

**C2**  
**Communication**  
**CW (WS) – April 20, 2021**  
**Items # - 1**

**From:** [IRENE FORD](#)  
**To:** [Clerks@vaughan.ca](mailto:Clerks@vaughan.ca)  
**Subject:** [External] Communication April 20 Special Council Meeting  
**Date:** April-19-21 11:56:03 AM  
**Attachments:** [Irene Ford Communications SESP\\_20Apr21.pdf](#)

---

Clerks,

Please find attached a letter for tomorrow's meeting.

Thank you,  
Irene Ford

Irene Ford  
Woodbridge, ON

Vaughan City Council  
City of Vaughan  
2141 Major Mackenzie Drive  
Vaughan, ON  
L6A 1T1

Apr 19, 2021

Mayor Bevilaqua, and Councillors,

**Re: Special Council Meeting April 20, 2021, Staff Report: 2018-2022 Term of Council Service Excellence Strategic Plan - Year 2 Progress Report**

I applaud Council for having a Strategic Plan and providing a progress report. It is important for residents to be able to have some measures to understand how Council is performing in achieving their goals and objectives. There are few items I would like to express concern about that have are not wholly accurate or have not received updated staff reports and therefore this undermines the validity of the progress suggested. I would also like to comment that greater priority appears continually placed on economic goals at the expensive of environmental stewardship; it does not seem a balanced approach. This is evident when you look at Vaughan's webpages that support economic growth versus environmental or green initiatives. As an example the statistics and information I can get from the Vaughan Economic and Cultural Development pages are updated, accurate and detailed<sup>1</sup>. Comparatively Vaughan's Natural Heritage Network was never endorsed by Council must be reviewed and updated during the ongoing Official Plan Review yet there does no appear to be an update on this issue since 2016<sup>2</sup>.

**1.) GTA West Corridor/Highway 413**

On page 12 of Attachment 1 the GTA West Corridor is still listed as an objective and on target/in progress. On March 10 Council passed a motion withdrawing it's endorsement of this project.

Should this objective be updated to reflect that Vaughan Council has passed a motion expressing they no longer support the proposed GTA West Corridor?

How will Vaughan Council update this change into their own Official Plan and Master Transportation Plans that are or will be updated shortly?

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://vaughanbusiness.ca/>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.vaughan.ca/projects/policy\\_planning\\_projects/natural\\_heritage/Pages/default.aspx](https://www.vaughan.ca/projects/policy_planning_projects/natural_heritage/Pages/default.aspx)

## OBJECTIVE: Support Regional Transportation Initiatives

STATUS	KEY ACTIVITY	COMMENTS
Proactively co-ordinate with other levels of governments to support:		
●	Implementation of GO expansion	On Target/In Progress: Memorandum of Understanding with Metrolinx for new City-owned infrastructure in the vicinity of Maple Go Station.
●	Greater Toronto Area (GTA) West multimodal transportation corridor EA study	On Target/In Progress: The Ministry of Transportation (MTO) identified preferred alignment and commenced preliminary design. Worked with York Region and MTO towards a preferred route that maintains the City's interest and reduces impacts.
●	Highway 427 Extension (construction)	On Target/In Progress

Should Vaughan Council be considering sending a communication to York Region regarding their ongoing updating their Transportation Master Plan<sup>3</sup> as well as the ongoing Official Plan and Municipal Comprehensive Review<sup>4</sup> updates?

### 2.) Climate Change Emergency

In June of 2019 the City of Vaughan declared a Climate Emergency in response to a request from a group of students from Thornhill Woods Public School. The words Climate Change do not appear in Vaughan's Service Excellence Strategic Plan (SESP) and a recommendation was given that staff would report back annually on progress on the Climate Emergency declaration. This report was delayed due to the pandemic but now almost two years later a subsequent staff report has not been brought forward to Council. Vaughan has a Community Climate Action Plan dated from 2014 but it is unclear if any progress has been made on this document, further all references to greenhouse gas emissions appear dated from 2013 to 2014.

3

[https://www.york.ca/wps/portal/yorkhome/yorkregion/yr/plansreportsandstrategies/transportationmasterplan/!ut/p/z0/fY7BDolwEES\\_xQNHsw0xwrXhIEIIV-iFNFqhAltoVyN\\_b8Ez3mZmJ28WBFQqUL51K0kblIP3tTg3V365pnmOsvIUJ4yzkmdhFLM4jyAD8b\\_gCaEtKqIFMUnqjhofBqppkOismowIJ\\_HuyEpSrVYOKi\\_RrYfth1E6UnatryT9nGfBQdwMkvoQVIttNo0UsMXY3htHml5b0JIR\\_WLr2QYDtjsbsN3ZqRd17PjhC6KEmi0!/#.YH2a8GdKiUl](https://www.york.ca/wps/portal/yorkhome/yorkregion/yr/plansreportsandstrategies/transportationmasterplan/!ut/p/z0/fY7BDolwEES_xQNHsw0xwrXhIEIIV-iFNFqhAltoVyN_b8Ez3mZmJ28WBFQqUL51K0kblIP3tTg3V365pnmOsvIUJ4yzkmdhFLM4jyAD8b_gCaEtKqIFMUnqjhofBqppkOismowIJ_HuyEpSrVYOKi_RrYfth1E6UnatryT9nGfBQdwMkvoQVIttNo0UsMXY3htHml5b0JIR_WLr2QYDtjsbsN3ZqRd17PjhC6KEmi0!/#.YH2a8GdKiUl)

4

[https://www.york.ca/wps/portal/yorkhome/yorkregion/yr/municipalcomprehensivereview/municipalcomprehensivereview/!ut/p/z1/vVVNU8lwEP0tHjx2sv0ICcdYkbaloljQXJhOG2jUprVEIH9vQK6042jNJZPNy9t9uztZxNEScZXs5CbRsiTJqznHvLcK2TAMghFEE4\\_6wGDCIodQoCOCFkeA43i9wPYhgmBCIbwhU3xNAXtGDuLN758QR7xKZYbijOAMUs-zbiFty-tjbPVt7FnpmvZTSiDr4eyATpWudl7ifb1KS6WF0pewL-sXc9hqgd-PhrwsxLe5Fhuj5RKKdyVTWSWvaVIUtcif2sqdqMVOio\\_m25PIBhUHkXBmMTi9bwDwtiTzNhffgHN18HELwBQqNkGSs1HMbLQ45mKuyrownTH7YeECOHkg1GcBG8IUHucE7gfEo73b8fSW\\_NZDiwDSKb3jdEuPu6XvNjnh35Q2CsG3maEfugMXmBP69MqN6N0ddBu92yk967ZzWLFJYb\\_tnKjt8zMjyKnH\\_nhjaBOdW1KtS7Rs\\_K9bbIEsn9\\_eODOj5DA\\_PjVa\\_t8sqYp5Qd29tF4e6MfjOt8Uq\\_HAxW3bVizYxRfhlgjk/dz/d5/L2dBISEvZ0FBIS9nQSEh/#.YH2bqmdKiUk](https://www.york.ca/wps/portal/yorkhome/yorkregion/yr/municipalcomprehensivereview/municipalcomprehensivereview/!ut/p/z1/vVVNU8lwEP0tHjx2sv0ICcdYkbaloljQXJhOG2jUprVEIH9vQK6042jNJZPNy9t9uztZxNEScZXs5CbRsiTJqznHvLcK2TAMghFEE4_6wGDCIodQoCOCFkeA43i9wPYhgmBCIbwhU3xNAXtGDuLN758QR7xKZYbijOAMUs-zbiFty-tjbPVt7FnpmvZTSiDr4eyATpWudl7ifb1KS6WF0pewL-sXc9hqgd-PhrwsxLe5Fhuj5RKKdyVTWSWvaVIUtcif2sqdqMVOio_m25PIBhUHkXBmMTi9bwDwtiTzNhffgHN18HELwBQqNkGSs1HMbLQ45mKuyrownTH7YeECOHkg1GcBG8IUHucE7gfEo73b8fSW_NZDiwDSKb3jdEuPu6XvNjnh35Q2CsG3maEfugMXmBP69MqN6N0ddBu92yk967ZzWLFJYb_tnKjt8zMjyKnH_nhjaBOdW1KtS7Rs_K9bbIEsn9_eODOj5DA_PjVa_t8sqYp5Qd29tF4e6MfjOt8Uq_HAxW3bVizYxRfhlgjk/dz/d5/L2dBISEvZ0FBIS9nQSEh/#.YH2bqmdKiUk)

I also have several concerns about what staff are measuring with regard to greenhouse gas emissions, climate impacts and loss of climate resiliency. Vaughan Council has supported the proposed GTA West Highway/ 413 Highway. The highway will fragment some of the last contiguous Greenbelt zoned lands in the north western side of Vaughan, numerous negative environmental concerns that will impact GHG emission forecasts (both from the loss of env'l sensitive lands, impacts to watersheds and from increased traffic). In particular the highway is promoting heavy truck traffic which carries an even larger pollution burden.

There was no analysis completed by City Staff to determine how this may affect the goals set out in the Green Direction document and numerous other sustainable/environmentally related policies/indicators/targets and how this action seems to be in conflict with Vaughan Council declaring a Climate Emergency. While I understand this is a Provincial project and this type of analysis is the Province's responsibility it still incumbent upon Vaughan Council to fully understand climate impacts/action of projects they support in their decision-making process. At present there does not seem a robust process in place to enable Vaughan Council to make all decisions through the lens of climate change.

To ensure the Climate Change Emergency Declaration and climate action is treated with the urgency it deserves will Vaughan Council include this as an objective in Vaughan's SESP to monitor progress?

Will Vaughan Council inquire about the status of the climate change emergency staff report?

Will Vaughan Council inquiry about the status of the Community Climate Action Plan, is it still valid and being worked upon or is there a new plan?

Will Vaughan Council inquire to determine how decision making could be better informed through the lens of climate change to ensure decision are consistent with Vaughan's declared Climate Emergency?

### **3.) Green Directions Vaughan**

There are no updates on Green Direction Vaughan's indicators nor am I aware of any staff report being brought forward to Council to provide updates. The indicator tab on Green Direction Vaughan<sup>5</sup> leads to a page with data from 2012. Has the webpage not been updated or is the last time that indicators were updated and measured?

I recognize there have been other updates/programs such as SNAP, Building Energy Retrofits but on it's whole there seems to be a large amount of work that has not commenced. An update staff report would be beneficial to understand this better.

Will staff inquiry about the status of the Green Direction Vaughan staff report update?

---

<sup>5</sup> [https://www.vaughan.ca/cityhall/environmental\\_sustainability/GreenDirections/Pages/indicator.aspx](https://www.vaughan.ca/cityhall/environmental_sustainability/GreenDirections/Pages/indicator.aspx)

#### 4.) Official Plan Review/Municipal Comprehensive Review and Natural Heritage Network

The direction from the Province for Official Plan reviews, Municipal Comprehensive reviews will essentially force the expansion of the urban boundary and consume almost all of Vaughan's remaining white belt lands at the expensive of prime agricultural land and natural asset management<sup>6</sup>. It was abundantly clear at York Region's March 18 Council meeting that this will happen based on staff reports brought forward on Official Plan Updates and Forecasted Land Needs<sup>7</sup>. This is incompatible with a climate change emergency, climate action and it is completely unnecessary to force municipalities to plan 30 years into the future, typically it is 20 years. There is so much uncertainty right now do to the pandemic and climate change not to mention other priorities. We have to plan yes but this is not going to lead to outcome that is in the public interest or will improve our communities. This issue is far too important to rush public consultation, there are some that may be unable to participate remotely and be excluded while others are just unable to pay attention because their lives are in crisis due to the pandemic. This direction from the Province will not support the City's objective to 'elevate quality of life through City Planning'.

On top of this Vaughan has several ongoing documents that are intended to support climate action, protection of natural asset management and is required to approve the Natural Heritage Network which was completed, but never endorsed after numerous developers descended upon their Chamber's in 2016 and was deferred to the next municipal comprehensive review<sup>8</sup>.

What is the status of these items how will this direction from the Province support Vaughan's SESP?

Will Vaughan consider adopting a hard urban boundary as other municipalities have and sending communications to the Region and Province expressing concerns?

Thank you for reading.

Irene Ford

Ward 3 Resident and Concerned Citizen

---

<sup>6</sup> <https://janefogal.wordpress.com/2021/04/03/a-sprawling-disaster-doug-fords-plan-for-ontario/>,  
<https://oakvillenews.org/opinion/sprawling-disaster-doug-ford-s-plan-for-ontario/> ,  
<https://www.thespec.com/opinion/editorials/2021/03/31/hamilton-citizens-push-back-on-urban-sprawl.html>

<sup>7</sup> <https://yorkpublishing.escribemeetings.com/Meeting.aspx?Id=86d188d4-fb6e-47c3-8286-ba005fec8f58&Agenda=Merged&lang=English>

<sup>8</sup> [https://www.vaughan.ca/council/minutes\\_agendas/AgendaItems/CW0202\\_16\\_15.pdf](https://www.vaughan.ca/council/minutes_agendas/AgendaItems/CW0202_16_15.pdf)