

**Public Works**

10 Peel Centre Dr.  
Suite B  
Brampton, ON  
L6T 4B9  
tel: 905-791-7800

[peelregion.ca](http://peelregion.ca)

March 1, 2021

Anjala Puvananathan  
Director, Ontario Region  
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada  
600-55 York Street  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5J 1R7

Dear Ms. Puvananathan:

**RE: Region of Peel Response to the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada's Invitation for Input Regarding the Designation Request for the Proposed GTA West Transportation Corridor Project under the Impact Assessment Act**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide responses to the questions posed in your correspondence of February 12, 2021, regarding the proposed GTA West Transportation Corridor Project.

Regional staff have reviewed the invitation for input and note that the following specific information is requested of the Region:

- Confirmation of any bylaws or requirements of Peel Region that would apply to the GTA West Transportation Corridor project; and
- A general confirmation of whether the Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) is addressing the interests and issues of importance to the Region of Peel

While Region of Peel staff have worked with the MTO on the GTA West Transportation Corridor Environmental Assessment (EA) Study since its commencement in 2008 and have brought forward reports at key milestones, Regional Council's support for this project was last confirmed in the previous term of Council. The sitting Council is actively reconsidering the matter.

The Councils of the Town of Caledon and City of Mississauga have expressed support for designation of the proposed GTA West Transportation Corridor Project under s. 9(1) of the *Impact Assessment Act, 2019* per the attached Council resolutions. City of Brampton Council, at its March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 meeting, will be considering the February 24, 2021 recommendations of the Committee of Council expressing support for the designation (attached).

At the February 25, 2021 Region of the Peel Council meeting, a motion was introduced to oppose advanced construction of the GTA West Highway and Transmission Corridor, support the request for designation under s. 9(1) of the Federal Impact Assessment Act and state strong opposition to any transportation corridor traversing Peel specifically the currently proposed GTA West Highway and Transmission Corridor (see attached). That motion has been deferred to the March 11, 2021 Regional Council meeting to allow staff to bring forward a report on the matter.



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We understand that public engagement requirements for the GTA West Transportation Corridor EA have been carried out by the Province in accordance with Provincial requirements. Some of Peel's ongoing planning processes, such as our Long Range Transportation Plan and Official Plan Review, have included consideration of the GTA West corridor. Links to the relevant public engagement materials as well as recent submissions to Regional Council are provided below:

- Long Range Transportation Plan:  
<https://www.peelregion.ca/pw/transportation/residents/long-range-transportation-plan.asp>
- Peel 2041+ Official Plan Review:  
<https://www.peelregion.ca/officialplan/review/>
- Transportation Focus Area:  
<https://www.peelregion.ca/officialplan/review/>
- Submissions to Council Received for the February 25, 2021 Regional Council Meeting:  
<https://pub-peelregion.escrimemeetings.com/FileStream.ashx?DocumentId=10327>

Regional staff offer the following comments for your consideration:

A. Region of Peel Requirements Applicable to the GTA West Transportation Corridor Project

In accordance with the *Provincial Policy Statement, 2020* and *Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, 2020*, the Regional Official Plan provides a policy framework to protect, restore, and enhance the natural environment in Peel and places importance on the protection of a Regional Greenfield System including water resources. The current Regional policies require an integrated ecosystem approach for planning infrastructure and the environment, and expect that EAs for infrastructure ensure that impacts are avoided, minimized, and mitigated to the greatest extent possible.

The Regional Official Plan was originally adopted by Regional Council through Bylaw 54-96. The Regional Official Plan is approved and in effect in accordance with the Planning Act, R.S.O., 1990. A copy of the Peel Regional Official Plan can be found at the following link:

[https://www.peelregion.ca/planning/officialplan/pdfs/ropdec18/ROPConsolidationDec2018\\_TextSchedules\\_Final\\_TEXT.pdf](https://www.peelregion.ca/planning/officialplan/pdfs/ropdec18/ROPConsolidationDec2018_TextSchedules_Final_TEXT.pdf)

Several amendments to the Regional Official Plan have been adopted to provide a policy framework to plan for and protect a future GTA West Transportation Corridor in Peel; however, the policies are currently under appeal to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal.

The adopted policies (under appeal) require that the Region:

- not permit development within the MTO's in effect Focused Analysis Area;
- ensure transportation and land use considerations are integrated and coordinated through the planning and EA process;
- plan for and protect connections to the existing highway network;



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- direct the local municipalities to develop corridor protection policies in consultation with and to the satisfaction of the Province; and
- work with the Province on the phased release of lands appropriate to the EA process.

### B. Region of Peel Interests and Issues

Through the course of the GTA West Transportation Corridor EA, the MTO has worked with the Region by:

- considering the Halton-Peel Boundary Area Transportation Study recommendations in the GTA West Transportation Corridor EA process (Council Resolution 2013-487)
- refining the Focused Analysis Area throughout the EA process; and
- considering the Region's seven council endorsed objectives in the relocation of the Coleraine interchange (Council Resolution 2020-175)

Notwithstanding the above, there continue to be a number of outstanding matters:

Region of Peel Interest	Ongoing Matter
Impacts of the proposed regulation to streamline the GTA West Transportation Corridor EA	<p>The Region has supported efforts to shorten the GTA West Transportation Corridor EA timeline, subject to confirmation that Regional issues will be appropriately addressed.</p> <p>Regional staff have requested that the proposed streamlined GTA West Transportation Corridor EA process ensure that the appropriate environmental evaluations are conducted and that appropriate measures are incorporated into the detailed design and construction. Regional staff are awaiting further clarity on the details of the process to better understand how it will effectively address Regional interests including matters related to the environment and climate change.</p>
Health Impact Assessment	<p>Regional staff have long advocated for the inclusion of a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) to be included as a part of the GTA West Transportation Corridor EA process. While MTO has provided a verbal commitment to include an Air Quality Assessment as a part of the EA process, Regional staff are awaiting further information regarding MTO's position on a fulsome HIA. The Ministry of Transportation (MTO) recently completed updates to the existing "Environmental Guide for Assessing and Mitigating the Air Quality Impacts and Greenhouse Gas Emissions of Provincial Transportation Projects" (Guide). It is recommended this Guide be utilized by MTO to evaluate impacts of the project.</p>
Agricultural Impact	Regional staff have also advocated that agricultural impacts



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Assessment	continue to be addressed in the next stages of the GTA West Transportation Corridor EA. While MTO staff have indicated a verbal willingness to evaluate agricultural impacts, Regional staff are awaiting further information on the scope of the Province's agricultural evaluation and proposed measures to avoid, minimize or mitigate impacts to the greatest extent possible in the detail design and implementation of the project.
Impacts to Existing and Planned Regional Infrastructure	Regional staff continue to work with the MTO to avoid, minimize and mitigate impacts to the Region's existing and planned infrastructure and property assets.

Regional staff appreciate the opportunity to provide comments as a part of the IAAC's review of the designation request and look forward to receiving updates on any decisions related to this matter.

Should you have any questions regarding the comments enclosed in this letter or require further information, please contact Tina Detaramani, Manager of Sustainable Transportation and Strategic Initiatives at [tina.detaramani@peelregion.ca](mailto:tina.detaramani@peelregion.ca).

Sincerely,

Adrian J. Smith, RPP  
Interim Chief Planner and  
Director of Planning and Growth Management

### Attachments:

- 1) City of Brampton Committee of Council Recommendation (CW076-2021)
- 2) Town of Caledon Council Resolution
- 3) City of Mississauga Council Resolution

CC: Martin Michalek, Acting Head Major Planning Projects, Ministry of Transportation  
Peter Fay, City of Brampton Clerk  
Laura Hall, Town of Caledon Clerk  
Diana Rusnov, City of Mississauga Clerk



**BRAMPTON**

## **Summary of Recommendations**

### **Committee of Council**

### **The Corporation of the City of Brampton**

**Wednesday, February 24, 2021**

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#### **2. Approval of Agenda**

##### **CW073-2021**

That the agenda for the Committee of Council Meeting of February 24, 2021 be approved, as amended, to add the following:

- 11.3.1 Discussion Item at the request of Regional Councillor Dhillon, re:  
Brampton Beast

Carried

#### **4. Consent**

##### **CW074-2021**

That the following items to the Committee of Council Meeting of February 24, 2021 be approved as part of Consent:

(8.3.1, 9.4.1, 11.2.4, 11.4.1, 12.2.1, 12.2.2, 12.2.4, 12.2.5, 12.2.6, 12.2.7, 15.1)

Yea (11): Mayor Patrick Brown, Regional Councillor Santos , Regional Councillor Vicente , City Councillor Whillans, Regional Councillor Palleschi, Regional Councillor Medeiros, City Councillor Bowman, City Councillor Williams , Regional Councillor Fortini , City Councillor Singh, and Regional Councillor Dhillon

Carried (11 to 0)

#### **6. Government Relations Matters**

##### **6.1 CW075-2021**

That the staff update re: **Government Relations Matters**, to the Committee of Council Meeting of February 24, 2021, be received.

Carried

**CW076-2021**

Whereas a major transmission corridor through the Region of Peel is a significant provincial investment and must be done thoughtfully and with sufficient review and;

Whereas the EA initiated by the previous provincial government was cancelled due to strong objection from experts in rural development, renewable cities, agriculture, environment and efficient transportation and;

Whereas the Province's proposal to fast-track the environmental assessment process represents key environmental, social and economic risks to the City of Brampton and the Region of Peel and;

Whereas Environmental Defence has filed a request for designation under Section 9 of the Federal Impact Assessment Act requesting the GTA West proposed project and associated major transmission corridor be considered within federal jurisdiction and;

Whereas the TRCA, the regulatory authority for developments in flood plains, wetlands and valley lands, has objected to the potential impact of the proposed major transmission corridor as well as the streamlined Environmental Assessment process, and;

Whereas a federal environmental assessment represents a key opportunity for enhanced oversight of the GTA West Major Transmission Corridor;

Therefore be it resolved that the City of Brampton request the Government of Canada to conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment of the proposed major transmission corridor, including the boulevard option and;

That a copy of this motion be sent to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Minister of Transportation Caroline Mulroney, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Jonathan Wilkinson, all Brampton MP's and MPP's and Mississauga, Caledon and Peel Councils.

Yea (11): Mayor Patrick Brown, Regional Councillor Santos , Regional Councillor Vicente , City Councillor Whillans, Regional Councillor Palleschi, Regional Councillor Medeiros, City Councillor Bowman, City Councillor Williams , Regional Councillor Fortini , City Councillor Singh, and Regional Councillor Dhillon

Carried (11 to 0)



*Allan Thompson*  
Mayor

February 22, 2021

Sent via E-Mail to: [justin.trudeau@part.gc.ca](mailto:justin.trudeau@part.gc.ca)

Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister  
Office of the Prime Minister  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

**RE: REQUEST FOR FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF THE  
GREATER TORONTO AREA WEST TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR**

I am writing to advise that at the Town Council meeting held on February 16, 2021, Council adopted a resolution requesting a Federal Environmental Impact Assessment of the Greater Toronto Area West Transportation Corridor.

The resolution reads as follows:

*That the Mayor write a letter to the Honourable Caroline Mulroney, Minister of Transportation, requesting that the Ministry host a public information centre for Caledon residents for the purpose of receiving and answering public questions and addressing concerns related to the Province's confirmed GTA West Multimodal Transportation Corridor;*

*That the Mayor write a letter to the Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister, requesting that the Federal Government conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment of the proposed highway as has been done by Ecojustice Canada on behalf of Environmental Defence and the Town of Halton Hills;*

*And further that the Honourable Sylvia Jones, MPP, Dufferin Caledon and the Regional Municipality of Peel, be provided a copy this request.*

For more information regarding this request, please contact the undersigned by email to [mayor@caledon.ca](mailto:mayor@caledon.ca) or by phone at 905.584.2272 ext. 4155.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and I look forward to your response to our request.

Sincerely,

Allan Thompson  
Mayor

Cc: Honourable Sylvia Jones, MPP Dufferin-Caledon, [sylvia.jones@pc.ola.org](mailto:sylvia.jones@pc.ola.org)  
Kathryn Lockyer, Regional Clerk and Interim Commissioner of Corporate Services, [kathryn.lockyer@peelregion.ca](mailto:kathryn.lockyer@peelregion.ca)

**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF CALEDON**

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MISSISSAUGA

RESOLUTION NO.: 0033 - 2021 Page 1 of 3Date: February 24, 2021Moved by: Carolyn ParrishSeconded by: Matt Mahoney

**WHEREAS** tens of thousands of jobs and billions in agriculture-related economic activity are at risk if the proposed construction of the GTA West Highway (413) is approved;

**WHEREAS** Ontario farming and food processing together employ one million persons and generate \$35 billion annually, the Golden Horseshoe being the third largest agricultural producer in North America after California and Chicago;

**WHEREAS** the proposed Hwy 413 will slash a broad 52 km swath through agricultural, natural heritage and environmentally sensitive lands - bisecting 85 streams (10 of which are ecologically high priority) destroying seven entire wood lots including a 5.95 km length of forest, significantly fragmenting valley lands, disrupting 1,000 ha of land significant to wildlife movement - making serious incursions into areas protected under the Green Belt Plan;

**WHEREAS** the 413 project would create 8.8 million square metres of highway and transitway right of way including paved surfaces (880 hectares/2174 acres), the equivalent of 13.59 functioning Ontario farms without consideration of the co-located Northwest Greater Toronto Area Electricity Transmission Corridor (transmission corridor);

**WHEREAS** the 413 project will include a minimum of 60 metre right of way for an adjoining transitway, in addition to 110 metre highway right of way along with a co-located transmission corridor to support the sprawling employment buildings and residential subdivisions that will follow the highway;

**WHEREAS** a significant number of reputable organizations have demanded the cancellation of the project, including: Environmental Defence, the David Suzuki Foundation, the Federation of Urban Neighbourhoods, Gravelwatch, Halton Environmental Network, National Farmers' Union-Ontario, Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition, Sustainable Vaughan, Transport Action Ontario, the Wilderness Committee and Sustainable Mississauga; as well as formal votes from the municipalities of Halton Hills and Orangeville;

**WHEREAS** the TRCA - which is the regulatory authority for developments in flood plains, wetlands and valley lands - has also objected to the potential impact of the proposed highway as well as the streamlined Environmental Assessment process, that process to which the Region of Peel has also objected;

**WHEREAS** Environmental Defence has filed a request for designation under Section 9 of the Federal Impact Assessment Act requesting the GTA West proposed project and associated





MISSISSAUGA

RESOLUTION NO.: 0033-2021 Page 2 of 3Date: February 24, 2021Moved by: Carolyn ParrishSeconded by: Matt Mahoney

Transmission Corridor to be considered within federal jurisdiction by way of it's meeting the criteria for public concern, particularly since the Province is proposing a shortened EA process as well as the construction of bridges and other significant environmental disrupters in advance of the completion of the EA process;

**WHEREAS** the 3 year EA undertaken by the previous provincial government was shelved because of strong objection to the 413 by experts in the fields of rural development, renewable cities, agriculture, environment and efficient transportation who sounded alarms over predicted irreversible ecological harm caused by the uncontrolled, low density urban sprawl the 413 would cause;

**WHEREAS** the EA process was halted by the previous government and a three person expert panel was appointed that unanimously recommended the cancellation of the GTA West Highway 413, a recommendation that resulted in the project's termination;

**WHEREAS** the Region of Peel is currently undertaking a Municipal Comprehensive Review process which will allocate residential and employment numbers to 2051 as well as areas of concentration for both, within the greenfield development designated for the Town of Caledon - a process which has already been affected by the proposed highway;

**WHEREAS** the current lack of opposition to the GTA West Highway by the Council of the Region of Peel has been cited as one of the provincial government's key assets in pushing the highway forward;

**WHEREAS** the City of Mississauga plays a significant political, financial and leadership role in the Region of Peel.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

The Council of the City of Mississauga approve the following:

1. Strong opposition to any and all advanced construction associated with preparations for a GTA West highway and Transmission Corridor.
2. Full support of the Environmental Defence request for a Federal Environmental Assessment pursuant to s.9(1) of the *Impact Assessment Act* (I.A.A.).



MISSISSAUGA

RESOLUTION NO.: 0033-2021

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Date: February 24, 2021

Moved by: Carolyn Parrish

Seconded by: Matt Mahoney

3. Strong opposition in principle to construction of any transportation corridor transversing the Region of Peel, but specifically the currently proposed GTA West 413 highway and Transmission corridor, which will wreak havoc on the environment, encourage residential sprawl and dependence on the car as a significant means of transportation.
4. The motion be shared with Brampton, Caledon and Peel Councils,  
The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson – Minister of Environment and Climate Change,  
Mississauga MPs and MPPs,  
Councils of the Regions through which the proposed GTA West Highway will travel.
5. A response to the federal government request for comments be completed by March 3, 2021 and be sent to the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada

Recorded Vote	YES	NO	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Mayor B. Crombie	✓			
Councillor S. Dasko	✓			
Councillor K. Ras	✓			
Councillor C. Fonseca	✓			
Councillor J. Kovac	✓			
Councillor C. Parrish	✓			
Councillor R. Starr	✓			
Councillor D. Damerla	✓			
Councillor M. Mahoney	✓			
Councillor P. Saito	✓			
Councillor S. McFadden	✓			
Councillor G. Carlson	✓			

Carried  
  
 Mayor