

Rec'd by Clerk's
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Sandra Yeung Racco
Councillor

October 1, 2008

PRIORITY

Mr. Bryan Tuckey
Commissioner of Planning & Economics Development Services
Regional Municipality of York
17250 Yonge Street
Newmarket, ON L3Y 6Z1

Dear Bryan,

RE: HIGHWAY 407 INTERCHANGE IMPROVEMENTS STUDY FINAL REPORT

It has come to my attention this morning that a recommendation is going forward this afternoon pertaining to the 407 Interchange improvements.

The part that I am very concerned and disappointed to find out is your second recommendation to "endorse the recommendation to the City of Vaughan to protect lands for a possible future partial interchange at Centre Street".

As you are well aware and indicated in your report of today, that back in August of 2003, Council had "resolved to request the Province and 407/ETR to remove any plans for construction of an interchange at Highway 407 and Centre/Dufferin Streets." This was based on an outcry from the area residents opposing vehemently against putting in an interchange, whether full or partial, at this location when within a kilometre, there are already east-west ramps onto 407.

I have also spoken with my Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works this morning and he confirms to me that staff have also written in opposition of such a recommendation and in fact, we had tried asking the Province to have this removed completely from their plan but unfortunately, they had indicated to us that an independent study had to be undertaken prior to any action. But I know for a fact that the Minister of Transportation at the time, Minister Harinder Takhar, was also in agreement with our views on this particular proposed interchange location.

That is why I am in total shock to read today's recommendation.

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What is even more disturbing is the fact that the consultancy firm of IBI Group was retained by York Region in March of 2007 and not once, did they consult with the municipality (i.e. the Local Ward Councillor) or the area residents, prior to putting their report forward to your committee.

At this late stage, I am writing you to either amend your recommendation with regards to the Centre Street interchange portion or to defer this item to a future date where it would allow myself, the local ratepayers' presidents, as well as the area residents to have an opportunity to voice their opinions.

I respectfully ask that you acknowledge the receipt of this letter and advise me of the committee's decision.

Thanking you in advance,



Sandra Yeung Racco
Councillor, Thornhill/Concord
"For the Community"

Cc: Bill Fisch, Regional Chair and CEO (ex officio)
Chair: Tony Wong, Regional Councillor, Town of Markham
Vice Chair: John Taylor, Regional Councillor, Town of Newmarket
Margaret Black, Mayor, Township of King
Mario Ferri, Regional Councillor, City of Vaughan
Brenda Hogg, Regional Councillor, Town of Richmond Hill
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Danny Wheeler, Regional Councillor, Town of Georgina
James Young, Mayor, Town of East Gwillimbury
Mayor and Members of Council, City of Vaughan
Bill Robinson, Commissioner of Engineering and Public Services, City of Vaughan
Michael DeAngelis, City Manager, City of Vaughan
Pauline D'Urso, President, Glen Shields Ratepayers' Assoc.
Mario G. Racco, President, Brownridge Ratepayers' Assoc.
Brian Brown, President, Beverley Glen Ratepayers' Assoc.
Cathy Ferlisi, President, Concord West Ratepayers' Assoc.