

Friday, August 14, 2020

Impact Assessment Agency of Canada  
16- Elgin Street, 22 Floor  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0H3  
laac.conditions.aeic@canada.ca

The Vaughan Chamber of Commerce (VCC), representing almost 900 member businesses across the City of Vaughan and the broader Greater Toronto Hamilton Area (GTHA) has been a long-standing voice of business for industry. Since its inception, VCC has been actively engaged in transportation issues. We are particularly interested in the necessary infrastructure investments required to support efficient transportation networks to move people and goods throughout the GTHA and across Ontario.

Since our initial presentation to the Review Panel in July 2019, feedback from our members has been consistent in that transportation infrastructure is critical to their growth and long-term competitiveness. That is why the Vaughan Chamber continues to support CN's proposed Milton Logistics Hub.

The population of the GTHA has grown rapidly in recent years and infrastructure investments, such as the Milton Logistics Hub, will help Ontario and Canada keep pace with this growth and the increasing demand for goods. While road-based goods movement is the dominant form of goods movement in the GTHA, it's causing increased congestion on our highways. Rail – and particularly intermodal – is an efficient means to move goods reliably and safely to and from markets. Truck transportation remains a vital component of goods movement; however, moving more goods by rail will alleviate an over-reliance on truck transportation, especially for long hauls.

In light of the staggering impacts to the economy as a result of COVID, we would be significantly concerned about any conditions that limit the project's ability to create greater efficiency in transportation and supply chain logistics or that delay the Milton Logistics Hub from coming into service, especially now as businesses need that certainty for economic recovery.

From the Review Panel's report, we understand that this project is expected to result in relatively small environmental effects, including minor greenhouse gas emissions, which can be managed through appropriate mitigation measures. CN has created mechanisms for this intermodal hub to be built and operated with minimal effects to the environment. The project itself will help to reduce overall emissions by transporting more goods by rail.

CN's MacMillan Yard is well-known in Vaughan as a valuable contributor to our economy, a top employer, and a responsible business focused on safety. Based on our assessment, the draft conditions provide several mechanisms for continued engagement with the community. CN's



active engagement with Vaughan's community demonstrates the company's commitment to corporate social responsibility.

CN's proposed intermodal facility in Milton will help address the need to supply goods into the GTHA. It will also support regional exporters and will help local businesses remain competitive. There is no doubt that CN's proposed intermodal facility is needed. Further, it would play a significant role in supporting provincial and federal trade and environmental goals.

The VCC strongly supports CN's proposed Milton Logistics Hub.

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

Brian Shifman  
President and CEO  
Vaughan Chamber of Commerce