
From: Mayor Emmerson [mayor.emmerson@townofws.ca]
Sent: February 1, 2012 8:04 AM
To: Llewellyn-Thomas, Kathleen
Cc: Clark, Carol
Subject: FW: Doane Road EA
Attachments: Letter to Transportation Services Committee Don and Colleen Black.doc

fyi

From: Colleen Black
Sent: February-01-12 2:52 AM
To: Mayor Emmerson
Cc: rgrossi@georgina.ca; glandon@markham.ca; jjones@markham.ca; Virginia Hackson; cmorton@eastgwillimbury.ca; mjohnston@eastgwillimbury.ca; jeaton@eastgwillimbury.ca; troydiclemente@eastgwillimbury.ca; twebster@eastgwillimbury.ca; flamanna@eastgwillimbury.ca; regionalclerk@york.ca; regional.chair@york.ca; Aaron and Melanie Logan; mandmfarr(Jennifer Rightmyer; edchewerda ; kevin Pennington; Uwe Wiedemann; Amanda Black; ian black
Subject: Doane Road EA

Dear Mayor Emmerson

Please find attached a letter that I would like to be brought forward at the meeting of the Transportation Services Committee on February 1, 2012 regarding the Doane Road EA that is on the Committee's agenda. Please be aware that in spite of having spoken to a regional representative just last week, most of the residents of the Doane Road received no formal correspondence from the Region with respect to this meeting and no indication of how to present our concerns to the Region.

Because of the lack of communication with the Region, there has been very little time to prepare correspondence on this matter. Please be aware that the lack of residents at the Committee's meeting is in no way reflective of a lack of concern about the matter and its outcome. It is indicative of work commitments and an inability to be available on such short notice. As I'm sure you can imagine, the future of our homes is a matter that is very close to all of us.

We thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Colleen and Donald Black

01/02/2012

Donald and Colleen Black

January 31st, 2012

Region of York
17250 Yonge Street
Newmarket, Ontario L3Y 6Z1

Attention: Mayor W. Emmerson, Chair Transportation Services Committee
Regional Council

Dear Committee and Council Members:

**RE: Filing of Doane Road Environmental Assessment Study Update
Yonge Street to Woodbine Avenue
Town of East Gwillimbury**

As 40-year residents of the Doane Road, we are very disturbed that the EA report echoes the Region's preference for the existing Doane Road to be widened and strenuously oppose any filing of this report. This report does not represent the views of the Mayor and Councillors of The Town of East Gwillimbury or those of the residents of the Doane Road who are major stakeholders in this issue. In addition, the EA contains statements that are misrepresentative and do not accurately address a number of important issues. As the editorial in the Era, dated September 22, 2011, stated: "It (the Region) can ignore the town's decision and steamroll ahead with its plan, which would suggest asking the town for support was little more than artificial courtesy, or it can accept East Gwillimbury's decision and take another look at its options." It also pointed out that the town has declined to support the Region on this issue not once but twice.

At the September 19th Town Council Meeting, the Mayor and Town Council also asked that the Region revisit the southern-most route, which is the route that is laid out in the town's Official Plan. This is **not** to be confused with the Alternative 2A that the region has continually referred to in its discussions and presentations as the "southern route". In a phone conversation with Mr. Mark Nykoluk last week, Mr. Nykoluk informed me that the Official Plan route had never been considered in the Environmental Assessment and that the Region had not revisited this as the town had requested. He would offer no explanation as to why it was not revisited nor why it was not explored in the first place.

From an environmental perspective, the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA) provided its comments to the Region in a letter dated September 19th, 2011 as the proposed widening of the Doane Road would necessitate the acquisition of protected conservation authority lands. The LSRCA in fact raised a number of concerns in their letter, including the fact that the region's "conclusion and preferred option appeared to have been determined without a complete substantiation and evaluation of alternatives, especially as it related to economic and environmental

impact". In addition, the LSRCA had requested additional information on the proposed drainage and storm water management. Their final comments indicate that the region's preferred alternative would be acceptable to the LSRCA but we find their reasoning questionable. They state that other options would more negatively affect wellhead protection areas when in fact the wellhead in question is just north of the Doane Road NOT south of the existing road. Under Ontario's Clean Water Act, communities are obligated to look at the existing and potential threats to their water and public participation on every local source protection plan is required. Widening of the Doane will significantly impact the wells of the residents of the road and potentially the wellhead itself, much more so than a southernmost alignment. The LSRCA also states that the forested area at Leslie and Doane dates from the late 1800s and that they want to save "natural heritage features". The open treeless field to the south, which is the site of the Official Plan route to the south and is scheduled for future development complete with a network of roads, has far fewer natural heritage features than the current Doane Road alignment. The expansion of the existing Doane Road WILL affect natural heritage features. The destruction of a protected forest and 100-year old trees that line this country road is just criminal and goes against the very notion of conservation. We have requested further information from the LSRCA.

With respect to the water wellheads and drainage, we are still waiting for answers to our concern about culvert sizes and the possibility of the flooding of our property since it is a catch basin. These concerns were raised at a meeting my husband had with the planning/water/road committees back in the summer of 2011. This still has not been addressed. We did receive a letter from Mr. Nykoluk on 01/30/ 2012 (after a phone conversation earlier in the month) regarding the upgrading from a two to four lane road but not the water issues. We also learned that the amount of our property being expropriated for the widening went from 25 feet deep to 26 meters deep. Quite a discrepancy.

I would also like to reiterate that this is a *residential* road and there are 11 families that would have to enter or exit a four-lane highway from their driveways along that mile and a quarter of roadway. Although it is easy to draw a line on a map, a quick visit to the Doane Road would immediately provide the logic behind our concerns given the areas topography, landmarks, and environmental heritage, not to mention the beautiful homes and land that would be expropriated. One of the residents' major concerns is that we have consistently been told that our section of the road was to be closed and a bypass built to the south. In fact, the only reason that the town asked for a 404-intersection at the Doane Road was because of the planned bypass. Based on the official plan, people bought, built, and renovated their homes after being assured by the region and the town that the bypass would be built to the south, according to the town's Official Plan. It was only in the last two years, at the instigation of one stakeholder, that the approved Official Plan was revisited. Be it noted that this stakeholder, New Leaf, lobbied extensively to be included in the official plan and they were successful. They had no objections to the bypass at that time and we attended many planning meetings where their representatives were present. They are considered residential and their claims that they would not be able to conduct business if the Official Plan alignment was chosen are unsubstantiated. In addition, developers who bought the farmland were aware of the town's Official Plan at the time of purchase and thus have no minimal grounds for changing the Official Plan after the purchase.

We repeatedly read that numerous meetings were held and the EA implies that the Region's plans were acceptable to all affected parties and that all of our concerns were addressed and agreed upon. That is not the case. There was and **still is** strong opposition. The residents of the road, who are the people most affected by this decision, do **not** want the existing Doane Road widened. The southern-most boundary is the preferred route as it has the least effect on the most people. We are still disappointed that the residents' views on the bypass were given only lip service by the Region and its representatives as it appears that the Region intended to solely pursue widening the Doane in its current location and had no intention of working with the Town's representatives and residents on the Official Plan alignment.

The concept of the town's Official Plan, as expressed by the mayor and council at the time, was to house additional residents but not at the expense of the existing residents; a higher density that did not interfere unduly with the current residents. Our elected officials represent us and after years of consultations and hard work they settled on a plan that was in the best interests of our community. It should be adhered to and our mayor and councillors, should be shown respect by the Region and its representatives.

We ask that the Region abide by East Gwillimbury's decision to **not** support the expansion of the Doane Road in its present location and to complete the bypass as presented in the official town plan i.e. the southern border. This would show the electorate that local matters, solutions, and legitimate concerns are respected at the regional level. We respectfully request that the Committee and Council direct Staff to **not** file the EA due to the fact that it contains information that is misrepresented, does not address the concerns of the key stakeholders, and does not include an assessment of the Town's Official Plan. We also respectfully ask that the Region explores its other options, including the alignment as per the Official Plan of the Town of East Gwillimbury.

Sincerely,

Don and Colleen Black