

C17
Communication
CW (1) – March 2, 2021
Items # - Presentation #2

From: Clerks@vaughan.ca
To: Bellisario, Adelina
Subject: FW: [External] Meeting agenda for City of Vaughan, Committee of the Whole, Tuesday, March 2nd
Date: March-01-21 9:51:29 AM

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

From: Rob Mancuso [REDACTED] >
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 8:49 PM
To: Clerks@vaughan.ca
Cc: Council@vaughan.ca; Bevilacqua, Maurizio <Maurizio.Bevilacqua@vaughan.ca>; Rosati, Gino <Gino.Rosati@vaughan.ca>; Ferri, Mario <Mario.Ferri@vaughan.ca>; Jackson, Linda <Linda.Jackson@vaughan.ca>; Iafrate, Marilyn <Marilyn.Iafrate@vaughan.ca>; Carella, Tony <Tony.Carella@vaughan.ca>; DeFrancesca, Rosanna <Rosanna.DeFrancesca@vaughan.ca>; Racco, Sandra <Sandra.Racco@vaughan.ca>; Shefman, Alan <Alan.Shefman@vaughan.ca>; jjones@markham.ca; spellegrini@king.ca; mayor@townofws.ca; dave.barrow@richmondhill.ca; joe.dipaola@richmondhill.ca; <wayne.emmerson@york.ca>; carmine.perrelli@richmondhill.ca; jtaylor@newmarket.ca; tvegh@newmarket.ca; mquirk@georgina.ca; rgrossi@georgina.ca; mayorscarpitti@markham.ca; dhamilton@markham.ca; jheath@markham.ca; joeli@markham.ca
Subject: [External] Meeting agenda for City of Vaughan, Committee of the Whole, Tuesday, March 2nd

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

My name is Robert Mancuso and I am a resident of Vaughan since 1994, originally in Woodbridge then we moved to Kleinburg in 2017.

As a resident of Vaughan for nearly half of my life, I am writing to ask that you to oppose the Province's proposed GTA West Highway and reverse your previous support for it. Instead, Council must support the request for a federal Environmental Assessment.

The proposed GTA West highway will impact me by bringing more traffic, pollution and noise very near my home. Situated just south of Kirby Road, we were attracted to this new subdivision because it is on the periphery of the Greenbelt protected lands. This highway will cut a swath adjacent to Kirby Road, obliterating the protected landscape.

My friends and I along with many residents of this great city are avid cyclists. Having proximal access to many safe country roads for riding that will become more dangerous with this highway. The overwhelming feeling of helplessness makes me second guess my decision to move away from the city core and this would impact my future as a Vaughan resident.

The proposed new highway will pave over important farmland which feeds our city and fuels our economy. As well, it will pave approximately 400 acres of protected Greenbelt lands, mostly in Vaughan. It will bulldoze right through the Nashville Conservation Area and destroy important forests in Vaughan including a 1.5 km stretch around the twin valleys of the Humber and East Humber Rivers. Furthermore, it will undermine Vaughan's 2019 climate emergency declaration by increasing greenhouse gas emissions from vehicle traffic, which reduces climate resilience, while creating more local air pollution from vehicle traffic.

Vaughan residents have sent thousands of emails sent and hundreds of calls made to local elected officials already expressing opposing Highway 413. There are viable alternatives to this highway that need to be considered by the Province, including prioritizing goods movement on the 407, and improving transit, which would be much better for Vaughan.

The expert advisory panel report which led to the cancellation of this highway in 2018 outlined a number of reasons

that the highway is not a good option to move people in the GTA West Region and has been largely ignored. Mississauga, Halton Region, Orangeville, Halton Hills and Halton Region have all chosen to oppose Highway 413 based on local opposition. A federal Environmental Assessment is necessary because the Province has proposed weakening their EA process for this highway so that construction could begin before the EA has even been completed.

It is my hope that the voice of Vaughan Residents is heard loud and clear on this opposition to the proposed Highway 413. The perceived benefits to the economy will be tremendously outweighed by the risks to the environment and residents.

Best regards,

Robert Mancuso,

[REDACTED]

Kleinburg, Ontario,

[REDACTED]