

To: City of Vaughan Council

From: Victoria Nguyen

Subject: City of Vaughan Council Meeting – March 10, 2021
7 -12 Presentation - Irene Ford asking Vaughan Council to reverse endorsement
of the proposed GTA West Corridor/Hwy 413

Date: March 8, 2021

Dear Mayor Bevilacqua and Council Members,

My name is Victoria Nguyen. I am a resident of King Township, just north of Pine Valley Dr and King-Vaughan Rd. I am requesting that the members of Vaughan council ratify their 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.

Vaughan already has direct access to Highway 427, 400, and 407 and Hwy 413 would be directly parallel and only minutes north of the 407. The proposed 413 is also minutes away from Highway 401, 404, and 410. Money set aside for this project would be better spent on public transit projects for reasons such as, it benefits communities financially, reduces air pollution, increases fuel efficiency, reduces traffic congestion, increases mobility, and encourages healthy habits among Vaughan residents. Please keep in mind that with an aging population in Vaughan, the focus should be on public transit projects.

Vaughan is one of the most preferred living destinations in Canada, offering green spaces comparable to cities like Pickering and Ajax. It is home to luscious vegetation, ravines, eye-catching sceneries, and many wildlife. Continuing with this project 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 right through some sensitive natural ecosystems. Sustaining the GTA's watershed, which prevents flooding, ensures clean water and healthy ecosystems is critical to the health of Ontario's most populous region. Building a highway across these lands goes against everything the Province has done in the last two decades to protect the environment.

Please support environmentally sound decision making, listen to the well thought out and reasonable arguments made by Vaughan and neighboring 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,
Victoria Nguyen

