

From: Dennis Starritt
Sent: Sunday, March 14, 2021 7:18 PM
To: Regional Clerk <ClerkGeneralLine@york.ca>
Subject: Highway #413

To the Mayor and Councilors of York Region

My name is Dennis Starritt and I am a resident of King Township.....I am writing to encourage your strong objection to the proposed construction of Highway # 413

There are several reasons to oppose this project of which I consider the two most important to be:

- (1) Environmental issues front and center....Highway # 413 is planned to cut through and do inestimable damage to an environmentally sensitive area that has already been severely attacked and burdened with development.....We need to be careful and try to be conservation minded with what remains.....This highway skirts one of our most valuable ecological treasures, the Oak Ridges Moraine
- (2) Economic issues line 1, page2.....Highway #413 is an egregious misallocation of limited Ontario transportation funds.....Anyone who is a student of roadway transportation will know that the global automotive industry is totally confident and committed to autonomous driving, possibly within 5 years and certainly within 10 years.....Either time horizon is no doubt before the first vehicle would ever travel on Highway #413.....Autonomous driving will substantially disrupt current utilization of our traffic corridors.....Capacity of existing infrastructure will be dramatically increased.....No longer will road traffic need to accommodate the diverse, and often dangerous, behavior of every individual driver.....Insurance businesses are bracing for a sizeable reduction of claims.....Autonomously driven cars and trucks will adjust to one another much more smoothly and rationally than do today's drivers.....And commercial fleets from delivery vans to 18 wheelers, which I expect would be a large portion of Highway #413 traffic, are already early adopters of autonomous driving.....This concept also opens up a variety of possibilities for convenient mass transit and reduction of one person/one car commuting.....The future of driving and traffic is likely to experience huge upheaval sooner than we think

Who is highway # 413 designed to serve??.....Studies show minimal reduction of commute time.....And why provide more capacity, even barring the potential disruption considerations above, if it simply encourages more traffic with all its attendant pollution and management problems.....Let's work on better utilizing highways #401 and #407.....And spend our precious fiscal resources on better mass transit plans

Thank you for your attention

Dennis Starritt
King Township Ontario