

From: Peter Miasek

Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 12:51 PM

To: Regional Clerk <ClerkGeneralLine@york.ca>

Cc: Emmerson, Wayne <Wayne.Emmerson@york.ca>; dhamilton <dhamilton@markham.ca>; jjones <jjones@markham.ca>; joeli <joeli@markham.ca>; Deputy Mayor Jack Heath Markham <jheath@markham.ca>; fscarpitti <fscarpitti@markham.ca>

Subject: York Region Council Meeting March 18, 2021 Agenda Item F.4.2: GTA-West Corridor - Response to IAA of Canada

This is being sent to the Regional Clerk, Chair Emmerson and the 5 Markham RCs.

On February 24, I sent the following note to the Markham regional representatives asking them to support a Federal Impact Assessment for the GTA-West expressway. As the item was deferred to March 18, I am repeating my request. Here it is, in *italics*, with some editing to keep it current.

From February 24:

You may recall that the Wynne government cancelled the GTA-West expressway project based on a 2018 expert panel, but the Ford government restarted the provincial EA.

Due to the many flaws in the Provincial EA, as pointed out by the Panel and the Ecojustice letter, I strongly support requesting a Federal Impact Assessment and therefore I oppose the letter in the staff report.

Although York Region has long supported this freeway, I have many concerns and they are growing::

- *A lot more people can be moved by rapid transit (GO, BRT) in the region for the same \$6B cost that this freeway would cost*
- *Freight movement is best done by truck concessions on Highway 407 and improving the rail system.*
- *Transit-oriented-development around these new lines, rather than freeway-oriented development, is more land-efficient, cost-efficient, better for the natural environment, and better for the climate.*

The Municipalities of Mississauga, Brampton, Caledon, Halton Hills, Peel Region and Halton Region have all passed motions expressing their opposition to the expressway and/or the need for a Federal Assessment. Please join them!

Update:

My understanding of the discussion at Council on February 25 was that staff would be preparing a comparison of the federal Impact Assessment and the current provincial Streamlined EA. This comparison does not appear to be on the agenda. Regardless, I think the provincial process was flawed and we need the feds to do it right.

Therefore please make a motion to alter the staff letter to the IAA to indicate that York requests a Federal Impact Assessment.

Yours truly,

Peter Miasek
Markham, ON