
From: Angela Grella [REDACTED] >
Sent: Saturday, March 06, 2021 9:33 PM
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Subject: [External] Council Meeting March 10, 2021 (#7, Item 12) GTA Highway 413

Dear Mayor Bevilacqua and the members of Vaughan Council,

My name is Angela Grella, and I am a resident of Woodbridge's Ward 3. As a resident of Vaughan I am requesting that the members of Vaughan council reaffirm your motion and unanimously vote yes to ratify its decision to reverse endorsement for the proposed GTA West Corridor/Highway 413" as was done at the Committee of the Whole Meeting on March 2, 2021; and pass a motion to support the request for a federal Environmental Assessment.

The residents of Vaughan have been shocked into action by the mounting anger over the PC government's decision to unilaterally ram through a project that will have devastating consequences on climate change, GTA watersheds, local ecosystems and the environment in general. The world's largest protected green space, Ontario's Greenbelt, would see the giant asphalt corridor run right along its southern edge and, in some places, right through the sensitive natural environment covered by provincial legislation.

Sustaining the GTA's watershed, which prevents flooding while ensuring clean water and healthy ecosystems is critical to the health of Ontario's most populous region.

Building a highway across these valuable lands goes against everything the Province has done over the last two decades to protect the environment.

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. In addition, Mississauga, Halton Region, Orangeville, Halton Hills and Halton Region have all chosen to oppose Highway 413 based on local opposition.

The mega billion-dollar cost that the Ford government would spend on this highway

does not justify the 30 seconds it would save on people's commute. There is no proof that this highway will reduce traffic congestion So why build it?

Money earmarked for the construction of the GTAWest Highway 413 could be better spent on public transit projects (extending the Vaughan subway to the Vaughan Hospital). There are other ways of moving people and goods around. Highway 407 is underutilized.

Please do not ignore science and evidence-based arguments. It is time to critically examine our assumptions about congestion and try something new. We will never be able to widen our way out of congestion, and we need to stop wasting taxpayers' money on trying.

Please support environmentally sound decision making, listen to the well thought out and reasonable arguments made by Vaughan residents that will be most affected by Highway 413 driving through their fields and farms, and who do not want to see this multi-billion dollar highway project built.

I respectfully request that the members of Vaughan Council unanimously vote yes to ratify its decision to reverse its endorsement of the proposed GTA West Corridor Highway 413 and pass a motion to support the request for a federal Environmental Assessment.

Sincerely,

Angela Grella (Ward 3/Woodbridge, Ontario)