



OAK RIDGES MORaine LAND TRUST

Region of Peel
10 Peel Centre Drive,
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March 8, 2021

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council@peelregion.ca
clerk@peelregion.ca

Submission to Region of Peel Council on Greater Toronto Area West Transportation Corridor Update; March 11, 2021

Re:17.2. Greater Toronto Area West Transportation Corridor – Project History and Planning Impacts

Dear Regional Chair and Members of Peel Council:

Thank you for taking the time to read letters, listening and recognizing the impact of the GTA West corridor on the environment and farmlands in the Region of Peel.

Our letter today is to request that: all Councilors unanimously vote yes to the motion reversing the endorsement for the proposed GTA West Corridor and that Council bring forward and vote yes to support the request for a Federal Environmental Assessment.

A Federal Environmental Assessment is needed since the Province has proposed weakening their EA process for this highway so that construction could begin before the EA has been completed.

As a member of the Region of Peel Greenlands Securement Program Stakeholder Working Group, the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust has protected lands in Peel region for many years and has also been an active participant in the Greenbelt Transportation Advisory Group for the GTA West Study.

It is our position that anything that creates new disruption to the natural heritage of the Region, in protected areas, such as the Greenbelt and the Oak Ridges Moraine, or on the rural lands adjacent to those protected areas, should be avoided.

This proposed highway would pave over approximately 400 acres of protected Greenbelt lands impacting habitat for numerous species, cross over 85 rivers and streams, lead to more urban sprawl, increase greenhouse gas emissions when Peel Region has declared a Climate Emergency, harm our health with more air pollution and cost provincial taxpayers \$6 million.

As an organization that supports the protection of environmentally significant lands in the Region of Peel, many of our supporters live in your community and have voiced their concerns about the disastrous impacts of the proposed GTA West on their natural environment.

Peel Councillors, you can join Mississauga, Halton Region, Orangeville, Halton Hills and Halton Region who have chosen to oppose Highway 413 based on local opposition and long-term negative impact to our natural environment and request a Federal Environmental Assessment.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Susan Walmer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Susan" and last name "Walmer" clearly distinguishable.

Susan Walmer, CPA,CMA
CEO, Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust

cc. Hon. Caroline Mulroney (York-Simcoe) Minister of Transportation
Hon. Stephen Lecce (King-Vaughan)