



TOWN OF  
**HALTON HILLS**  
*Working Together Working for You!*

## REPORT

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**TO:** Mayor Bonnette and Members of Council

**FROM:** Maureen Van Ravens, Director of Transportation  
Bronwyn Parker, Director of Planning Policy

**DATE:** February 8, 2022

**REPORT NO.:** TPW-2022-0005

**SUBJECT:** Highway 413 Transportation Corridor Federal Impact  
Assessment – Town of Halton Hills Comments

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### RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Report No. TPW-2022-0005, dated February 8, 2022, regarding the Highway 413 Transportation Corridor Federal Impact Assessment – Town of Halton Hills Comments, be received;

AND FURTHER THAT consistent with Resolution No. 2020-0168, the Town of Halton Hills opposes the Highway 413 Transportation Corridor (formally GTA West Transportation Corridor);

AND FURTHER THAT the Highway 413 Project Team be requested to complete additional transportation analyses to understand impacts on the existing and planned transportation road network;

AND FURTHER THAT the Town Clerk forward a copy of TPW-2022-0005 to the Highway 413 Project Team as the Town's formal comments on the proposed Highway 413 Transportation Corridor;

AND FURTHER THAT the Town Clerk forward a copy of TPW-2022-0005 to the Ministry of Transportation, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Town of Milton, Halton Region, the City of Brampton, and the Region of Peel for their information.

### KEY POINTS:

The following are key points for consideration with respect to this report:

- Highway 413 (previously named the GTA West Transportation Corridor) was initiated by the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) to plan for future infrastructure needs and consider options to provide better movement of people and goods throughout the Greater Golden Horseshoe to the year 2031.
- A Focused Analysis Area (FAA) and Technically Preferred Route were established to identify properties within the overall study area which may be directly impacted by the future transportation corridor.
- The Federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change designated the Highway 413 (GTA West) Study under the Federal Impact Assessment Act.
- The Highway 413 Project team presented to Town Council an update on the Highway 413 Transportation corridor and requested further information and feedback.
- Through Resolution No. 2020-0168, Town of Halton Hills Council are in opposition to the proposed Highway 413 Transportation Corridor.
- Council has previously indicated that the proposed Highway 413 does not align with the unanimously endorsed Council Resolution No. 2019-0088, which declared a climate emergency.
- The proposed Highway 413 has not taken into consideration the on-going Premier Gateway Phase 2B Secondary Plan Study, future Employment Lands and Scoped Subwatershed Study.
- The Preferred Route will have a significant impact on the existing and planned transportation network servicing Halton Hills and the Highway 413 project team is required to complete additional transportation analysis to adequately address and resolve congestion and heavy truck volumes.

## **BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION:**

As identified through Report PLS-2019-0056, in 2007, the GTA West Environmental Assessment (EA) Study, now named Highway 413 was initiated by the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) to plan for future infrastructure needs and consider options to provide better movement of people and goods throughout the Greater Golden Horseshoe to the year 2031.

On August 7, 2020, Town staff was advised through the GTA West Project Team of the Preferred Route and the 2020 Focused Analysis Area for the GTA West multimodal transportation corridor as indicated in Appendix 1. Overall, the Preferred Route and 2020 FAA did not change from the Technically Preferred Route that was provided in September 2019 within the Town of Halton Hills.

The Preferred Route proposes two interchanges in Halton Hills, located at Winston Churchill Boulevard just south of 5 Side Road and at the Highway 401/407ETR, east of Trafalgar Road and Toronto Premium Outlets, south of Steeles Avenue.

On May 3, 2021, the Federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change designated the Highway 413 (GTA West) Study under the Federal Impact Assessment Act. Under this process, it requires the project to assess the positive and negative environmental,

economic, health and social effects. It also assesses the impacts to Indigenous peoples and communities and their Aboriginal and treaty rights.

The Highway 413 Project team presented to Town Council an update on the Highway 413 Transportation corridor (formally known as the GTA-West) on January 17, 2022. Throughout the presentation the various phases of the Federal Impact Assessment process were described and the necessary environmental assessment and consultation that is required. The Highway 413 Project Team had specific questions to the various Municipalities and stakeholders as it relates to the project. These questions are listed below.

- What issues have we not identified that are important to you?
- Are there any socio-economic statistics or data that you feel has important implications to the Highway 413 Project?
- Are you aware of any GBA+ (Gender-based Analysis plus) service providers in your community?
- Are there any studies that you think are missing?
- What do you believe is the most essential to focus on within these additional studies?

Staff have responded to the questions by providing answers and overall comments to the proposed Highway 413 project as indicated below.

Through previous Council reports and resolutions to the Premier of Ontario, Ministry of Transportation, Halton Region and the surrounding municipalities, Town staff and the Town of Halton Hills Council have indicated our concerns and opposition to the proposed Highway 413 Transportation Corridor.

On May 6, 2019, Council passed Resolution No. 2019-0088, known as the Climate Change resolution, officially declaring a climate emergency which identified the need to reduce overall emissions from the Town is the highest priority and identifying a number of actions to address these issues. Council subsequently passed Resolution No. 2020-0168 which stipulated that the proposed Highway 413 Transportation Corridor does not align with the Town of Halton Hills Climate Change objectives and declared emergency.

The proposed Highway 413 has not taken into consideration the Town's Premier Gateway Phase 2B Secondary Plan Study and Scoped Subwatershed Study that is ongoing. The Phase 2B lands form part of a Provincially Significant Employment Zone. The Preferred Route is identified through the Town's Future Strategic Employment Area (FSEA) lands south of 5 Sideroad between Tenth Line and Winston Churchill Boulevard and throughout the Lot 2 lands immediately adjacent to the Premier Gateway Employment Area east of Eighth Line to Winston Churchill Boulevard. These lands currently support the long term vision of the Regional Official Plan for future employment purposes. The significant amount of land in southeastern Halton Hills that remains subject to Corridor Protection for Highway 413 also remains a long standing concern for the Town that needs to be remedied in a timely manner.

From a Transportation perspective, the Preferred Route will have a significant impact on the existing and planned transportation network servicing Halton Hills. Staff continue to request that additional transportation analysis be provided by the Highway 413 Project Team to understand the impacts it will have on the existing and planned road network to address the necessary infrastructure required to address the projected traffic volumes.

Among other matters, the Halton Peel Boundary Area Transportation Study (HPBATS) includes a proposed transportation network system which identified the need for both the Norval West By-pass and an east-west connection to eliminate traffic through the Norval Hamlet including Highway 7, under the jurisdiction of the MTO. The Preferred Route does not provide a future east-west connection. As part of the Highway 413 Project, a solution is required to address the existing congestion and increase in heavy truck volumes within Norval.

The proposed interchange at Highway 401/407ETR will provide access to the lands within the Premier Gateway Employment Area. It is anticipated that the proposed interchange at Highway 401/407ETR will increase demand through the existing Highway 401/Trafalgar Road interchange and the intersection of Trafalgar Road and Steeles Avenue. Staff is requesting that additional transportation analysis be completed by the Highway 413 Project Team to provide solutions to mitigate the impacts to the regional and local road networks.

Staff are requesting that the Highway 413 Project Team meet with both the Town and Region staff as part of the necessary additional transportation analyses to adequately address our concerns.

In addition, the Highway 413 Project Team advised that new census information will be available soon. It is recommended that this information be considered as part of the Planning process. The Highway 413 Project Team should also consider the approved Growth Plan population and employment distributions within Halton Region.

Although, the Town of Halton Hills is in opposition of the proposed Highway 413, staff are recommending that the Highway 413 Project Team continue to engage the Town of Halton Hills throughout the Corridor Route planning and preliminary design process to ensure all our concerns are adequately addressed.

## **STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:**

This report aligns to the Town's Strategic plan recognizing the value to achieve sustainable growth to ensure that growth is managed so as to ensure a balanced, sustainable, well planned community infrastructure and services to meet the needs of its residents and businesses.

This report also identifies transportation as one of the Town's Strategic priorities.

**RELATIONSHIP TO CLIMATE CHANGE:**

This report impacts and/or helps address climate change and the Town's resiliency through climate adaptation.

**PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:**

Public Engagement was not needed as this report is administrative in nature.

**INTERNAL CONSULTATION:**

Transportation and Public Works and Planning staff worked collaboratively on the preparation of this report.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

This report is administrative in nature and does not have any financial implications.

Reviewed and approved by,

Bill Andrews, Commissioner of Transportation and Public Works

John Linhardt, Commissioner of Planning and Development

Chris Mills, Chief Administrative Officer