

Proposed Notice of Motion – Councillor Schaefer

**WHEREAS** Ontario farming and food processing together employ one million persons and generate \$35 billion annually, the Golden Horseshoe being the third largest agricultural producer in North America after California and Chicago;

**WHEREAS** there has been no Agricultural Impact Assessment by the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs even though the proposed route will raze just over 800 hectares of farmland of which some will immediately cease to be farmed and other lands, over time, will transition to lands zoned for development;

**WHEREAS** the proposed GTA corridor will cut across 85 waterways, and destroy protected Greenbelt land including 7 entire woodlots and fragmented valley lands;

**WHEREAS** the Greenbelt Plan's permission for new infrastructure which negatively impacts key natural heritage features, key hydrologic features or key hydrologic areas requires determination that there is "no reasonable alternative" and this has not been established;

**WHEREAS** several reasonable alternatives have been identified including congestion pricing on other highways, shifting truck traffic to the under-utilized Highway 407;

**WHEREAS** on July 8, 2019 the Township of King declared a Climate Change Emergency;

**WHEREAS** responding to the climate emergency requires immediate re-evaluation of all transportation plans as greenhouse gas emissions (GHG's) from transportation is the highest single source of emissions and the project involves destruction of woodlots which are important carbon absorbers and help clean the air;

**WHEREAS** in addition to alternatives identified already there is another one which will also decrease GHG, namely increasing public transit, including the necessary local public transit, to enable broad access to the higher order transit of high-speed commuter trains;

**WHEREAS** the Township of King has consistently expressed concern about the impact of a new highway on its communities and specifically, in August 2015, expressed support for protecting a corridor to address long term inter-regional transportation problems with the provision that the route should be in the southern portion of the study area to minimize the impact on our communities;

**WHEREAS** the preferred route for the GTA West highway will increase traffic in the Township of King as two of the interchanges on the proposed highway are for arterial

roads in King, namely Highway 27 and Weston Road, and those interchanges will be minutes from the village of Nobleton and the hamlet of Laskay, respectively;

**WHEREAS** the TRCA - which is the regulatory authority for developments in flood plains, wetlands and valley lands - has also raised concerns about the potential impact of the proposed GTA West highway as well as the streamlined Environmental Assessment process.

**WHEREAS** the 3 year EA undertaken by the previous provincial government was shelved because of strong objection to the GTA Corridor by experts in the fields of rural development, renewable cities, agriculture, environment and efficient transportation who sounded alarms over predicted irreversible ecological harm caused by the uncontrolled, low density urban sprawl enabled by the Corridor;

**WHEREAS** a significant number of reputable organizations have demanded the cancellation of the project, including: Environmental Defence, the David Suzuki Foundation, the Federation of Urban Neighbourhoods, Gravelwatch, Halton Environmental Network, National Farmers' Union-Ontario, Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition, Sustainable Vaughan, Concerned Citizens of King Township, Transport Action Ontario, the Wilderness Committee and Sustainable Mississauga; as well as formal opposition of Councils from the municipalities of Halton Hills, Orangeville, Vaughan, Mississauga and City of Toronto;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. The Council of the Township of King withdraws its previously expressed support for the GTA West Highway and Transmission Corridor as it is currently defined, or, if it is ever proposed to shift the Corridor north into the Township of King.
2. The Council of the Township of King strongly opposes any and all advanced construction associated with preparations for a GTA West highway and Transmission Corridor.
2. The Council of the Township of King fully supports the Environmental Defence request for a Federal Environmental Assessment pursuant to s.9(1) of the Impact Assessment Act (I.A.A.), prior to any advancement of this project.
3. **AND FURTHER THAT** this Resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Transportation, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Hon. Stephen Lecce, MPP King-Vaughan, Hon. Caroline Mulroney, MPP York-Simcoe, the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, and all Municipalities of the Region of York as well as those Regional Municipalities through which the proposed GTA West Highway will travel.