

C3
COMMUNICATION
COUNCIL – NOVEMBER 16, 2021
CW (1) - Report No. 49, Item 11.1.3

From: Clerks@vaughan.ca
To: [Adelina Bellisario](#)
Subject: FW: [External] Defer Transportation Taskforce Meeting Minutes Containing GTA West Motion to Support Provincial EA to Nov 9
Date: November-02-21 9:25:06 AM
Attachments: [Outlook-whnkv1a2.png](#)

From: Todd Coles <Todd.Coles@vaughan.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, November 02, 2021 8:13 AM
To: Clerks@vaughan.ca
Subject: Fw: [External] Defer Transportation Taskforce Meeting Minutes Containing GTA West Motion to Support Provincial EA to Nov 9

From: IRENE FORD <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 01 November 2021 10:29 PM
To: Todd Coles <Todd.Coles@vaughan.ca>; Council@vaughan.ca <Council@vaughan.ca>
Cc: Paul Webster <[REDACTED]>; Noor Javed <njaved@thestar.ca>; GTA West Project Team <project_team@gta-west.com>; Ontario Region / Region d'Ontario (IAAC/AEIC) <iaac.ontarioregion-regiondontario.aeic@canada.ca>; Dina Ibrahim <dibrahim@yrmg.com>; Isaac Callan <[REDACTED]>; Laura Bowman <[REDACTED]>; Keith Brooks <kbrooks@environmentaldefence.ca>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>; Ombudsman On Info <info@ombudsman.on.ca>; Sustainable Vaughan <sustainablevaughan@gmail.com>; Kara-Inc <kara@kara-inc.ca>; South Maple Ratepayers' Association <rinaldo6173@rogers.com>; Jonathan - M.P. Wilkinson <jonathan.wilkinson@parl.gc.ca>; Caroline Mulroney <caroline.mulroney@pc.ola.org>; Michael Tiboloco <michael.tiboloco@pc.ola.org>; Stephen Lecce <stephen.lecce@pc.ola.org>; Suzanne Craig <Suzanne.Craig@vaughan.ca>; Isabel Leung <Isabel.Leung@vaughan.ca>; Wendy Law <Wendy.Law@vaughan.ca>; Nick Spensieri <Nick.Spensieri@vaughan.ca>; Sandra Volante <Sandra.Volante@vaughan.ca>; Tony Malfara <[REDACTED]>; Angela Grella <[REDACTED]>; Bruno Malfara <[REDACTED]>; Michael A. DiMuccio <[REDACTED]>; Alexandra Ney <[REDACTED]>; Louisa Santoro <[REDACTED]>; Tony Kiru <[REDACTED]> Keep Vaughan Green <keepvaughangreen@gmail.com>
Subject: [External] Defer Transportation Taskforce Meeting Minutes Containing GTA West Motion to Support Provincial EA to Nov 9

Vaughan Mayor and Members of Council,

Respectfully, I ask that the Item 9.3 Consideration of The Transportation Taskforce's Meeting Minutes be deferred until November 9th as was originally communicated in the below email from the City Clerk on October 8th.

The community has been preparing and planning to send letters and give deputations in one week's time, not tomorrow. We have discovered after the deadline to submit communication or deputations requests that the meeting minutes are on tomorrow's Nov. 2nd agenda. This has effectively curtailed any opportunity for public input, whether intentional or not.

It is alarming, and quite frankly disheartening, that the Clerk and City Manager, who approve the agenda, saw no issue with changing the date after sending this email. A different date had clearly been communicated to the public

and media almost a month early. They have made no attempt to notify anyone that the meeting minutes have been brought forward earlier. On top of this there are significant procedural concerns that occurred at the Oct 7 Transportation Taskforce meeting.

- **How did the motion to support the EA contrary to a previous Council decision which supported the Federal Impact Assessment end up being voted on after the Chair left the meeting?**
- The meeting is not recorded so there is no way for the public to know other than to ask members who were present.
- **Were conflicts of interest declared properly?** The MTO and Metrolinx staff members do not appear to have declared a conflict of interest? Julian Britto appears to or has worked for WSP and the Town of Caledon; she did not declare a conflict of interest?
- **If these are conflicts and they were declared would the motion have passed?**

This is the third occurrence since September in which agenda items relating to the GTA West Corridor/Highway 413 have been brought forward in a manner that reduces transparency, notice and the ability of the public to be involved if they so choose.

1. Sept 10, 2021 a staff communication [SC.3](#) provided an update on the GTA West Corridor was not listed as a line item. One would only have known it was present if they clicked and reviewed all staff communications.
2. The [Transportation Taskforce Meeting](#) had a presentation given from the GTA West Team with no notice provided to the public and somehow a motion to support the Province's ongoing EA was voted upon and supported, after the Chair left the meeting and it would appear members with conflicts of interest voted upon said motion and did not declare real or potential conflicts.
3. The meetings of the [Transportation Taskforce](#) have been brought forward one week ahead of what had been communicated to members of the public and media.

I hope that in the interest of good governance at the City of Vaughan, a strategic goal of this Council term that this item will be deferred and allow the public the opportunity to comment on the proposed motion or that the procedural irregularities will be investigated and the motion of support for the GTA West EA withdrawn.

I thought it may also be of interest to Vaughan Council to know that the Town of Caledon recently made a blatant attempt to [support the GTA West Corridor/Highway 413 and to undermine the Region of Peel's](#) withdrawal of support. In so doing they were not compliant with their own procedural by-law, the municipal act and many other concerning items arose from this meeting that are still unraveling.

Thank you, I appreciate you taking the time to read and consider my request today.

Irene Ford
Ward 2 Resident, Constituent and Voter
Vaughan, York Region

On Friday, October 8, 2021, 04:30:01 p.m. EDT, Todd Coles <todd.coles@vaughan.ca> wrote:

Ms. Ford,

Thank you for the questions. My responses are below:

What is the procedure for presentations for a taskforce? Did the Committee request the presentation, if so is this documented in previous meeting minutes? Was it a request of the GTA West Project Team, if so would this be subject to Vaughan's Procedural By-Law and

was a presentation request submitted?

- The Task Force requested additional information on the Highway 413/GTA West Corridor at their meeting of April 13, 2021. Specifically, the [minutes](#) reflect the following:
- - **3. NEW BUSINESS – HIGHWAY 413 / GTA WEST CORRIDOR**
The Transportation and Infrastructure Task Force advises Council:
That further information, for discussion, regarding the Highway 413 / GTA West Corridor extension be provided to the September 13, 2021 Task Force meeting by staff.
 -
- Please note that the September 13th meeting referenced in the motion was subsequently rescheduled to October 7th.

Can you please confirm the Transportation Taskforce Committee Members (council and members of the public) and who was present for today's meeting?

- The following are the members of the Task Force (names with an * were in attendance at the meeting):
 - **Members of Council**
 - Councillor Rosanna DeFrancesca, Chair *
 - Regional Councillor Gino Rosati, Vice-Chair *
 - **Technical Members**
 - Fabrizio Guzzo, Operations Director, York Region Transit (YRT) *
 - Margaret Mikolajczak, Senior Project Manager, Ministry of Transportation (MTO) *
 - Doug Spooner, Director, Service Planning, Planning & Design, Metrolinx
 - Brian Titherington, Director, Transportation & Infrastructure Planning, York Region *
 - **Citizen Representative Members**
 - Alexander Bonadiman *
 - Jillian Britto *
 - Daniel Henrique *
 - Thanh Nguyen *
 - Lucio Polsinelli
 - Maurizio Rogato *
 - Lito Romano *
 - Guillermo Rybnik *

Can you please confirm what date the agenda was posted with the GTA West Presentation Item listed, as well as the date the Communications link was posted, which includes the presentation?

- The agenda for the Transportation and Infrastructure Task Force was posted to the City's website on Thursday, September 30th. The Communication was posted on Friday, October 1st.

Can you please confirm if any recommendations or motions to Vaughan Council resulted from today's meeting and if so the content?

The motion passed does not request any action from Council.

- The motion passed, in part, is as follows:

-

- The Transportation and Infrastructure Task Force advises Council:

1) That it supports the long standing and on-going Environmental Assessment planning, associated with the GTA West Environmental Corridor Environmental Assessment, including the planning for a highway, transit and other appropriate modes of transportation; and

Can you please confirm procedurally what will happen next with this meeting? Will the presentation, any motions/recommendations, minutes come before Committee of the Whole and Council and if so when will that occur?

- The minutes from this meeting will be included on the November 9th, 2021 Committee of the Whole(2) agenda, under the "Consideration of Statutory/Ad Hoc Committee Reports" section of the agenda, to be "received" by the Committee.

Will there be video of this meeting posted?

- The City's task force meetings are not audio or video recorded.

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I would also like to confirm if Quorum as defined in the Taskforce's TOR was satisfied? There has clearly been issues with attendance as documented at the last meeting May 19, 2021. I also note on today's agenda there was an item entitled membership resignation. My understanding is the Chair was absent today.

- Yes, a quorum of the members were present at the meeting. With 14 members, 8 members are required to constitute quorum of the Task Force. The reference to the chair in the Terms of Reference is there to confirm that the chair of the meeting counts toward quorum, and not that the Chair (Councillor DeFrancesca) of the Task Force is required to attend in order for quorum to be present. I do understand that Councillor DeFrancesca was present for the presentation but needed to leave after it was given. Regional Councillor Rosati then assumed the role of Chair. Quorum was maintained with the number of remaining members.

What is the difference between a staff communication and staff report?

- A staff communication is defined in the City's [Procedure By-law](#) as:
 - **STAFF COMMUNICATION** - Shall be a communication from City of Vaughan staff intended only for information purposes.
- A staff report is defined as:
 - **STAFF REPORT** – A City official's report that makes recommendations to a Committee or to Council
- The primary difference between the two is the a Staff Communication is not permitted a recommendation for Committee to consider. It can only be informational in nature.

Please let me know if you have any further questions.

Thanks,

Todd

Todd Coles, BES, MCIP, RPP

City Clerk

905-832-8585, ext. 8281 | todd.coles@vaughan.ca

City of Vaughan | Office of the City Clerk

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vaughan.ca



From: IRENE FORD [REDACTED] >
Sent: 07 October 2021 3:14 PM
To: Todd Coles <Todd.Coles@vaughan.ca>
Cc: Council@vaughan.ca <Council@vaughan.ca>; Paul Webster <pchwebster@hotmail.com>; Noor Javed <njaved@thestar.ca>; GTA West Project Team <project_team@gt-west.com>; Ontario Region / Region d'Ontario (IAAC/AEIC) <iaac.ontarioregion-regiondontario.aeic@canada.ca>; Dina Ibrahim <dibrahim@yrmg.com>; Isaac Callan [REDACTED]; Laura Bowman [REDACTED]; Keith Brooks [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; Ombudsman On Info <info@ombudsman.on.ca>; Sustainable Vaughan <sustainablevaughan@gmail.com>; Kara-Inc <kara@kara-inc.ca>; South Maple Ratepayers' Association <rinaldo6173@rogers.com>; Jonathan - M.P. Wilkinson <jonathan.wilkinson@parl.gc.ca>; Caroline Mulroney <caroline.mulroney@pc.ola.org>; Michael Tiboloco <michael.tiboloco@pc.ola.org>; Stephen Lecce <stephen.lecce@pc.ola.org>; Suzanne Craig <Suzanne.Craig@vaughan.ca>
Subject: [External] Vaughan Transportation Taskforce - Oct 7 - GTA West Team Presentation

Mr. Coles,

I regret that I am sending you another email about process and procedural matters at the City of Vaughan. It is not

my intent to be vexations or frivolous. Nor is it my intent to portray staff or Council in any negative manner. Unfortunately, as of late the role between government and governance seems continually blurred. Asking these questions, I believe, is necessary to ensure that these roles and distinctions are upheld.

As I started to prepare for next week's Official Plan meeting I came across [today's Transportation Taskforce Meeting](#) which included a presentation from the GTA West Project Team. I have the following questions.

Transportation and Infrastructure Task Force - October 07, 2021

What is the procedure for presentations for a taskforce? Did the Committee request the presentation, if so is this documented in previous meeting minutes? Was it a request of the GTA West Project Team, if so would this be subject to Vaughan's Procedural By-Law and was a presentation request submitted?

Can you please confirm the Transportation Taskforce Committee Members (council and members of the public) and who was present for today's meeting?

Can you please confirm what date the agenda was posted with the GTA West Presentation Item listed, as well as the date the Communications link was posted, which includes the [presentation](#)?

Can you please confirm if any recommendations or motions to Vaughan Council resulted from today's meeting and if so the content?

Can you please confirm procedurally what will happen next with this meeting? Will the presentation, any motions/recommendations, minutes come before Committee of the Whole and Council and if so when will that occur?

Will there be video of this meeting posted?

I would also like to confirm if [Quorum](#) as defined in the Taskforce's TOR was satisfied? There has clearly been issues with attendance as documented at the [last meeting](#) May 19, 2021. I also note on today's agenda there was an item entitled membership resignation. My understanding is the Chair was absent today.

QUORUM

1. A majority of members, including the chair, shall constitute quorum.
2. Ex-officio members will not be counted for the purpose of calculating the total number of persons appointed to the task force, but will be counted as a member present when in attendance.

woodbridge, be received.

3. **NEW BUSINESS – ATTENDANCE AT TASK FORCE AND SUB-COMMITTEES MEETINGS**

The Transportation and Infrastructure Task Force advises Council:

Due to the lack of attendance at the Task Force and Sub-Committees meetings, Councillor DeFrancesca, Chair of the Transportation and Infrastructure requested that an email be sent out to all members to re-affirm their commitment to the Task Force mandate, including attending all meetings on a regular basis.

The foregoing matter was brought to the attention of the Task Force by Councillor DeFrancesca.

I find it very concerning that the GTA West Team has been provided an opportunity to present to the Transportation Taskforce when membership appears to be in flux, the Chair was absent and it is unclear what prompted the GTA West Team presentation. It is also unclear if members of the public were notified in any way that this presentation would be occurring. Given the high level of public concern and media attention the GTA West Corridor has received combined with continued complaints from residents about the lack of meaningful public consultation I find it unsettling that the City of Vaughan and/or Councillors aware did not believe it was necessary to increase public awareness of this agenda item. I would've thought it would be in the best interests of Vaughan to do so to demonstrate a commitment to public awareness/involvement, transparency and accountability in government and governance at the City of Vaughan. **Finding it like this would make it appear that the City of Vaughan and the GTA West Team are strategizing to find a way to have Highway 413 return to Vaughan Council's agenda in an effort to overturn the Vaughan Council decision made on March 10, 2021 that resulted in the City of Vaughan withdrawing support for the Highway 413/GTA West Corridor.**

This sentiment is only compounded by the [staff communication dated Friday Sept 10, 2021 providing an update on the GTA West Corridor](#) on the Committee of the Whole's agenda Tuesday September 14, 2021. It seems likely that it was only posted for one full business day. Because this item was not a staff report it was buried within the staff communications, it was not a line item on the agenda and therefore easily missed by the public. I never received an answer to my question submitted in my communication to this meeting. What is the difference between a staff communication and staff report? In the past updates on the GTA West Corridor were provided as staff reports.

Thank you very much. I look forward to your responses.

Irene Ford

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