

From: Patricia Montgomery-Rundle
Sent: Wednesday, March 17, 2021 11:28 AM
To: Regional Clerk <ClerkGeneralLine@york.ca>
Subject: Fwd: Highway 413 and the Bradford Bypass
To: <wayne.emmerson@york.ca>
Cc: <clerks@newmarket.ca>, <clerks@york.ca>, <tvegh@newmarket.ca>

Dear Mr Wayne Emmerson,

I am a resident of York Region, living in Newmarket and working in Stouffville.

I am writing to you to add my voice to the cacophony of protest across S.Ontario in regard to our Provincial Conservative Government's plan to move forward with the construction of Highway 413 and the Bradford Bypass.

First let me point out that the \$6 Billion dollar price tag would be better spent improving Long Term Residences for our elderly residents.

Secondly I would add that the Ontario Government has undermined the strength of an Environmental Assessment for this highway by removing parts of the legislation to make the Highway EA process less potent. *I urge you and your committee to **insist** on a Federal Environmental Assessment.*

Thirdly I want to remind you, Mr. Emmerson, and Regional Councillors that digging up over 400 acres of the Oak Ridges Moraine, disregarding the value of wetlands, and clean water (the highway will cross rivers and streams 85 times!) and adding to pollution while diminishing green spaces demonstrates a disregard for the declared Climate Emergency declaration of many of York Region's municipalities. And the desire of most residents for a protected environment. Once a decision to dig up and destroy valuable environmental assets has been made, these assets cannot be replaced when the full negative impact is belatedly realized.

Concern for our environment is not new, the impact of poor management is well documented. The Insurance Board of Ontario has costed the financial impact of wetland and shoreline loss in financial terms to municipalities, where wetlands are lost and shore lines compromised and streams devalued, in the billions of dollars for after flooding clean up, homeowners loss of property, and the repair of roads and other infrastructure. Investors are demanding Greening of their investments, and the impact of their voices is being realized.

We know that the Ontario Conservation Authority (CA) has had it's mandate greatly undermined by the current provincial government and the CA approval of the Highway 413 project and the Bradford Bypass project has been given, in the CA's words, "under duress". This is a time in our history that calls for courage. The courage to stand up for change. The courage to recognize that now is the time for new ways of doing things. The courage to embrace the importance of putting the environment first.

It's time to PROTECT OUR PROVINCE'S FUTURE. If not now, when?

I encourage you, Mr, Emmerson, and York Region Council, to let this be your legacy. Vote NO to Highway 413 proposal. Vote NO to the Bradford Bypass proposal.

Sincerely,
Patricia Montgomery, Newmarket