

**C13**  
**Communication**  
**CW (1) – March 2, 2021**  
**Items # - Presentation #2**

**From:** [Clerks@vaughan.ca](mailto:Clerks@vaughan.ca)  
**To:** [Bellisario, Adelina](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [External] Agenda Item 5.2  
**Date:** March-01-21 9:31:41 AM  
**Attachments:** [Agenda Item 5.2.docx](#)  
[ATT00001.txt](#)

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

From: alexandra ney <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Monday, March 01, 2021 8:13 AM  
To: Clerks@vaughan.ca  
Cc: 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>  
Subject: [External] Agenda Item 5.2

Good morning,

Dear Mayor Bevilacqua, Councillors and Regional Councillors,

March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021

In June 2019, The City of Vaughan declared a Climate Emergency, 5 months later our Mayor and Councillors fully supported/endorsed the GTA West Hwy. I am writing as a very concerned Resident of Vaughan, to ask you to reconsider the endorsement and oppose the Provinces construction of the GTA West Highway. Here are some reasons why:

- A) The underutilization of the 407-toll highway; subsidize truck traffic on this Highway
- B) This new mega GTA West highway once built, will most likely be a toll Hwy, fragmenting Vaughan
- C) The Highway undermines the City of Vaughan's 2019 Climate Emergency declaration by increasing greenhouse gas emissions from vehicle traffic and reduces climate resiliency
- D) An expert study panel found the highway would save drivers only 30 – 60 seconds per trip!
- E) The estimated cost to build this highway, has now been targeted around \$6 billion and most likely higher. This outstanding sum could be spent on building transit, light rail transit, freight rail, bike lane infrastructure.
- F) The expert advisory panel report, which led to the cancellation of this Hwy in 2018, had outlined a number of reasons the Hwy was not a good option to move people in the GTA West Region.
- G) Loss of valuable prime farmlands which produces vital food, and employs thousands of people, thereby fueling our economy.
- H) Loss of protected Greenbelt lands, including wetlands, and destroying forests in Vaughan, including a 1.5 km stretch around the twin valleys of the Humber and East Humber Rivers.

**As a long-time Resident, I'm asking you to:**

- A) Rescind your support and endorsement of the GTA West Highway**
- B) Officially request/support a Federal Environmental Assessment**
- C) I ask for a recorded vote**
- D) Pass a resolution stating your opposition of the GTA West Highway**

**Environment** - There is a need to understand the wealth and scope of Natural Heritage - greenbelt, farmed agricultural land, wetlands, woodlots, and a tributary to the Humber river in the path of the GTA West Hwy, 500m from my front door. The amount of wildlife, nesting birds and the migratory bird flight path in this area that will be affected and displaced. This Hwy will have massive environmental ramifications to the area, my home life, and all along the planned route.

Those same fields, woodlots and wetlands provide a natural eco-system service - natural storm and source water protection and our farmed food source. The route goes right through the Nashville Conservation Area. Destroys many forests and wetlands in Vaughan.

Who will speak for our Natural Heritage? Our Conservation Authorities have no jurisdiction or authority to place conditions on the highway.

**Fragmentation of Vaughan** - If this 170m wide highway goes through, Vaughan will be forever changed and fragmented. It will take up valuable lands which cannot be replaced. Located at the North end of Vaughan it will increase gridlock all over and to the Southern portions of Vaughan. It will not reduce traffic volume.

Due to the Pandemic traffic volumes and needs have drastically changed. Many companies have embraced employees working from home. The traffic and new work styles are thought to maintain well into the post Pandemic times.

**Maze of interchanges** – there is a planned partial interchange from the GTA Hwy onto the present 2 Lane Weston Rd. King Road currently has a full interchange; just a short distance below, I see a request for a possible full interchange at King Vaughan Road/Hwy 400. Then the full interchange approximately 400m S of King Vaughan for the GTA West merge into the Hwy 400. Another interchange 1.5 km to the West on Pine Valley Road! This will have even more of a destructive impact on the surrounding area and my home. How do you plan to protect me and the community from the noise, traffic volume and detrimental health effects? This will pave and fragment more Greenbelt and prime agricultural land. The amount of gridlock resulting from the necessary local road widening and interchanges will have massive irreparable damage to the area. This enormous cost could be put towards transit.

**Climate Change** worsens! All the added cars and trucks on the roads. Transportation emissions are already the largest greenhouse gas emissions sector in Ontario. Smog, toxic air pollution, and salt from the roads will kill natural flora and fauna, more salt will leach into our surface and ground water. How can you endorse something that drives Climate Change, and reduces climate resiliency? There is an urgency to act to mitigate the worst impacts from increasing frequency and severity of extreme weather events. How can Vaughan Council support this highway and support strong climate action, preservation of the Greenbelt and Prime Agricultural Land? They're not compatible.

**Health Effects** - The adverse health impacts from living near highways and exposure to air pollution are well documented: cancer, lung disease, cardiovascular issues and premature death. How can you endorse this highway, when the Province has not even completed a Health Impact Assessment? How can you endorse this without asking about the public and community health impacts to your current and future residents?

**Community** - Bicyclist love to cycle King Vaughan and Weston Roads on route to other side roads. The snarl of traffic, smog, heavy plumes of pollution hanging in the air will ruin this area and closely neighbouring areas, such as King. People do not want to bicycle and walk beside thousands of vehicles and resulting air pollution, caused by the mega GTA West Hwy, interchanges and surrounding widened roads.

**Forward thinking options** - Have you looked at building light rail transit or any of the other proposed solutions that were never fully explored as identified by the Expert Advisory Panel in 2018. It was identified the justifications for this highway was fundamentally flawed and advised

against proceeding. People do not want highways. They want to have clean air, better living conditions, concerned about the environment - highways do not provide this. Develop mindfully, we can move people and goods without carbon emissions, destroying prime farmlands and greenbelt.

**Needs have changed** - This Hwy was stopped for good reasons in the past. Now due to the Pandemic, business practices and traffic volume have evolved considerably. The needs may be forever changed, Highways are no longer the answer, nor should they be.

**Please review what you thought was great for the area. Rescind your endorsement. Join Mississauga, Halton Hills, Orangeville and Halton Region who have all chosen to oppose the Highway 413 (GTA West). The City of Brampton has unanimously endorsed a local boulevard as an alternative. Vaughan like Brampton, can find alternatives which are less destructive. Move people and product via a more sustainable and forward thinking modes. You must be our voice; I ask you to rescind your endorsement of the GTA West Hwy.**

Thanking you for your consideration,  
Alexandra Ney – Resident on [REDACTED] [REDACTED]