



## ***Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy***

*Protecting the Niagara Escarpment World Biosphere Reserve  
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March 24, 2021

Impact Assessment Agency of Canada  
22<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Place Bell  
160 Elgin St.  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0H3

To whom it may concern,

Re: Impact of Highway 413

About five years ago I was asked to participate in an expert panel of community and environmental reps to discuss the mitigation of damage to the environment for this proposed project. I participated in a sequence of consultations with quite a few representative from various interest groups.

The representatives from MTO and the consultants consistently refused to answer questions about the environmental costs of the project. There could be no discussion of loss of ecosystem services, but only ways to route and design the road to avoid as much injury to species and ecological features as possible.

Based on that and other advice the provincial government shelved the project. The succeeding government started the project up again. I note that many host municipalities do not wish the project to proceed.

I feel this project will have a serious and long-lasting negative impact on a whole series of wetlands, forested areas, agricultural and residential lands. Only a proper review will demonstrate that clearly.

I have now spent 23 years protecting 62 square kilometres of land including some adjacent to the current proposed route. This one project would wipe out an equivalent amount of land.

I ask you to conduct a full review of the costs (and benefits) associated with this project.

<Original signed by>

Yours sincerely

Robert Barnett, Executive Director