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September 23, 2024

Mayor Steven Del Duca

Members of Council

**C16**

**Communication**

**Council – September 24, 2024**

**CW(WS) – Report No. 29 Item No. 1**

Haiqing Xu – Deputy City Manager, Planning & Growth Management

City of Vaughan

2141 Major Mackenzie Dr.

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Dear Mayor Del Duca,

We are writing this letter as concerned citizens in regards to the ongoing issue with the increase in traffic flow and congestion in our city. In particular, we would like to concentrate on the town of Woodbridge and surrounding area. My wife and I have lived on Islington Avenue just north of Woodbridge Avenue for many years. We have seen firsthand how this road has become busier, more congested and like a racetrack late at night.

We can understand that future housing development is inevitable and that the city's planning department has to accept and review all submitted applications. There are numerous housing applications currently under review that are located on Islington between Willis Rd. and Langstaff Rd and in the Woodbridge core area. There is also an application under review for a GO station on Kipling Avenue at Meeting House Road.

Also, although there was much local opposition – Keep Vaughan Green group - the development of the Country Club Golf Course was approved and is currently under construction. This was a beautiful greenspace in the center of Woodbridge with the Humber River running through it. During the off season, many community members were able to enjoy walking through the closed golf course. We can't even imagine the traffic chaos that this development will impose on the existing community.

The roads in question – Kipling, Islington, Clarence and Woodbridge Avenue cannot be improved or widened in the Woodbridge core area.

In reality, the only road that can be improved in our area is Pine Valley Drive. There is no other north/south route between Weston Road and Islington Ave. and this greatly contributes to the congestion on the existing roads. Northbound traffic on Pine Valley Drive is funneled onto Islington Avenue at Langstaff Road.

This has been an ongoing issue for many years. When Highway 407 opened, an exit was created at Pine Valley Drive. At that time, consideration was given to extending Pine Valley Drive to Rutherford Road. In 2011, Friends of Boyd Park, a lobby group supported by the National Golf Course and the residents of Pinewood Estates, strongly objected to the proposed extension. The argument was that this small area was ecologically sensitive and it would disrupt Boyd Park. The area in question was then designated as the Pierre Berton Trail. All these years later, there is no safe access to the east part of this trail because a large stone sign for Pinewood Estates has

been placed at what was supposed to be an entrance to the trail at Pine Valley Drive and Clubhouse Road. There is no entrance at the north part of the trail at Rutherford Road either where Pine Vally Dr. should have come out. A designated loop trail within Boyd Park, which was not part of the original plan, is still not completed.

It would be great if all communities in Vaughan could keep increased traffic out of their area! However, we need to face the reality that we have a huge problem with traffic flow and congestion in Woodbridge and the surrounding area and that it will only worsen over the years to come.

It is time to reconsider extending Pine Valley Drive to Rutherford Road. It is time for the residents of the area in question to compromise, which will benefit the greater community.

We ask that our city take the initiative to address these issues which would help to alleviate the traffic problems in Woodbridge and the surrounding area.

We look forward to your comments and thoughts.

Mario Cufone & Susan Okom

█████ Islington Ave. Unit 19

Woodbridge, ON █████

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