



To: Regional Council
Meeting Date: March 21, 2024
From: Laura McDowell
Commissioner of Public Works
Re: **Update on Provincial Highway Projects in York Region**

This memo provides information on the Bradford Bypass (Highway 400-404 Link) and Highway 413, coinciding with project updates to be presented by the Ministry of Transportation Ontario on this Council agenda.

Bradford Bypass will connect Highway 400 with Highway 404

Bradford Bypass is a future 16-kilometre highway connecting Highway 400 in Simcoe County to Highway 404 in York Region. The Bradford Bypass website can be found through this [link](#). The recommended plan sourced from the Province's Bradford Bypass website and shown in Appendix A includes three proposed interchanges in York Region (Bathurst Street, 2nd Concession and Leslie Street).

This provincial project is following the streamlined environmental assessment process set out in [Ontario Regulation 697/21](#) which provides for early works approvals in advance of approvals for the entire project. Early works are advancing in Simcoe County with construction of a bridge crossing at County Road 4. Construction is anticipated to start in 2024.

York Region supported early implementation of Bradford Bypass

A summary of Council support for Bradford Bypass was presented at [June 2019 Council](#) in which Council resolved to support a robust highway network to move people, goods and services. A robust highway network will help achieve provincial Growth Plan population and employment objectives in York Region. As such, the Region encourages inclusion of the Bradford Bypass (Highway 400-404 Connecting Link) and the Highway 404 Extension to Highway 12 as part of the Province's infrastructure programming plans.

Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada decided that the Bradford Bypass does not require a Federal Impact Assessment

In February 2021, Ecojustice, on behalf of Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition and Simcoe County Greenbelt Coalition, submitted a request to the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change Canada to designate the Bradford Bypass project under the federal *Impact Assessment Act*.

Staff reported on this to Council on [February 25, 2021](#) and [March 18, 2021](#) and endorsed a [proposed response to the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada](#) in [March 2021](#).

The Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada decided not to designate the Bradford Bypass project under the federal *Impact Assessment Act*. A summary of the Minister's decision rationale is posted on the [Government of Canada's website](#).

Highway 413 is a proposed provincial highway connecting York Region, Peel Region and Halton Region, from Highway 400 to Highway 401/407ETR

Highway 413 is a proposed 52-kilometre highway from Highway 400 in the east, between Kirby Road and King-Vaughan Road in the City of Vaughan, to the Highway 401/407 ETR interchange in the west, connecting York, Peel, and Halton Regions. The Highway 413 website can be found through this [link](#).

Planning for Highway 413 is following Ontario's process for an Individual Environmental Assessment. The recommended plan sourced from the Province's Highway 413 website and shown in Appendix B includes proposed interchanges in York Region at Highway 427, Highway 27 and Weston Road, with protection for a possible additional interchange at Pine Valley Drive.

A project schedule is not currently available on the Highway 413 website.

York Region has supported planning and future construction of Highway 413

[January 2020](#) Council advised the Province of Ontario that York Region supports the decision to resume the Highway 413 Environmental Assessment and requested the highway be constructed as soon as possible.

Highway 413 requires a Federal Impact Assessment

In February 2021, Ecojustice, on behalf of Environmental Defense, submitted a request to the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change Canada to designate the Highway 413 project under the federal *Impact Assessment Act*.

Staff reported on this to Council on [February 25, 2021](#) and [March 18, 2021](#). At the [March 2021](#) meeting, Council endorsed the response to Impact Assessment Agency of Canada proposed by staff and further passed a motion to request a Federal Impact Assessment for Highway 413.

May 3, 2021, the federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change decided the Highway 413 project warrants designation under the federal *Impact Assessment Act*. The Highway 413

project must satisfy both Federal and Provincial Environmental Assessment requirements. A summary of the rationale for the Minister's decision for Highway 413 is [posted](#) on the Government of Canada's website for the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada.

Staff will continue to engage the Province on the Bradford Bypass and Highway 413 and report to Council at key milestones

Ministry of Transportation Ontario has engaged regional and local municipal staff throughout the planning and design for the Bradford Bypass and Highway 413. These planned highways are included in the Region's 2022 Transportation Master Plan, providing mobility for longer distance travelers and goods movement, thereby reducing this type of traffic on Regional roads. Staff will continue to engage the Province and report to Council at key project milestones.

For more information on this memo, please contact Brian Titherington, Director of Transportation Infrastructure Asset Management at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 75901. Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request.



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Commissioner of Public Works



Erin Mahoney
Chief Administrative Officer

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Appendix A - Bradford Bypass Alignment
Appendix B – Highway 413 Alignment



