

May 3, 2021

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**Subject:** FW: Designation Request Decision for the GTA West Project under the Impact Assessment Act

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**Subject:** Designation Request Decision for the GTA West Project under the Impact Assessment Act

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Good afternoon:

On February 3, 2021, and March 3, 2021, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change (the Minister) received two separate requests to designate the GTA West Project (the Project) under subsection 9(1) of the *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA).

On May 3, 2021, the Minister decided that the Project warrants designation pursuant to subsection 9(1) of IAA. The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency), in its analysis to support the Minister, considered the information

provided by the Ontario Ministry of Transportation, advice from federal authorities, input from provincial ministries, the views of potentially affected municipalities and Indigenous groups, concerns expressed in the requesters' letters and other public concerns that were known to the Agency.

The Minister's Order, Response with reasons and the Agency's Analysis Report are available on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry Internet site (Reference number 81381): <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/81381>.

Further questions can be directed to Owais Khurshid, Project Manager, who may be reached by phone at 647-262-8046 or by email at [iaac.designationontario.aeic@canada.ca](mailto:iaac.designationontario.aeic@canada.ca).

Sincerely,

Sean Carriere  
A/ Regional Director, Ontario Region



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# Order Designating Physical Activities

I, the undersigned Minister of the Environment, pursuant to subsection 9(1) of the *Impact Assessment Act*, do hereby designate the physical activities known as the GTA West Project proposed by the Ontario Ministry of Transportation, which is the construction, operation, and maintenance of a new highway located in the northwest Greater Toronto Area.

Signed on May 3, 2021

<Original signed by>

The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of the Environment

**Date modified:** 2021-05-03



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# Minister's Response on the Designation Request for the GTA West Project

## GTA West Project

The Ontario Ministry of Transportation is proposing the construction, operation and maintenance of a new highway located in the northwest Greater Toronto Area. As proposed, the GTA West Project, which will be called highway 413 upon completion, would be 59 kilometres in length and pass through the municipalities of Vaughan, Caledon, Brampton, and Halton Hills. It would connect highway 400 (between Kirby Road and King-Vaughan Road), to the highway 401/407 interchange area, located near the northern end of highway 403.

## Decision

Designated project.

## Reasons

The Minister of Environment and Climate Change has considered the potential for the Project to cause adverse effects within federal jurisdiction, adverse direct or incidental effects, public concern related to these effects, as well as adverse impacts on the Aboriginal and treaty rights of the Indigenous peoples of Canada. The Minister also considered the analysis of the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada.

The Minister has reached the decision that the designation of the Project is warranted as the Project may cause adverse direct or incidental effects on the critical habitat of federally-listed species at risk that may not be mitigated through project design or the application of standard mitigation measures, or through existing legislative mechanisms. The Minister also took into account the public concerns related to these potential effects.

**Date modified:** 2021-05-03