



**THE CORPORATION
OF
THE TOWN OF HALTON HILLS**

Resolution No.:

Title: **Support Subsidizing Trucks on Highway 407**

Date: March 21, 2022

Moved by: **Councillor J. Fogal**

Seconded by: **Mayor R. Bonnette**

Item No.

WHEREAS The Town of Halton Hills continues to strongly oppose construction of the Hwy 413;

AND WHEREAS Halton Hills recognizes the need to address traffic congestion on Hwy 401, especially for thousands of truckers;

AND WHEREAS the proposed 413 Hwy would not provide congestion relief for many years for a problem that needs a more immediate solution;

AND WHEREAS current high tolls act as a disincentive to the transfer of traffic to the underused 407 ETR from the 401 Hwy as well as from surrounding local and regional roads;

AND WHEREAS the Provincially appointed Expert Panel that studied the proposed hwy 413 recommended cancelling the highway 413 project in favour of other more practical and more timely interventions;

AND WHEREAS one of the Expert Panel's recommendations was to incentivize the use of the 407 ETR by truckers by subsidizing the tolls for truck traffic on designated lanes of the 407 ETR;

AND WHEREAS the current provincial government demonstrated its propensity to subsidize drivers through the following measures:

- A. The elimination of license renewal stickers and fees for 7.5 million vehicles as of March 13, 2022 at a loss of \$1.1 billion a year. The government will also issue refunds from March 2020 for a loss of an additional \$1.1 billion. Future renewals will be free with no stickers to show renewals have been completed or alert police to check for unpaid traffic fines, creating more loss of revenue. This amounts to a subsidy of more than \$1 Billion annually for vehicle owners that could be restored and used to subsidize freight vehicles to encourage their use of the underutilized 407.
- B. A \$1 billion penalty to the 407 ETR operators was forgiven by the province for failure to reduce tolls during COVID, to meet 401 Hwy traffic reduction targets by attracting drivers. It is expected the same penalty will be forgiven for 2021. However, actually collecting the penalty would provide another \$1 billion to subsidize truckers using the 407;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the Town of Halton Hills continue its strong opposition to the environmentally destructive 413 Hwy;

AND FURTHER THAT the Town of Halton Hills strongly supports provincial subsidies that promote increased diversion of truck traffic from the 401 Hwy to the under-utilized 407 ETR;

AND FURTHER THAT the Town of Halton Hills request the Province of Ontario work with 407 International Inc. to devise strategies to increase 407 ETR usage and enforce financial penalties established to encourage tolls that attract more drivers to use the 407 instead of the 401;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Premier Ford, The Minister of Transportation Caroline Mulroney, GTA MPPs and all GTA municipalities.

Mayor Rick Bonnette