca>

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Subject: No on GTA West Highway

Dear York Regional Councillors and Mayors,

This is in response to the discussion on the proposed '413' or GTA West Highway. I am a 28 year old farmer who lives just southeast of Nobleton. This proposed highway would cut through many fields that we rent. We rent these fields to grow crops on not just to sustain our family farm, but to feed thousands of other people as well.

I cannot believe, let me repeat myself, I CANNOT believe, in this day and age, another highway is even being tabled for discussion. It is 2021, and we have years and years of data and discussion surrounding the fragility of our ecosystems, and our dependence on them as a species. Not to be a 'Debby downer' but the human population is about to find itself (ourself) in a very fragile state. Climate change isn't coming, it is here, and we are already beginning to feel the effects of 150+ years of unfettered intense land development and industrialization. We are in the midst of a mass extinction event on the planet and it is caused by us and our unceasing need to change the environment around us. We, and thousands of other species, are dependent upon our responsible stewardship of the land. Now is not the time for a new highway, and it certainly is not the place. There are other better options out there.

The arguments that are being made for the highway (decreased travel times, economic prosperity etc.) are complete false arguments. Perhaps you have not noticed, but development has followed the 400 series highways, and eventually has slowed down travel times with congestion. Every highway. All of them; East, West, South, North. What makes you think this highway will be different? And economic prosperity? A very select few will benefit from that, and for the rest it will be short lived at best. I cannot see it increasing the quality of life for anyway already living in King Township.

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 am not necessarily against the need for transportation, however, car and truck transportation is extremely inefficient and costly, with various levels of government having to pay many times over for the infrastructure. In this day and age we should be looking at other, more efficient means of transportation such as train/ light rail or an improved bus system. Better yet, York

Region should be looking at improving existing infrastructure to support bicycle transportation. The proposed highway 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, in my educated opinion, is not within our best interests as a community. I am just at my whits end with all of the development going on in the GTA. In no way is it sustainable to keep paving over our farmlands, and the habitat of other species. I am 28 years old and I can't help but just look around in despair because I am not sure what the future holds for me, or for us.

Dean Orr,
Nobleton