



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

Resolution No.:

Title: GTA West Transportation Corridor –Opposition to further Investment

Date: August 31, 2020

Moved by: _____
Mayor R. Bonnette

Seconded by: _____
Councillor J. Fogal

WHEREAS the Ontario Ministry of Transportation initiated Stage 1 of the GTA West Environmental Assessment in 2008;

AND WHEREAS in May 2017 the GTA West Advisory Panel released its final report and its recommendations to the MTO determining that the highway contravened the province's planning objectives, was bad for the environment and was not an effective way to reduce traffic congestion;

AND WHEREAS this GTA West Highway has created uncertainty for many land owners in the protected area since 2008;

AND WHEREAS in February 2018 the Province announced that it would not be proceeding with the GTA West project;

AND WHEREAS the Provincial Government reversed the previous decision and restarted the GTA West project on June 19th 2019;

AND WHEREAS in response to the September 2019 release by the Provincial Government of a Technically Preferred Route for the GTA West project, Council passed Resolution Number 2019-0195 on November 11, 2019 indicating Council opposition to any further investment in the GTA West project;

AND WHEREAS despite the Town's consistent opposition to the GTA West project the Provincial Government announced on August 7, 2020 the Preferred Route for the GTA West project;

AND WHEREAS on May 3rd 2019 the Town of Halton Hills declared a Climate Change Emergency;

AND WHEREAS on Sept 11th 2019 the Region of Halton declared a Climate Change Emergency;

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 a basic strategy necessary to reduce GHG emissions, which are the cause of the Climate Emergency, is to shift transportation to more sustainable modes such as mass transit;

AND WHEREAS a GTA West Highway will pave the way for more urban sprawl and that will threaten the Greenbelt, prime agricultural lands and the natural environment;

AND WHEREAS all funding for the development, planning, and building of a new 400 series highway an enormous subsidy for individual automobile drivers that challenges the ability of mass transit to gain successful ridership;

AND WHEREAS the Preferred Route will have a significant negative impact on the ability of the existing and planned transportation network to flow effectively;

AND WHEREAS in the midst of a global pandemic there has been fundamental reduction in daily commuting volumes that may be permanent;

AND WHEREAS the focus of provincial spending should shift priorities away from subsidizing and incentivizing individual travel to investing in less carbon intense modes of transportation such as transit and high speed rail;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council for the Town of Halton Hills adamantly opposes further investment by the Province in the GTA West Transportation Corridor;

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be circulated to the Premier of Ontario, The Minister of Transportation, the leaders of all Provincial Parties, MPP Arnott, and Halton Region.

Mayor Rick Bonnette