

From: L Tipton

Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 3:40 PM

To: Regional Clerk <ClerkGeneralLine@york.ca>; Emmerson, Wayne <Wayne.Emmerson@york.ca>

Cc: mayor@townofws.ca; Sue Sherban <sue.sherban@townofws.ca>

Subject: Highway 413 & Bradford Bypass

I am a parent and local resident in Whitchurch-Stouffville and oppose both Highway 413 and the Bradford Bypass.

The proposed Highway 413 has been previously assessed by an expert panel and found that it would only save drivers **30-60 seconds** per trip. This is a devastatingly meagre benefit for a project that will cost taxpayers a minimum of **\$6-10 billion**, pave over **2,000 acres** of Class 1 and Class 2 farmland, cross rivers and watercourses **85 times**, increase gas emissions, encourage sprawl and increase car dependence.

All this in a region where many municipalities have declared a Climate Emergency.

This highway is redundant, unnecessary, costly and harmful. It is not the way to meet the region's transportation needs. Committing to public transit solutions like improving GO service, cycling infrastructure and other transportation methods would move a greater number of people, faster and at a lesser cost.

Furthermore, the Bradford Bypass is another backwards solution dug from the past. Lake Simcoe is already stressed by the impacts of development and expanding road networks. This highway will cut through the Holland Marsh, one of the most productive agricultural areas in Canada. It will remove 39 hectares of wildlife habitat, have a negative impact on wetlands and cause significant groundwater contamination putting Lake Simcoe and the Greenbelt at risk.

These two projects will cause irreversible damage to habitats, agricultural lands, wildlife and watersheds in Ontario, while costing taxpayers billions of dollars.

I strongly urge the council to move a motion to oppose Highway 413 and the Bradford Bypass. Please support a Federal Environmental assessment so that no works can begin until we know all the facts about the impact of both highways.

Sincerely,
Laura Tipton
Stouffville, Ontario