

April 30, 2026

Attn: Public Works (Transportation Services)
Members of York Regional Council
The Regional Municipality of York
17250 Yonge Street
Newmarket, ON L3Y 6Z1

Subject: URGENT – Request for Immediate Traffic Signals and Expedition of the Long-Delayed Doane Road Reconstruction (Project 64) at Leslie Street

To:
Chairman Eric Jolliffe, The Regional Municipality of York
Mayor Tom Mrakas, Chair of Public Works – Transportation Services
Mayor Iain Lovatt, Vice-Chair of Public Works – Transportation Services
Mayor Virginia Hackson, Town of East Gwillimbury
Members of the Committee of the Whole, York Regional Council

Dear Chairman Jolliffe, Chair Mrakas, Vice-Chair Lovatt, Mayor Hackson, and Members of Council,

I am writing to you as a resident of East Gwillimbury and York Region to formally request that York Region immediately install a traffic signal at the intersection of Leslie Street and Doane Road, and critically expedite the long-planned reconstruction of this corridor.

The fatal single-vehicle collision on April 26, 2026—which claimed the life of a teenager and left four others with life-threatening injuries—underscores the severe consequences of delayed infrastructure improvements. This heartbreaking incident is a direct call to action to advance safety measures from the planning phase to immediate execution.

Compounding this urgency, the landscape of our community's infrastructure needs changed dramatically the very next day. On April 27, 2026, Premier Doug Ford announced that the new Southlake Hospital will be constructed northwest of Queensville Sideroad and Leslie Street. We can no longer wait for a multi-year planning cycle to address an intersection that is already claiming lives today.

A Decade of Construction Delays

The Doane Road corridor is operating well beyond safe capacity, forcing drivers into high-risk gap-acceptance maneuvers at the regional intersections between Yonge Street and Woodbine Avenue, specifically at the intersection of Doane Road and Leslie Street. This intersection has been slated for safety and capacity upgrades for over a decade, and the Region's historical deferral of this project is a matter of public record.

Following an extensive environmental assessment completed in 2013 and the active acquisition of land to facilitate these specific improvements, the reconstruction of Doane Road (Yonge Street to Woodbine Avenue) was approved in the 10-year capital program for construction in 2017. It was subsequently removed from the plan and pushed beyond 2024. Despite these early approvals, the community is still waiting. The 2022 Transportation Master Plan continues to list the widening of Doane Road from Highway 404 to Yonge Street (Project 64) as an outstanding requirement. Nearly a decade past the original 2017 construction target, the intersection remains a rural-style crossing struggling to handle modern urban traffic volumes. This prolonged delay is placing East Gwillimbury residents at an unacceptable risk.

Safety and Operational Failures (OTM Book 12)

As East Gwillimbury experiences rapid growth, the current configuration is failing operationally and compromising public safety. Residents face severe delays when attempting to turn onto Leslie Street from Doane Road or vice versa, leading to dangerous driving maneuvers to navigate inadequate gaps in cross-traffic. Under the guidelines of the Ontario Traffic Manual (OTM) Book 12, this intersection fulfills the criteria for a formal signal warrant investigation under:

- Justification 1: Minimum Eight-Hour Vehicle Volume
- Justification 2: Delay to Cross Traffic
- Justification 4: Minimum Four-Hour Vehicle Volume
- Justification 5: Collision Experience

Applying the principles of OTM Book 12, this intersection requires immediate intervention.

Requested Actions:

Public safety must take precedence over deferred capital schedules. I respectfully urge the Committee of the Whole – Public Works (Transportation Services):

1. **Install Immediate Interim Signals:** Direct Transportation Services (Public Works) staff to conduct an expedited traffic signal warrant study and install temporary traffic signals immediately to prevent further loss of life while permanent reconstruction is finalized.
2. **Expedite the Doane Road Reconstruction:** Reallocate the necessary resources to fast-track the long-delayed Doane Road widening and realignment project (Project 64) for the immediate construction schedule.
3. **Implement Enhanced Lighting:** Deploy enhanced intersection lighting and advanced warning signage to improve nighttime visibility in the interim.
4. **Formal Agenda Inclusion:** I request that this correspondence be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of the Committee of the Whole – Public Works (Transportation Services) to be formally received, considered, and addressed as a matter of urgent public safety.

Thank you for your time, your public service, and your immediate attention to this critical community safety matter.

I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,
Shahab Aryan
Resident of Queensville, East Gwillimbury, York Region