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From: Armand McFarland [REDACTED]

Sent: March 5, 2021 10:09 PM

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

Cc: Patrick Brown <patrick.brown@brampton.ca>; Paul Vicente <paul.vicente@brampton.ca>

Subject: In Opposition to Highway 413

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Dear Mayors and Councillors,

I am a local resident and commuter in Brampton. I'm writing to you to express my opposition to Highway 413. This highway was cancelled in 2018 due to egregious environmental impacts and as you know, has now resurfaced under the new provincial government.

This highway will: 1. promote urban sprawl, 2. destroy important greenspaces, 3. cost taxpayers a horrific amount of money, 4. provide little to no benefit to commuters, and 5. increase carbon emissions.

1. Urban sprawl is a major issue driving climate change. Commuter cities like Brampton, with few job opportunities and a high population commuting to work contribute to greenhouse gas emissions. Additionally, the infrastructure required to expand suburbs is significantly costlier compared to the resources required to intensify urban spaces. We need to be thinking about what we want our city to look like in 100 years, not just 30. Highway 413 will only attract more housing development at our city limits, which will require further infrastructure and construction. Do you think this housing will be affordable for your constituents?

2. The corridor needed for this highway would destroy critical greenspaces, wetlands, conservation areas, and prime agricultural lands. As a member of TRCA's partners in project green I hope you know the importance of protecting our wilderness. Highway 413 will cross multiple TRCA-owned properties, significant natural heritage features, valley and stream corridors, forests, wetlands, and would significantly impact wildlife connectivity. The TRCA is in active opposition to this project.

3. This project was estimated to cost \$4.8 billion in 2012, and will likely cost over \$6 billion today. This money could be much better spent improving our public transit services. Studies have shown that investment in public transit actually creates more job hours than investment in roads and highways. Building more effective public transit options encourages high-density residences, small businesses, and job opportunities within the city.

4. However, I will say that this highway will not actually improve the congestion issues our city faces. A concept known as induced demand describes the process in which new roadways actually encourage new drivers, and consequently have little to no effect on lessening traffic. A few years after this highway is built, it'll mimic the congestion we see on the 410. A few years after that, the province will want to build another highway.

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5. In 2020 I shouldn't have to explain how another highway will contribute to carbon emissions. When I learned about greenhouse gasses in grade 5 at St. Cecilia elementary school, I figured it'd be solved by our government pretty quickly. That was 15 years ago, I'm 25 now and have seen almost no effort by our government to effectively tackle climate change and carbon emissions.

We should be framing all of our developmental decisions through an environmental perspective, the decision to move forward with this highway is a slap in the face for our future generations. While the construction of 413 would be bad enough, it puts us down a path away from sustainable development. We should be focused on improving our public transit and providing job opportunities within city limits. We should not be pandering to our legacy as a commuter city.

Mayors and Councillors, I'm sure you joined the city council because you believed you could better the lives of your neighbours and constituents. This highway does not do that, in fact it will do quite the opposite. Highway 413 will have an abhorrent cost to the environment and taxpayers. You have a chance to help prevent this asphalt scar across our land. You have a chance to make a real change that would positively impact your children and their grandkids. I sincerely hope when you debate this highway, you arrive at the best and moral conclusion that it must be opposed.

Best Regards,
Armand McFarland