

To Regional Councillors and Mayors:

March 17th,2021

My name is Alexandra, my family and I are long-time residents of King Vaughan Road. I'm writing to you once again as a very concerned resident, regarding the GTA West Corridor/413 and resulting growth plan. As well as all the surrounding road expansion, full and partial interchanges which result from this GTA West Corridor. This highway it seems will be approximately 500 meters from our home. No one can tell us exactly where? The future York Region plans show widening Weston Road and King Vaughan Road, no one has consulted the residents. The GTA West Corridor and widening of roads could mean many homes are obliterated, all this without consultation?

Between 2019 and 2020 Municipalities within York Region have all declared a Climate Emergency and/or support of a declared Climate Emergency. How then do you continue to think in terms of outdated modes of transportation – highways, which will destroy sensitive ecosystems? Costly environment damaging infrastructures, which it seems no one wants to pay for the upkeep. Selling them off, toll usage applied, which results in it being too costly for Commercial companies to use them. The public is continually asking for modes of transportation which will get us out of our cars. We've realized time and stress free environment is key to health. Your residents have repeatedly voiced the concern of the highway fragmenting neighbourhoods, cutting people off from one another by creating barriers. The proposed 413 Highway will have an immense negative impact on the City of Vaughan and neighbouring King Township. The volume of traffic brought in by this highway will overwhelm all the local roads and communities. Please consider the impact to Vaughan and all the surrounding communities to the north, east and west and south of the proposed highway/corridor. The unsightly highway environment, constant noise, greenhouse gas emissions, extreme dirt & dust, leading to adverse health concerns. Destruction of GTA watershed and wetlands which absorb rainfalls and prevent flooding.

York Regional Council Members and Mayors, especially Vaughan Regional Council Members and Mayor, as our representatives how can you continue to support the GTA West Corridor when last week in Vaughan – Council support was withdrawn! Will you serve the voices and needs of your residents who are asking as I am quite clearly for you to represent us by bringing forward the following;

1. Make a motion and officially vote yes to reverse endorsement/support of the proposed GTA West Corridor/413
2. Make a motion and officially vote yes to support the request for a Federal Impact Assessment as is being done in other municipalities and Regions across the path of the Corridor
3. Request the deadline for official plan review be extended since York Region has not been able to conduct a public consultation due to the pandemic

4. Request that York Region withdraw support for the endorsement of the Bradford Bypass and in so doing, support a Federal Impact Assessment

As a resident on King Vaughan Road, like all residents in the area, and along the route, our lives will be negatively impacted by the highway and resulting necessity of widening surrounding roads. This proposed highway corridor which ends into the Highway 400 creates multiple Interchanges, which will consume more valuable real estate, Greenbelt and Natural Heritage. Consider the homes and communities which will be expropriated and razed, people's properties – their dreams scarified for a 30 seconds' savings in travel time. The GTA West Corridor/413 will run through and destroy Greenbelt, Wetland, Conservation lands, Humber River areas, Prime Agricultural Farm fields and put wildlife and bird habitat at risk. Bisecting 85 streams, and destroying several wood lots. There is very little White belt in the path of the proposed GTA Corridor/413 in Vaughan. **Look at the expert advisory panel report which led to the cancellation of this Corridor Highway in 2018.** Do not continue to ignore the alternatives and better solutions. Move ahead with Go-Transit projects in the Region, Go Service, light rail, freight rail and subsidize the underutilized 407 for commercial trucks.

This will prevent the loss of valuable lands which can be thoughtfully incorporated into future growth plans. Through public input, development of housing and high end prestige businesses can be integrated into areas while preserving the greenbelt (prime agricultural lands), which also include woodlots and wetlands. Where bike and walking trails, can be carefully integrated. The Pandemic has taught us natural green spaces and fresh air are required for a healthy life. Vaughan should celebrate its green natural areas and celebrate the valuable untouched lands in the North end of Vaughan. People drive and cycle here on weekends to enjoy the beauty and tranquility of the area. It is a photographic destination.

I find it concerning that the agenda before you today, has been structured in a manner to support a narrative that the highway is necessary to support the Province's forecasted growth plan. Now it would appear the message has changed from the highway will not cause sprawl, to we require the highway to build sprawl. Also, greatly concerned at the lack of Staff acknowledgement of both the City of Vaughan's decision on March 10, 2021 to officially rescind endorsement and ask for a Federal Impact Assessment; as well as the valid and significant concerns raised time and again by residents, as well as other subject matter experts.

Halton Region, Halton Hills, Orangeville, Mississauga, City of Vaughan, City of Toronto, have all withdrawn support of the GTA West Corridor/413.

It seems the Provincial Government is on a fast track. This has resulted in no longer feeling confident that pre-construction of bridges and infrastructure will not occur before a full and proper Environmental Assessment has taken place. TRCA has been rendered powerless to provide any meaningful input.

York Regional Councillors and Mayors, – I'm asking you to listen to your residents, be our voices;

1. Make a motion and officially vote yes to reverse endorsement/support of the proposed GTA West Corridor/413
2. Make a motion and officially vote yes to support the request for a Federal Impact Assessment
3. Critically review why the Province is directing local governments to plan for highest growth scenarios during a Pandemic? Request the deadline for official plan review be extended since you have not been able to conduct a public consultation due to the pandemic. (it is a democratic right for residents to participate in public consultation)
4. Request that York Region withdraw support for the endorsement of the Bradford Bypass and in so doing, support a Federal Impact Assessment

Looking forward to you being our innovative leaders.

Kind regards,
Alexandra Ney
Resident of King Vaughan Road