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Communication

Council – December 17, 2024.

CW(1) – Report No. 41 Item No. 15

From: Clerks@vaughan.ca
To: [Adelina Bellisario](mailto:Adelina.Bellisario)
Subject: FW: [External] Dec 17th Council Meeting, Item 15
Date: December-16-24 8:41:13 AM

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, December 16, 2024 12:21 AM
To: Clerks@vaughan.ca
Cc: Marilyn lafrate <Marilyn.lafrate@vaughan.ca>; Rosanna DeFrancesca <Rosanna.DeFrancesca@vaughan.ca>
Subject: [External] Dec 17th Council Meeting, Item 15

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Dear Mayor and Members of Council,

I would like to request all members of Council support Councillor's lafrate and DeFrancesca's Resolution to endorse a feasibility study assessing the financial and logistical implications of buying back the lease for Highway 407, and that the provincial government be asked to implement a one-year pilot program that will subsidize or eliminate tolls for dedicated truck lanes on Highway 407, evaluating their impact on traffic congestion and overall transportation efficiency.

It is clear from the growing gridlock on Vaughan's road network, especially in the Hwy 7 corridor, that we urgently need to do something. Residents love our city, however one of their top concerns is the traffic congestion on our major roads. It was encouraging to read that Premier Ford is talking about doing a feasibility study to look into buying back Hwy 407. What a mistake it was to privatize that critical piece of infrastructure and now we see how private enterprise is gouging drivers with the highest tolls in North America.

A Transport Action Ontario study has suggested a toll subsidy for trucks could increase truck usage of Highway 407, reducing volume on Highway 401 by 12,000- 21,000 trucks per day and it does not take a rocket scientist to realize that this would reduce the volume of truck traffic on our heavily congested Hwy 7 corridor. This not just an issue of equity, where high tolls disadvantage low - middle income residents more, but is also a significant drag on our economy, driving up costs to all consumers.

Encouraging a pilot program, as proposed in the resolution, would certainly help "Getting Vaughan moving again".

I trust you are all committed to that goal, and therefore will heartily support this motion.

Sincerely,

Hon. Deb Schulte

■ Mira Vista Place

Woodbridge, Ont.

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