

From: Angela Grella

Sent: Sunday, December 12, 2021 4:00 PM

To: Mayor Scarpitti; Regional Councillor, Jim Jones - Markham; Regional Councillor, Joe Li - Markham; Regional Councillor, Jack Heath - Markham; Clerks Public; Deputy Mayor, Don Hamilton – Markham; Councillor, Keith Irish - Markham; Councillor, Karen Rea - Markham; Councillor, Reid McAlpine - Markham; Councillor, Andrew Keyes - Markham>; Councillor, Amanda Collucci - Markham ; Councillor, Khalid Usman - Markham; Councillor, Isa Lee - Markham

Subject: Vote to Oppose Highway 413 at the December 14th Council Meeting

Dear members of Markham Council,

My name is Angela Grella, and I own residential property in Markham. I am requesting that the Council of the City of Markham not support the construction of the proposed Highway 413.

The residents of York Region have been shocked into action by the mounting anger over the PC government's decision to unilaterally ram through a highway construction 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. Moreover, 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. In addition, Mississauga, Peel Regional Council, Halton Region, Orangeville, Halton Hills, Halton Region, King City and Vaughan 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?

The Highway will wreak havoc on the environment, encourage residential sprawl and dependence on the car as a significant means of transportation. Furthermore, Ontario will also lose critical farmland to feed our growing population and support local economies. The building of a mega highway is not forward thinking. Time to invest in smarter solutions. For the same \$6 billion estimated cost of the project, the GTA could have a first class rail system that would take 3 times as many vehicles off the road. I advocate that the Council of the City of Markham ask that the province study other options that could replace Highway 413, and request that the budget for the GTA

corridor instead be put toward regionally connected rail transit, active transportation, and other sustainable modes of transportation. There are other ways of moving people and goods around. Highway 407 is underutilized and the Vaughan and Yonge Street subway lines must continue to be tunnelled north into York Region. Congestion could be solved without paving over farmland and wetlands and incentivizing sprawl. The Region of York deserves better. The Region of York has to build on its commitment to foster a region that is bikeable, walkable and sustainable.

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. This council has the power to oppose this destructive and unnecessary highway and I respectfully urge the council to unanimously move the motion to oppose the construction of Highway 413 and vote to support a full Federal Environmental Assessment, so that no construction may begin until we know all the facts about the environmental impacts. A provincial environmental assessment is not enough. The province already stripped major sections out of the Highway's EA and changed the rules to allow construction to begin before the EA is even completed, so a federal environmental assessment to help determine the full impact of the highways is critically needed.

Sincerely,

Angela Grella (Markham Ward One)

From: Dan O'Reilly
Sent: Monday, December 13, 2021 9:16 AM
To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>
Subject: letter to Markham Council
Importance: High

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham.
DO NOT CLICK on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please include this letter in the Dec 14th Markham Council agenda. It pertains to Councillor Jones' motion the City of Markham not support Highway 413

Thank you.

DAN O'REILLY

December 13, 2021

Mayor Frank Scarpitti and City of Markham Councillors
101 Town Centre Boulevard
Markham, Ontario, L3R 9W3

Dear Mayor Scarpitti and City of Markham Councillors,

RE: Councillor Jim Jones' motion not to support Highway 413

Please endorse Councillor Jim Jones' motion the City of Markham not support Highway 413 when the motion comes up for debate at the Dec. 14th council meeting.

In his comprehensive multi-clause motion, the councillor has presented sound and well-researched reasons why the City of Markham must take this action. They include the loss of productive farmland, the detrimental impact the highway would have on the natural environment, its potential to create sprawl development, and the fact it won't actually reduce traffic congestion.

The recommendation that public transit alternatives be considered needs to be addressed by the province. As the motion states, *the City of Markham has consistently supported the*

development of transit oriented communities to support long term inter-regional transportation solutions.

Halton Region, the Town of Halton Hills, the Town of Orangeville, and the City of Mississauga have all come out against Highway 413. The City of Markham must follow their lead.

Endorsing Councillor Jones's motion will send a crystal clear message to the provincial government that another destructive mega-highway is neither needed nor wanted.

Instead of throwing away billions of dollars on this ill-conceived project, taxpayer dollars should be more wisely invested in improvements to public transit, hospitals, long-term care homes, and other urgently needed facilities.

As was pointed out by Councillors Karen Rea and Reid McAlpine and referenced in a recent yorkregion.com article, the touted benefits of the highway are "dubious" at best for the province and of "zero value to Markham".

Yours truly,

Dan O'Reilly

Subject: FW: Electronic Council Meeting No. 19 December 14, 2021 at 1:00 PM
Attachments: Markham mtg Dec 14th 2021 Tony Malfara letter supporting Councillor Jones 413 motion and resolutions final.pdf

From: Tony Malfara _____
Sent: Monday, December 13, 2021 11:22 AM
To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>; Kitteringham, Kimberley _____
Cc: Regional Councillor, Jim Jones - Markham; Deputy Mayor, Don Hamilton – Markham; Regional Councillor, Jack Heath - Markham ; Regional Councillor, JoeLi - Markham; Councillor, Keith Irish - Markham; Councillor, Alan Ho -Markham; Councillor, Reid McAlpine - Markham; Councillor, Karen; Councillor, Amanda Collucci - Markham; Councillor, Khalid Usman - Markham; Councillor, Isa Lee - Markham ; Mayor Scarpitti _____
Subject: Electronic Council Meeting No. 19 December 14, 2021 at 1:00 PM _____

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. DO NOT CLICK on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning. Please find my letter for agenda item 11.2 titled NEW/ OTHER BUSINESS - GTA WEST CORRIDOR (413 HIGHWAY) (5.10) 753 in support of the motions and resolutions being presented by councillor Jim Jones.

Would you kindly add this letter to you materials.

Thanks

Tony Malfara

Dear Councillors, my name is Tony Malfara. I am a taxpaying resident of York Region and a neighbor of the City of Markham residing in Vaughan. Today I am asking that you:

Support the motion brought forward by Regional Councillor Jim Jones and Seconded by Ward 7 Councillor Khalid Usman as part of agenda item 11.2. GTA WEST CORRIDOR (413 HIGHWAY) which asks Councillors adopt and support the resolutions he's put forward.

Show the leadership and courage to support the motion and resolutions which calls for a complete federal environmental impact assessment, a time-travel analysis of using Highway 407 versus the proposed Highway 413, and an economic evaluation to find a financial arrangement for the use of Highway 407 to provide an immediate solution for traffic congestion during peak traffic hours as well as non-peak hours.

As the motion suggests, ask that funds directed to the 413 be redirected to provide for rapid transit in the Regions of York and Peel including the investment in the 407 Transitway, and improved GO services across the 905 municipalities.

Provide leadership by supporting the recommendations for a comprehensive economic benefits analysis of the potential for transit-oriented communities (TOC) along the 407 Transitway, as well as a GO Transit Rail Network and new LRT/BRT lines versus the cost of urban sprawl which will be triggered by the proposed Highway 413.

We indeed need to continue to grow. The communities that make up our Cities and Region need to expand to remain vibrant and economically healthy, **but need to do so more in an economic, environmental, and socially responsible manner**. With climate change as a top concern for nearly everyone people are looking for leadership and a comprehensive shift in how we approach transportation solutions when dealing with congestion and projected growth.

Highway 413 will be a multi-billion-dollar highway, far beyond the stated 6 billion dollar amount which will cut through the limited remaining woodlots, agricultural lands and waterways for a mere few minutes of time. This is not what your communities want.

Additionally, in a world where government funding is increasingly scarce, proceeding with this highway will also cripple us financially for decades and take away the ability to fund the alternatives listed above as well a financial partnership with ETR 407 for commercial vehicles and funding for meaningful improvements and expansion to our regional roads.

An [expert advisory panel report](#) commissioned by the previous provincial Liberal Party which led to the cancellation of this highway outlined a number of reasons for not proceeding with the 413 highway. The report provided observations and recommendations, as well as alternative solutions.

As Councillor Jones suggests, we need to insist the province looks at other solutions that make better sense and not the GTA West Corridor and Highway 413. We need to ask the Province to direct these large amounts of funds more progressive options.

For Commercial vehicles, create immediate relief by insisting that the Province negotiate subsidized access to Highway 407, which is 51% owned by CPP Investments and has publicly stated it would welcome the increased usage by commercial vehicles on a 400 series highway that continues to be underused and avoided by too many.

Regional Councillor **Jim Jones** and Councillor **Khalid Usman** have provided you with a comprehensive list of reason for not supporting Highway 413 and the GTA West Corridor. Our environmental, social, and economic future is dependent on having more of this type of thinking and leadership. **Please have the vision and courage to support the amended motions and the resolutions presented today by Councillor Jones.**

Thank you for your time

Tony Malfara

From: Tom Chan
Sent: Monday, December 13, 2021 7:12 PM
To: Clerks Public
Cc: Councillor, Karen Rea - Markham
Subject: Opinion on Highway 413

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. DO NOT CLICK on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi,

Attached below please find my opinion on Highway 413.

Thanks and Regards.

Tom Chan

Dear Mayor and our City Councillors,

Given below is my humble opinion on the proposed Highway 413:

1. The proposed Highway 413 would be 59 km long and would pave over 400 acres of the Greenbelt and over 2,000 acres of Class 1 and Class 2 farmland – the most productive farmland in Ontario. The protected Greenbelt land to be destroyed will include numerous woodlots, wetlands and huge natural wildlife habitat. A great amount of vulnerable wild lives including some known endangered species will be put at risk. In the other hand, the affected farmlands would mean job lost of farmers and the lost of agricultural economic benefits. Moreover, there is always a loud cry about global food source shortage. Preserving productive farmland should be our first priority over any other matters.
2. Highway 413 could destroy important archaeological sites as the project passes through the land that has long been inhabited by the Huron-Wendat. In addition, Further, Highway 413 would bisect the sensitive headwaters of four watersheds within Mississauga of the Credit First Nation's territory and impact their physical and cultural heritage, including ceremonial sites, burial sites, and the cultural landscape. If we are respecting and are willing to preserve the culture of indigenous people, the proposal of this highway should be shelved.
3. If we Canadians are proud of working hard to protect the environment, then we should consider all other alternatives to move people in bulk instead of building concrete highway for vehicles generating green house gas. The funding for this highway can be put on different public transit projects that can move people more efficiently and generate much less green house gas.
4. Highway 407 is known that it is long be underused. York region can work with our province to create a way to boost the usage of this highway. One

of the options is to create an incentive to encourage the truckers to take Highway 407 instead of other jammed highways.

5. There are lots of lands parcels along Highway 407 and other existing highways. York Region can work with the Province to develop these lands into Transit Oriented Communities. With public transit in place, these communities can also be a good option for affordable housing as well.

Thank you for your attention to my opinion.

Regards.

Tom Chan

From: Grandview Residents

Sent: Monday, December 13, 2021 10:20 PM

To: Clerks Public; Councillor, Keith Irish - Markham; Councillor, Karen Rea - Markham Regional Councillor, Jack Heath - Markham Deputy Mayor, Don Hamilton – Markham; Councillor, Reid McAlpine - Markham

Cc: Marilyn Ginsburg ; Tarun Dewan; Azar Mohammd; Leslie Girdharry; Pattanaik; Majda Ambrozic; Peter Cox; Sabi Ahsan; Ruth Anne Videan ; Rhonda Duma ; Cathy Farrant

Subject: Regarding Meeting of Markham City Council December14, 2021

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On behalf of the Grandview Area Residents Association, I wish to share our position regarding the following items on the Council Meeting Agenda for December 14th, 2021.

Lobbyist Registry

We are very much **in favour** of creating a Registry for lobbyists in our city. This form of transparency is long overdue and necessary in a city such as ours to promote our citizens' trust in civic affairs. Markham is no longer a small town. Residents have a right to know what goes on behind closed doors.

Tax on Vacant Dwellings

Based on the affordability crisis in housing throughout the city, **we support** the creation of a tax on vacant homes in Markham. Our area has numerous vacant houses that become eyesores and degrade the quality of our neighbourhood. These are owned by developers who wait for an opportune time (sometimes years) to tear them down while, in the meantime, a family could be living in them and contributing to the life of our community. These developers need an incentive to put these houses either on the rental market or put them up for sale.

Highway 413

Considering the significant and irreversible environmental costs that would accrue, and the unproven need for its construction, we ask that Markham City Council vote **NO** to Highway 413. This highway would benefit no one and will have terrible consequences for wetlands, watersheds, farmland, wildlife, and valuable green space. It is an irresponsible and unneeded initiative and we urge you to vote against it.

Sincerely,

Corie Bonnaffon

Co-chair, Grandview Area Residents Association

Please visit us at www.thornhillgara.com/