

June 7, 2021

Re: the motion to support the opposition of the building of Highway 413

Dear Mayor Krantz,

[HACEN](#) (Halton Action for Climate Emergency Now) is a volunteer organization dedicated to responding to the current climate emergency by acting on and promoting initiatives that will result in lowering of greenhouse gasses as soon as possible. Decisions made at the regional and municipal planning stage cost the least and impact the most when it comes to carbon emissions. We at HACEN believe we all need to plan now for future growth that will meet our climate change goals, act on the declared climate emergency, and provide a healthy future for generations to come.

I am reaching out to you to urge you to vote in favour of opposing the proposed highway 413 at the upcoming council meeting this evening. To remind you, at the May 31<sup>st</sup> Milton Council meeting, four Councillors, including three Regional Councillors, spoke against a motion to oppose Highway 413. The motion to oppose highway 413 was deferred until June 7. I urge you to support the motion to oppose highway 413 as you did on March 24.

As you well know, there are many reasons to oppose highway 413. It will be a toll road, like highway 407 which is currently underused. The provincial government is planning to spend 6 billion dollars to build this highway. Instead of building yet another toll road that most people can't afford, some of the money could be used to subsidize truck use on 407, thus freeing up space on highway 401. This is a viable solution to congestion on highway 401, one of the reasons for the building of highway 413. As well, an [expert panel study](#) found that the highway would only save drivers 30-60 seconds per trip. That hardly seems worth 6 billion dollars.

Construction of 413 would disrupt the Humber and Credit River watersheds and permanently remove 4 000 acres of class 1 and class 2 farmland which are among Ontario's most productive. There are known and [documented](#) risks of living near heavy traffic. Building the highway and the subdivisions that would follow will expose even more of the surrounding population to this unnecessary and avoidable health risk.

Most importantly, building highway 413 represents old thinking that doesn't take into account that we are in the midst of a climate crisis. The pandemic is disrupting work and commuting patterns, possibly on a permanent basis. Just this morning in the Globe and Mail I read that there will, in all likelihood be a permanent shift to some non essential work being done at home. This leaves essential workers, who are generally in a lower income bracket, commuting to work. I ask you to look forward in your decision making to modernizing our transportation systems by increasing the use of trains, light rail, and installing electric chargers. This will help all commuters and will mitigate our greenhouse gas emissions as well as help Milton and Halton achieve our climate goals.

Mayor Krantz, please act like we are in a climate emergency. Please make the right decision for future generations.

With Respect,

Jo-Anne Thompson for [HACEN](#)

