



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Kyle Seeback

Member of Parliament
Dufferin-Caledon

February 8, 2021

The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson
Minister of Environment and Climate Change
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

RE: Constituent Correspondence - 413 Highway Environmental Considerations

Dear Minister Wilkinson,

Please see enclosed a copy of a letter forwarded to me from my constituent Ms. Stacie Roberts. As you will see from Ms. Roberts correspondence, she is concerned about the planned construction of Highway 413 in Ontario.

Ms. Roberts is concerned also that the provincial government has not conducted a proper review of the appropriate environmental considerations. Ms. Roberts has noted that the Province is allowing for construction work to begin on these projects before the environmental assessments are completed. These construction plans stand to harm fish habitats, federal species at risk, wetland, forests and important ecosystems as Ms. Roberts points out.

Ms. Roberts also has highlighted that these new highways would only increase vehicle traffic, at a time when your government is pledging to cut carbon emissions. I do not think we should be investing in highways, instead I think we should be investing in public transit for Canadians.

I am asking that you review this letter and provide details of how a Federal Environmental Assessment can begin before construction work commences in Ontario. I believe federal intervention in this matter is required to preserve the environment surrounding the planned highway expansions.

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<i>Ottawa</i>	<i>Constituency</i>
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Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to being copied on your response to Ms. Roberts.

Sincerely,

<original signed by>

Kyle Seeback, M.P.
Dufferin-Caledon

Encl:

cc. Ms. Stacie Roberts (307 Pearl Street, Bolton ON, L7E 4Z2)

<i>Ottawa</i>	<i>Constituency Office</i>
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From: Stacie Roberts <email address removed>

Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2021 7:15 AM

To: Seeback, Kyle - M.P. <Kyle.Seeback@parl.gc.ca>

Subject: Please consider assessments on Highway 413 & Bradford Bypass

Dear Mr. Seeback, MP

I am writing to support the requests to designate both the GTA West Highway (Highway 413) and the Bradford Bypass projects for a federal environmental assessment pursuant to the Minister's power under s.9(1) of the Impact Assessment Act.

These 400-series highways will cause irreversible environmental damage within federal jurisdiction, including harm to fish habitat, multiple federal species at risk, and dozens of significant wetlands, forests, and important ecosystems. They will pave over thousands of hectares of Ontario's Greenbelt and bulldoze people's homes. Without a proper environmental assessment from the federal government, we may never fully know the extent of these impacts until it's too late.

The Ontario government has proposed significantly weakening the provincial environmental assessment process for both projects. The proposal for the GTA West Highway would allow "early works" such as bridges over watercourses to proceed before the EA is even complete. The Bradford Bypass project would be allowed to proceed with construction through the Holland Marsh based on an outdated 23-year-old EA. The original EA approval was conditional on performing additional studies on archaeological resources, stormwater management, hydrogeological systems (including the development of a groundwater protection plan), noise, and compliance monitoring. The Province has proposed an exemption to all of these conditions.

Both of these controversial highways have generated significant public concern over many years. Thousands of Ontarians have already written to the Province asking them to reconsider the dangerous and unnecessary GTA West proposal, and the Bradford Bypass proposal has remained contested despite being dormant for over two decades. Both proposals have received significant media coverage.

These highways would also increase vehicle traffic at a time when the federal government has pledged to cut carbon emissions from transportation. The current assessment process includes no consideration of the climate change impacts of the more than one hundred thousand vehicle journeys per day that these highways would add to Ontario's roads.

Given the high levels of public concern, and the continued failure of the provincial government to honour its commitments to protect human and environmental health, we are calling on the federal government to designate these highway projects for a federal environmental assessment. If the Ontario government won't protect our environment, the federal government needs to step in now.

Thank you,

Stacie Roberts

<email address removed>

307 Pearl Street, Bolton, ON

L7E4Z2