



The Regional Municipality of Halton

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION WAS APPROVED BY REGIONAL COUNCIL AT ITS MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 2021

WHEREAS all four Municipalities in Halton have declared a Climate Change Emergency;

AND WHEREAS on September 11, 2019 the Region of Halton declared a Climate Change Emergency;

AND WHEREAS the GTA West project will lead to more urban sprawl resulting in more GHG emissions;

AND WHEREAS responding to the climate emergency requires immediate re-evaluation of all transportation plans to ensure that those investments help to reduce GHG emissions;

AND WHEREAS the COVID-19 pandemic has fundamentally altered the way we work, and the full impact on the long-term travel and mobility choices of people and goods is not yet fully understood and is likely to reduce the need for this highway;

AND WHEREAS we encourage that we work and live in our own communities where possible to help reduce GHG emissions;

AND WHEREAS 2,000 acres of farmland and 400 acres of environmentally sensitive land will be destroyed if this highway is constructed;

AND WHEREAS a significant portion of land required for the GTA West project in Halton is prime agricultural land with outstanding soils that will be lost forever;

AND WHEREAS the COVID-19 pandemic and other impacts related to climate change represent a threat to food security, where the protection of agricultural land must be a priority to enable food production for the long-term health, sustenance and resiliency of the population;

AND WHEREAS the GTA's Agricultural System is critically important to ensure an economically viable agricultural industry and rural landscape over the long-term;

AND WHEREAS the focus of provincial spending should shift away from individual travel and should be invested in more sustainable modes such as mass transit;

AND WHEREAS the 407 is underutilized and the Province could prioritize improving the use of existing infrastructure rather than investing in the GTA West project;

AND WHEREAS Ecojustice on behalf of Environmental Defence made a request to Impact Assessment Agency of Canada for designation of the GTA West project for a federal Impact Assessment pursuant to s.9(1) of the Impact Assessment Act;

AND WHEREAS in support of the request from Ecojustice, Halton Region submitted a letter supporting to the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada on March 3, 2021 identified that Ontario Ministry of Transportation is not addressing the interests and issues of importance to our municipality.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT further to the letter, The Regional Municipality of Halton reaffirms its opposition to the GTA West project and its commitment to protecting and preserving the natural environment and its work to mitigate the impacts of climate change,

AND FURTHER THAT The Regional Municipality of Halton hereby reiterates its request as set out in the March 3, 2021 letter and forwards a copy of that letter and this resolution to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada Wilkinson urging designation of the GTA West project for an Impact Assessment under the Impact Assessment Act.

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be circulated to the Prime Minister of Canada, Halton's MPs, Premier of Ontario, Ontario Minister of Transportation, Ontario Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks, Halton's MPPs, City of Burlington, Towns of Halton Hills, Milton and Oakville

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