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FORBID ROADS OVER GREEN SPACES]

June 27, 2022

Regional Chair Emmerson and Regional Councillors,
York Region
17250 Yonge Street
Newmarket, ON
L3Y 6Z1

By Email

Dear Regional Chair Emmerson and Regional Councillors;

Re: Council Meeting June 30, 2022 – York Region Official Plan

As your records will show, we wrote to you on May 17th, 2022 requesting you postpone approval of the proposed 2051 Regional Official Plan until you had firmed up how the region would provide water and waste water services to all the white belt properties being approved for development.

We also questioned your reliance upon completion of the Bradford Bypass. We have since learned that the Federal Fisheries Act was amended in 2019 to further protection fish.

“The pollution prevention provisions [of the federal Fisheries Act] prohibit the deposit of any deleterious substances (pollution) in water frequented by fish or to any place where it may enter water frequented by fish, unless authorized by federal regulations, rather than through permits.

There are currently no regulations under the Fisheries Act that authorize the deposit of deleterious substances from road salting activities into water frequented by fish. If these deposits were determined to be deleterious, they would be subject to subsection 36(3) of the Fisheries Act.”¹

The Highway 404 Extension was allowed to be built pursuant to a DFO Memorandum of Understanding with the Ontario Ministry of Transportation.

¹ Environmental Petition No. 466 -Subject: Environmental effects of Bradford Bypass and Early Works construction on fish and fish habitat Departments responding: Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)

That project neither required nor received any DFO approvals. This MOU protocol is no longer in existence.

The Bradford Bypass will require formal approval from the Minister of Environment, by way of specific regulation. Given the concerns, voiced by at least 8 watershed municipalities, about the potential detrimental effects of salt runoff from the Bradford Bypass on Lake Simcoe, we submit that the issuance of a required fisheries approval regulation is far from a certainty. The province's plan to build this highway, based on 25 year old facts and a 20 year old EA approval, will not satisfy today's strict DFO approval requirements.

While it is readily apparent that council is ignoring the significant amount of input concerning this Official Plan being provided by the public, ourselves and various environmental groups, we are writing this letter simply to be "on the record" concerning what we consider to be council's reckless handling of this entire planning process.

Respectfully submitted:

C.W.D. Foster
Chair
Forbid Roads Over Green Spaces