

**From:** Steven zhuo (via email)

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 12, 2023 10:51 PM

**To:** Mayor, Councillors & C.A.O. <MayorCouncillors&C.A.O@markham.ca>

**Cc:** Lyons, Darryl <email address>; Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>

**Subject:** Opposition to Motion for TOD Along Stouffville GO Train Line - Council Meeting December 13 - Item 9 - Motions

**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, attached this letter to the Council meeting on December 13 - item 9 - Motions

Dear Mayor, members of the City Council, and city staffs,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to express my deep concern and opposition to the recent motion submitted by Regional Councillor Jim Jones, proposing a Transit Oriented Development (TOD) along the Stouffville GO Train Line.

While I appreciate the desire to enhance our community's infrastructure and explore development opportunities, I believe the proposed TOD plan raises significant issues that warrant careful consideration. The Stouffville GO Train Line, serving our region, is already operating at full capacity during rush hours, with a train frequency of every 30 minutes due to a single track from Unionville Station to Stouffville Station and the absence of grade separation at railway crossings.

Converting the GO train station areas to high-density residential zones without addressing the current traffic congestion and lack of community resources is a cause for concern. The GO train service primarily directs commuters to downtown Toronto, and given its limitations as a suburban rail service, the proposed TOD is not realistic and will cause disaster in the surrounding neighborhoods.

The absence of a plan by Ontario Metrolinx to convert GO Transit to a subway network further compounds the challenges. Simply increasing the number of trains without a comprehensive infrastructure upgrade risks exacerbating traffic congestion on local roads, especially during peak hours. It is crucial to recognize that not all residents in the TOD area would necessarily commute exclusively to downtown Toronto, which will add significant traffic to already congested roads.

I respectfully urge the City Council to consider the broader implications of the proposed TOD motion on the quality of life in our neighborhoods. Instead of high-density residential development, I propose that the council focuses on comprehensive transportation and infrastructure improvements to alleviate existing congestion and enhance community resources.

I trust that the City Council will carefully evaluate the potential consequences of the TOD motion, keeping in mind the current limitations of the Stouffville GO Train Line. Your thoughtful consideration of these concerns is paramount in shaping a sustainable and prosperous future for our community.

Thank you for your dedication to the well-being of our city.

Sincerely,

Steven Zhuo