

Communication : C 3
Committee of the Whole (Working Session)
May 3, 2023
Agenda Item # 2

-----Original Message-----

From: Pauline Giancroce [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, May 02, 2023 12:06 AM
To: Clerks@vaughan.ca
Subject: [External] Council Meeting - May 3, 2023

Hi,

Unfortunately, I have another Committee meeting at the same time as the City of Vaughan Council meeting so I'm not able to attend.

I felt the need to share my concerns so I'm submitting a written communication (attached) related to the 2023 Vaughan Transportation Plan on the Council's agenda to be forwarded to the Council members.

Thank you

Pauline Giancroce
Dunstan Cres
[REDACTED]

2023 Vaughan Transportation Plan

I am struggling with the fact that the congestion on our roads, specifically along Hwy 7 between Jane and Martin Grove is restricting my ability to live my life.

I'm deeply concerned as I hear of 25 high tower condo buildings going in the SE corner of Weston and Hwy 7, with many more planned in the vicinity. Based on the "Notice of Development Signs" posted, basically wherever there is retail space now, as well as the Board of Trade lands, there will be high density development.

When I review the 2023 Vaughan Transportation Plan being considered by Council, for my area, I see no relief for the congestion on Hwy 7 (Pine Valley to Martin Grove), Islington, Kipling, Woodbridge Avenue, and in fact it will only get much worse.

Upon reviewing the 2023 Vaughan Transportation Plan I have the following comments;

- I'm happy to see a proposed Caldedon-Vaughan GO line but I don't see any road widening on Islington or Clarence to get the 2000 - 3000 cars from the homes/multiplex units built on the Board of Trade lands to the GO parking or other arterial roads.
- I see the widening of the Hwy 7 between Bruce and Martin Grove in the 2051 plan but no implementation timeline. I realize this is a regional road and the work is currently unfunded, but I believe the approval of the condo's is within the jurisdiction of the City Council and I believe that a freeze must be placed on any high density condo development close to Hwy 7 from Hwy 400 to Hwy 427 until this stretch of Hwy 7 has been widened. It clearly needs to happen, yes it will be challenging but every day that we delay will only make it harder. As Hazel McCallion would say, "Do your homework, plan, get the support, get the funding and then build." We seem to have the cart before the horse building condo's and worrying about funding the infrastructure to support it later. Pearson Airport Phase 3 was not approved by Mississauga Council until the funding issue was resolved. Developers should not be approved to build next to our already congested roadways totally paralyzing our residents.
- I'm happy to see the Colossus Flyover to Interchange Way. Is it possible to include ramps for the thousands of cars from the 25 towers to be built at Weston/Hwy 7 to get directly on and off Hwy 400 without clogging up Hwy 7?
- The Islington and Hwy 7 intersection will always be a problem (congestion, accidents due to poor visibility and speed coming down the hill, and ice on the steep hill) unless something major is done. I would suggest that City Planners consider raising up Hwy 7 east/west over Islington such that the hill is not as steep and having Islington north/south going under it. In this way, there would be no traffic lights required, saving countless hours. Land would need to be taken from the four corners for turning ramps but this does not appear to be impossible. By raising up Hwy 7 substantially, it may also aid in the issue of the bridge for the train over Hwy 7 needing to be widened. If the land was raised up, the bridge may not be as essential making widening considerably easier.

- As mentioned in the report, a significant part of the Woodbridge issue is that there are very few east/west and north/south continuous routes, leaving very little options to get across in a reasonable time. I don't see anything in the plan that addresses this. For instance, our Richmond Hill friends play pickleball 3 days a week however, for us to play in Vaughan, the closest location is the Dufferin/Clark Community Centre 13 km and 45 minutes across a congested Hwy 7 with no other continuous route. If there was a way to extend Langstaff from Islington to Kipling that would provide great relief for the area. Would this not be possible before the Board of Trade lands are developed?
- Hwy 427 should be extended to Hwy 9 to provide another north/south option before the land required is built up but I imagine that would also be a regional road.

The VTP recommends that strong measures be taken to reduce the reliance of new and existing residents on driving, including vastly improving options to walk, cycle, and take transit, because in the long run, it is critical for both financial and environmental sustainability reasons that fewer trips are taken by automobile.

We walk 70,000 steps/week and like to go biking however, this is limited by requiring nice weather, ample time, physical ability, and no heaving/bulky items, etc. I hope Council is not seriously banking on a major portion of the residents of Vaughan biking 25 km to work off the transit corridor with multiple briefcases, walking 8 km to the grocery store with a cart to wheel home their family's weekly groceries, or walking 3 km in the rain to catch a bus in the evening to go out with friends. In our busy lives, unless you live and work close to a major transit line e.g. subway, GO, or Hwy 7 express buses, the vast majority of our travel will require a car and we require the Vaughan transportation infrastructure to be able to "drive" in our cars to get to where we need to go. Idling in traffic is not good for the environment or our quality of life. If our limitations don't allow additional continuous routes, subways, GO trains, express buses, additional lanes, to accommodate more residents while maintaining quality of life, then we need to look to other vast areas of the province still underdeveloped to build the affordable housing so desperately needed. The residents of Vaughan are relying on our City Planners and Council members to adequately PLAN for our future.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pauline Giancroce
Dunstan Cres

