

From: Jenni Le Forestier <[.](#)>
Sent: Friday, May 28, 2021 5:19 PM
To: cityclerks <cityclerks@barrie.ca>; City Council <Council@barrie.ca>
Subject: Council Meeting June 1 2021 re: Bradford Bypass

Good afternoon;

I would like to depute on Monday June 1st regarding the Item on the Bradford Bypass.

Please include me on the agenda if possible. I realize this is somewhat last minute. Hopefully there is still time.

Attaching my letter that was sent to Innisfil earlier this week.

Regards,

Jenni LeForestier

Jennifer Le Forestier,

May 25, 2021

Jenni Le Forestier

Innisfil Council

Re: May 26 Council Meeting, Agenda Item F.1 Request from Bradford to Pass a Motion Stating Support for the Bradford Bypass/400-404 Connecting Link.

Councillors.

As a resident of Ontario, I respectfully request that Innisfil Council cancel their support for the Bradford Bypass otherwise known as the Holland Marsh Expressway.

Ontario is facing a drought and a climate emergency. We are suffering through the third wave of a Global Pandemic. Why are Provincial and Local governments focusing on mega-sprawl inducing highways when we have greater need than ever before to preserve our food and water belts?

Even AECOM has recognised a need to address its impacts.

<https://investors.aecom.com/news-releases/news-release-details/aecom-launches-sustainable-legacies-transformative-esg-strategy>

The Provincial EA for Bradford is a relic that was conducted before the world acknowledged the rapid loss of biodiversity due to industrialization and the ever-increasing resulting impacts of the Climate Emergency.

The Auditor General has identified that the Provincial Environmental Assessment is **less than 20% compliant** with recommendations made in 2016 and most recently reassessed in March 2020.

The impacts to the Holland Marsh have not been addressed sufficiently. There have been no studies done assessing the archeological devastation of routing a highway through traditional Treaty Lands. The Provincial EA did not address Climate Impacts.

Alternative routes and solutions have not been explored.

There has been a significant void in public consultation and transparency.

I ask that you support the taxpayers of Ontario, who are opposed to a Highway running through a wetland and an area of such high significance.

Please cancel your support for the Bradford By-pass.

Regards,

Jenni Le Forestier

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Office of the Auditor General of Ontario
Bureau de la vérificatrice générale de l'Ontario

May 18, 2021

Ms. Le Forestier

Dear Ms. Le Forestier:

Thank you for your letter and email requesting an audit of Ontario's environmental assessment process and a cost-benefit analysis of the GTA West Highway 413 and the Bradford Bypass 400 series highways. Our understanding is that the federal government has committed to conducting an environmental assessment of the GTA West Highway 413 project.

In 2016, my Office published a value-for-money audit report on the province's environmental assessment process. The report included 12 recommendations, consisting of 21 actions, to address our audit findings. Recommendations in this report were intended to help achieve the objectives of the *Environmental Assessment Act*, which was designed to ensure the protection, conservation and wise use of the environment prior to proceeding with activities that could harm the environment.

As part of our normal process, we conduct a follow-up audit after two years to determine the status of implementation of recommendations. We continue to follow-up on recommendations every year after the standard two-year follow-up until every recommendation is either fully implemented or no longer applicable. As of March 31, 2020, 17 of the 21 recommended actions, or 81%, were still outstanding. We will continue to follow-up on these recommendations and publicly report the implementation rates as part of our Annual Report.

All of our 2021 audits are underway; however, we will consider your request to examine the cost-benefit analysis of the GTA West Highway 413 and the Bradford Bypass 400 series highways (informed by the results of the federal environmental assessment process), when planning future audits.

I appreciate you taking the time to put your concerns in writing and sharing them with our Office.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Lysyk
Auditor General of Ontario

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