

**From:** s s

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 16, 2021 11:51 AM

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

**Cc:** tvegh <tvegh@newmarket.ca>; jtaylor <jtaylor@newmarket.ca>

**Subject:** Highway 413 and Bradford bypass

Dear Councillors,

I am emailing to voice my concern about the new highway projects being steamrolled through our democratic process and about to destroy hundreds of acres of green space in protected environmental areas.

As we can see there has been a lot of outrage over the idea of the highway. That doesn't even take into account the fact that the provincial government is bypassing all of the checks and balances that were put in place to protect our communities. As a local I see this as a way to let our communities to continue to sprawl and end up with a mega city stretching from Hamilton to Pickering and from Lake Ontario to Lake Simcoe. I know we have been trying to put densification of the corridors on priority but we see that is so slow and we lack enough housing/rental for the current population . I feel this \$6 Billion would be better used to create more affordable mid rises to the communities at the edge of the sprawl and bring and retain more jobs locally so we don't have to make a new highways just to bring more products from overseas, this will also let more money stay in the local economy.

I know you have a choice to oppose these projects outright and an option to request a federal environmental assessment. I think the most prudent choice is to oppose the project as it has already been assessed as a inefficient use of money and getting the federal government to spend more money to do an assessment is just a waste.

We need to start planning for the future generations. The current culture in politics is to just plan and work towards the next election and is causing large amounts of graft and corruption. We need to start using a generational planning method instead of a rush it through in less than 4 years to make it in time to get support from our larger campaign funders.

The environment is changing very quickly, we are losing diversity and the abilities to regulate our influence on everything. I have seen forests and even small mountains wiped out in Cambodia just to fill the pockets of the rich and those in power and the effect is immediate in Hotter temperatures, more dust, and the soil only good for cassava plants (they can grow in very poor soil types). We have seen the impacts of such lack of foresight in this area around 100 years ago when the farmlands that are now regional forests turned into deserts. This cost the government of the time millions of dollars to rehabilitate. The untold damage to our waterways, water table, and forested areas most likely will outstrip the immediate gains very quickly.

Please consider all of these points when you make your decisions tomorrow and thank you for taking the time to read this.

Simon Schmidt