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March 8, 2021

REGION OF PEEL

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL CLERK

From: Steven Kirby [REDACTED]

Sent: March 8, 2021 8:48 AM

To: ZZG-COUNCIL <zzg-council@peelregion.ca>; Iannicca, Nando <nando.iannicca@peelregion.ca>;

Gurpreet Dhillon <gurpreet.dhillon@brampton.ca>; Patrick Brown <patrick.brown@brampton.ca>

Subject: Highway 413 issue Peel Council

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Hello Mayor Brown and Councillor Dhillon,

As a scientist, businessman and resident of Brampton I was disappointed to hear that the provincial government was planning on developing another highway in our region. I am requesting that today at Peel Council, you vote against Highway 413 and demand a full Environmental Assessment (EA) from the federal government. The timing of spending six billion (probably much, much more) on another highway is illogical when we consider the debt load on governments, businesses and individuals caused by the pandemic and that these funds should be used elsewhere such as funding: safe/affordable residences for seniors and the homeless; spending on small business recovery/aid programs; hospitals and healthcare; clean water and housing for our indigenous communities; programs for teens/youth; programs for mental health and addiction (way up); education and a long overdue University in Brampton focused on “green” science and engineering; and many more.

As you both know there are other options to a highway and the citizens of Brampton proposed their vision for future development using Heritage Heights as the new gold standard. Heritage heights reflected the Brampton 2040 vision of intensification in centers and utilizing mass transportation with *a boulevard* and alternate transportation as a focal point. This proposed highway goes against our vision.

Sadly we the taxpayers of Ontario have already invested in a super highway serving the northern corridor called the 407. If you recall it was sold to private interests to “balance the books” by a previous provincial government. This toll road is underutilized and riding on it any given day this is obvious. Options should be considered to divert truck traffic and use a “trucks only” lane. The tolls should not apply for trucks if our goal is to reduce congestion. Any business would optimize its existing infrastructure before unwisely spending on something it may never need. It then redistributes the capital funds for what it truly needs (alternate use of capital). Governments should not spend money on highway 413 without optimizing the existing highway infrastructure, and should look to redistribute the funds to where they are actually needed.

We all recognize the that we are in a climate crisis and we must reduce GHG emissions if the human race is to survive globally. We also understand the importance of protecting our greenspaces and heritage lands to leave a legacy for future generations. We need to read the reports and listen to the experts that are telling us that we must consider how the proposed Highway will impact the environment: it will cross rivers and water courses 85 times; it will destroy 400 acres of the Greenbelt; lead to more urban sprawl; increase greenhouse gas emissions; harm our health with more air pollution; and remove precious local farmlands.

REFERRAL TO _____

RECOMMENDED

DIRECTION REQUIRED _____

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In closing I would like to remind you that Peel Region has declared a Climate Emergency and your constituents agree, so we need to work together to ensure we meet our climate goals. Clearly this proposed highway does not reflect our vision. Standing up to this provincial government will take courage and leadership but it needs to happen. Please vote against this proposed Highway 413 and request a federal EA. Thank you for listening to my concerns.

Sincerely,
Steven Kirby
Resident [REDACTED], Brampton
M.Sc., CNE, MCP
Owner ALPHA-1 Laboratory Solutions Inc.