

From: George Skoulikas
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 3:29 PM
To: Regional Clerk <ClerkGeneralLine@york.ca>; Emmerson, Wayne <Wayne.Emmerson@york.ca>
Cc: Mrakas, Tom <tmrakas@aurora.ca>
Subject: Highway 413/Bradford Bypass - Urgent Need for Federal Environmental Assessment

Regional Councillors,

My name is George Skoulikas and I am the president of Henderson Forest Aurora Ratepayer Association (HFARA), representing a large number of residents in the Town of Aurora. I am a resident of Aurora for 22 years and I am reaching out to you today because I am concerned about the introduction of two highway proposals, namely Highway 413 and the Bradford Bypass.

The proposed highways will extend from Highway 400 and connect to Highway 404 through Town of Bradford West, Township of King and the Town of East Gwillimbury, including Holland Marsh, one of the most productive specialty crop agricultural areas in the country. Not only does the government want the right to approve this development, but it is proposing getting it done without a detailed environmental review. The proposed development of Highway 413 and Bradford Bypass, will lead to significant, irreversible environmental impacts on important habitats, wildlife, significant wetlands, forests and important ecosystems. In this case, Ontario government's proposal to weaken the Environmental Assessment, disregard of environmental protections in favour of development projects, and to allow construction before the Environmental Assessment is completed is irresponsible. An Environmental Impact Assessment is defined as

"a systematic process of identifying future consequences of a current or proposed action."

Given that the Ontario government will not conduct proper Environmental Assessments to fully investigate the impacts of the proposed development of the Highways, **I urge you to oppose Highway 413 and the Bradford Bypass unless a detailed Federal Environmental Impact Assessment is conducted that will identify the detailed possible impacts, prior to any development start.**

Sincerely,

George Skoulikas
President,
Henderson Forest Aurora Ratepayer Association (HFARA)