

MAY 17 2012

May 8, 2012

Honorable Bill Fisch, Chairman of the York Regional Council and
Honorable Maurizio Bevilacqua, Vaughan Mayor

Re VivaNext Rapidway on Highway #7, Centre St. and Bathurst St.

The below-signed Ratepayer Associations hereby come to you and your Councils to ask you to correct the current determinations made jointly by the Highway #7 EA and the Centre St. EA, which stipulate center bus-only lanes to be placed on Highway #7, east of Keele St. to Bowes Rd., and along Centre St. from Dufferin St. to Bathurst St., and up Bathurst St. from Centre St. to Highway #7.

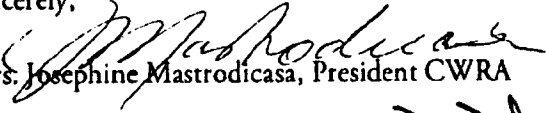
Despite successive requests made by the Concord West Ratepayers Association (CWRA) throughout 2011, by letter and in meetings with YRT and Viva, to stop the center bus-only lanes along Highway #7 at Keele St., and thereby avoid worsening the already existing congestion at the Bowes St. funnel, YRT has steadfastly held to its position. This was made evident by D. Clarke's letter of July 18, 2011. A September 13, 2011 letter from the CWRA to you, Chair of the YRC, that addressed Mr. Clarke's response has gone unanswered on the record (see Appendix A).

Likewise, the Beverley Glen Ratepayers Association (BGRA) has been fighting to remove the same central bus-only lanes from Centre St, as well as for a better solution to the connection of the projected 407 rapid Transitway to the Viva routes. With the total support of the CWRA and the Glen Shields Ratepayers Associations (GSRA), the BGRA has correctly pointed out that central bus-only lanes distort the atmosphere of the community and introduce unnecessary hardship to traffic flow. The BGRA has currently two petitions online to address their grievances with respect to YRT's current plans.

Hon.s Chair and Mayor, the communities affected by your planners' current plan deem it unacceptable. We urge you to do the right thing, and listen to the people who live in the affected communities and make use of these corridors on a daily basis, as they will be most impacted by such poor planning decisions.

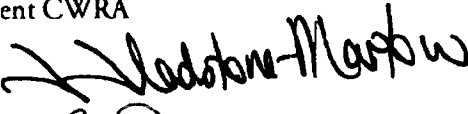
Awaiting your response on this urgent matter -

Sincerely,


Mrs. Josephine Mastrodicasa, President CWRA

Dr. Gila Martow, President BGRA

Ms. Pauline d'Urso, President GSRA




cc:

D. Clarke, Design Chief, YRRT Corp.

APPENDIX A



CONCORD WEST RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION (since 1985)

7777 Keele Street, Unit 8, Box 79001,
Concord, City of Vaughan, Ontario, L4K 1Y0
concord.west.ra@gmail.com
www.concordwest.ca

September 13, 2011

Hon. Bill Fish, Chairman York Regional Council

Hon. Maurizio Bevilacqua, Vaughan Mayor

Mr. David Clarke, Design Chief Infrastructure and Development, YRRT Corp.

Re. VivaNext Rapidway on Highway 7 West

Honourable Regional Chair, Vaughan Mayor and Mr. David Clarke,

First, in response to Mr. Clarke's letter of July 18th, 2011, we would like to thank Mr. Clarke and the YRRT and Viva teams for participating in frank and open discussions with our community. We also want to thank them for having listened and incorporated many of our suggestions, and in particular those that revised the expropriation plans for the south side of Highway 7.

However, with respect to the matter previously discussed in our last meeting, it is with some consternation that we read in your letter: "revisions to the approved alignment and alternate configurations to the system to locate the rapidways other than in the centre of the right of way are not being examined". You are well aware that the entire community rejected the St.Clair-type design of the central bus lanes, as in our view it will substantially add to the congestion on Highway #7.

But irrespective of any alteration to the preferred alignment in the Highway 7 segment lying between Keele St. and Baldwin Ave/Bowes Rd, *we are, by the present letter, petitioning York Region Council, through our Mayor and three Regional Councillors, to consider suspending the current phasing and construction of those central bus lanes along this segment* until the ongoing Vaughan Secondary Plan for the location of the GO/Metrolinx hub - and the development of the Bowes Rd/Concord Floral and Concord GO Centre - has reached study completion. In terms of both planning and expenditures, it makes poor sense to engage in building these central lanes along that segment before there is definition of the future use of the lands surrounding the northwest, northeast and southwest corners of the Bowes Rd/Baldwin Ave intersection with Highway 7. Moreover, as you are well aware, immediately east of this intersection lies the steel railway bridge that has been designated a national heritage structure, and which constitutes the major present limitation to the widening of Highway 7 to the east of that intersection. It follows, as every good planner can easily spot, that extending those dedicated central bus lanes to the east of Keele St. is to create a substantially worse bottleneck at that intersection than the one that already exists in the absence of any Concord GO/Metrolinx hub, or even of an operational Vaughan Metropolitan Centre. *What makes sense is to suspend the implementation of these central lanes, including the associated Viva stations to the east of Keele St.* And that is what we are respectfully requesting both the York Region Council and YRRT to do. You can easily put the Viva stations on the west side of Keele St. for now, before creating an even worse



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problem of traffic congestion at that intersection. To do otherwise, aside from being poor planning and most likely a waste of public money, will only unduly tax our community with more vehicular traffic and pollution, and uselessly punish all commuters using Highway 7 with still more bottlenecks and a greater chance of accidents at the notoriously dangerous intersection of Highway #7 with Baldwin Ave/Bowes Rd.

Please reconsider.

Thank you,

Julie Seemann, Acting-President, CWRA

Maria Bonfini, Treasurer, CWRA

Silvana Galloro, Secretary, CWRA

cc:

D. Schulte, Vaughan Reg. Counc.
G. Rosati, Vaughan Reg. Counc.
M. diBiase, Vaughan Reg. Counc.
S. Racco, Vaughan Counc.
M.-F. Turner, YRRTC Pres.
J. Walter, YR Acting-Commissioner of Planning and Development Services
K. Llewellyn-Thomas, YR Commissioner of Transportation Services
J. Davidson, YR Commissioner of Corporate Services