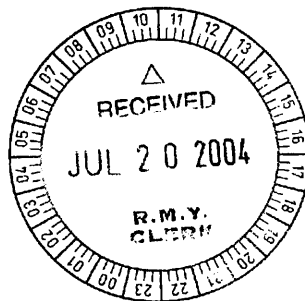




Mario G. Racco, M.P.P.
Thornhill



REGION OF YORK
CLERK'S OFFICE

FILE No. - *P04*

July 15, 2004

Hon. Greg Sorbara
Ministry of Finance
7 Queen's Park Crescent
7th Floor, Frost Building
Toronto, ON
M7A 1Y7

Hon. Harinder Takhar
Ministry of Transportation
77 Wellesley St. W
Ferguson Block, 3rd Floor
Toronto, ON
M7A 1Z8

RE: Highway 407 and Municipalities

Dear Greg and Harinder,

Considering the motion from the Region of York, Town of Markham and City of Vaughan, I wonder what are your thoughts in regard to building new highways. Would they be private or public owned?

Thank you,

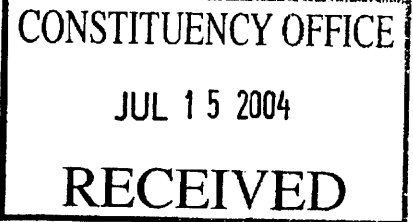
Mario G. Racco, MPP
Thornhill

C.C. Region of York
Town of Markham
City of Vaughan

P.S. Please see the attached motion for reference

July 7, 2004

Mr. Mario Rocco
MPP, Thornhill
7330 Yonge Street, Ste. 204
Thornhill, ON L4J 7Y7



RE: **HIGHWAY 407**
- PROPERTY TAXATION ISSUE (7.3)

Dear Mr. Rocco:

This will confirm that at the meeting of Council held on June 30, 2004, Clause 11 of Report No. 40, was approved as follows:

"That Council adopt the following resolution:

"Whereas the 407 ETR is being operated by the private sector on a for-profit basis through tolls paid by those using the highway;

And whereas the 407 ETR operates in a number of municipalities;

And whereas the Province has indicated it plans to expand the use of toll roads in Ontario;

And whereas municipal roads connected to the 407 ETR are subject to increased vehicular traffic placing additional demand on the local infrastructure;

And whereas the land occupied by the 407 ETR does not generate property tax revenue to the local municipality;

And whereas the Province of Ontario makes payments-in-lieu of property taxes (PILs) on lands owned or controlled by the Province where taxable tenants occupy the land;

And whereas the current Assessment Act exempts from taxation toll highways, and the current Municipal Tax Assistance Act excludes highways from a payment-in-lieu of property taxes (PILs);

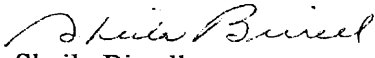
....2/

Now, Therefore be it resolved that the Council of the Town of Markham request the Province of Ontario to make the necessary legislative and regulatory changes regarding the 407 ETR and all future toll roads which are operated in full or in part by for-profit organizations, to provide local municipalities with:

- The ability to charge property taxes; or
- The ability to charge payments-in-lieu of taxes (PILs) at the commercial rate that would be payable if property taxes were applicable; or
- An equivalent portion of the revenues received from toll roads

And that this resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, Minister of Finance, Minister of Transportation, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the local member of Provincial Parliament, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Municipal Financial Officers Association of Ontario (MFOA), the Region of York and all municipalities through which the 407 ETR passes."

Yours sincerely,


Sheila Birrell
Town Clerk