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March 5, 2021

REGION OF PEEL
OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL CLERK

From: [REDACTED] >

Sent: March 5, 2021 9:57 AM

To: ZZG-RegionalClerk <zzg-regionalclerk@peelregion.ca>

Subject: FW: Region of Peel's Position regarding support for a fast-tracked provincial highway for the GTA West Corridor

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From: [REDACTED] >

Sent: March 5, 2021 9:55 AM

To: 'Michael Palleschi' (michael.palleschi@brampton.ca)' <michael.palleschi@brampton.ca>; 'Santos, Rowena - Councillor' <Rowena.Santos@brampton.ca>

Cc: 'Region.clerk@peelregion.ca' <Region.clerk@peelregion.ca>

Subject: Region of Peel's Position regarding support for a fast-tracked provincial highway for the GTA West Corridor

Good morning Councillors Santos and Palleschi,

I understand the 413 highway GTA West corridor will be a topic of discussion at the March 11 Peel Council meeting. As you both know, I have a long-standing opposition to the current Provincial Government's plan to fast-track the construction of a limited access highway through this environmentally sensitive corridor. In forming my opinion, I have reviewed the studies and reports and have spoken with experts in transportation, the environment and in urban planning. Building this highway does not make sense, either environmentally or economically.

The experts have told us that the business case for this highway does not justify the billions of dollars that Provincial taxpayers would be required to shell out. The experts also tell us that climate change will be a runaway train in about 10 years unless we change how we live, eat, and move. They tell us this highway will encourage low density development which will consume vast quantities of land and require vast quantities of energy to support it. They tell us we cannot continue building urban sprawl type neighbourhoods where the car is the transportation vehicle of necessity. They tell us that consumption of locally grown food will become increasingly important. They tell us that protection of our wetlands and biodiversity is key to our sustainability.

The consultants who helped the City of Brampton develop its 2040 Vision recommended that the City grow as a network of high-density centres, complete communities where people can live, work, and play. These areas could then be surrounded by lots of interconnected green spaces. The density supports local active transportation, inter neighbourhood transit, and inter regional high-speed rail. It provides jobs, nature, and local food production all the while minimizing the requirement for the car and its associated costs, both personal and public. With that volume of vehicles out of the way, the local transport of goods can be managed through the existing roads network. I can see no reason why that same model, that was so thoughtfully developed for Brampton, can't be equally applied to the rest of Peel Region, particularly those areas facing the similar growth pressures.

The time is now for forward thinking. It is not a time to retreat to a framework that has been good for a few while reducing the quality of life for the many and forcing unrealistic environmental and economic burdens on the backs of future generations.

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I appreciate your support for past environmental actions. Please use this as an opportunity to demonstrate leadership at the Regional level that will hopefully inspire the Province to do the right thing.

All the best,
David

David Laing B.A.Sc. LEED® AP

