

From: David Pressley

Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 2:06 PM

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

Subject: York Regional Council to vote on Highway 413

Please find attached a letter to York Regional Council asking that it rejects the building of Highway 413 and the Bradford Bypass.

Lenore Pressley

Members of the York Regional Council:

My husband and I have lived in Aurora since 1973 and have been concerned at the increasing destruction of farmland and environmentally sensitive areas for the purpose of development of urban sprawl. While we realize that people need places to live it is imperative that we take into consideration the affect this has on the environment which cannot be replaced.

Although there has been significant population growth in York region Metrolinx is increasingly able to provide transportation to and from multiple places in our region and other regions. So we are, as time goes by, likely to have less need for highways for cars with Metrolinx providing a more convenient, safe and appropriate way of travelling in the GTA and beyond. Protecting the environment is essential to the reduction in green house gasses and necessary to meet our greenhouse gas goals. This is a global initiative.

In just the last few weeks, Councils in Peel Region, Caledon, Vaughan, Mississauga, Brampton, Halton Hills and Toronto have all spoken out either completely opposing the Highway, or in favour of a full federal environmental assessment. Now it's the York Regional Council's turn. On March 18th, York Regional Council will consider whether to support a full federal environmental assessment (EA) for Highway 413 and the Bradford Bypass, which would bulldoze straight through the Holland Marsh.

Our Greenbelt is a very environmentally sensitive area of our province and now the provincial government is determine to destroy a significant part of it to allow the building of Highway 413. And this is without having an environment assessment to determine the environmental impact of the destruction of the green spaces, wetlands and other sensitive areas. The provincial government has essentially stripped the environmental assessment with David Crombie , head of Ontario's Greenbelt Council, and others on the council stepping down because of the provincial government legislation that removes the authority of this council to protect the environment. And all this is to allow developers to build more houses. If there is enough push back they will have to back down from this destructive plan. We need this to be stopped or, at least, we should demand an assessment by the federal government prior to any construction being started.

I am writing this to request that York Regional council join the other areas that have rejected the building of Highway 413 and the Bradford Bypass. I implore you to please vote to reject this highway which will lead to the destruction of a great part of York Region.

Thank you for your time
Lenore Pressley –
Aurora