

Subject: Website Delegation Request - Wendy Roberts -

Hello Town Clerk's Staff,

Please note the following response to Delegate Request Application has been submitted at Thursday June 3rd 2021 10:23 AM with reference number 2021-06-03-118.

<https://forms.milton.ca/Management/Response/View/2db67c80-ca59-4eac-bba6-7b93492b0d37>

Application Information

- **First Name:**
Wendy
- **Last Name**
Roberts
- **Email Address:**
- **Phone number:**
- **Street Address:**
- **Town**
Milton
- **Postal Code:**
- **Are you representing a group?**
No
- **Council Meeting Date**
6/7/2021
- **Please indicate how you intend to interact with the online Council Meeting**
Both audio and video

- **Please describe the issue you intend to present:**

I will speak in support of the motion regarding the GTA West Corridor.

Please note that I realize I missed the deadline to submit my request to delegate. I have confirmed that a Councillor will bring forward a motion requesting I be permitted to delegate.

- **Please describe specific actions you want Council to take:**

I provided a written submission/delegation to Council in advance of the May 31st Council meeting. I have uploaded that here. My earlier submission included an attachment (a copy of a letter dated March 19, 2012 to the GTA West Corridor Environmental Assessment Study Team). This request to delegate form allows one document to be uploaded and so I was not able to upload the letter. However, members of Council should already have a copy of both documents. I will not be referring to either in great detail on June 7th. I ask that Council review my earlier submission.

Rather than focus on the content of my earlier submission, I will ask some members of Council to clarify and/or provide the sources/data to support some of the claims made at the May 31st Council meeting, e.g. the methodology used by and the name of the firm that conducted the poll commissioned by LiUNA (Laborers' International Union of North America) which represents construction laborers, including those who build roads, bridges, tunnels, etc.

I will ask that Council vote in favour of the motion regarding the GTA West Project [Highway 413] moved by Councillor which Di Lorenzo and seconded by Colin Best.

The Mayor asked for information as to Council's position in the past re the GTA West Project. I am requesting that whatever information is provided to Council in advance of the June 7th meeting also be provided to me and other delegates (those who have or will provide written submissions and those who will delegate in person).

- **Staff Report Number (if known)**

n/a

- **Please provide your comments in support of or in opposition to the staff recommendation:**

n/a

- **Optional: Upload the written submission that you wish to share with Council (single document, maximum 15 MB)**
 1. [Written Submission to Town Council re 413 Motion.pdf \[694.6 KB\]](#)
- **Do you give your permission to be audio and video recorded on the Town of Milton's live Council meeting stream?**

Yes I give my permission

[This is an automated email notification -- please do not respond]



esolutionsNoReply -External Contact

, ON,

www.milton.ca

Wendy Roberts

May 28, 2021

Mayor Krantz and Members Council
Town of Milton
150 Mary Street
Milton ON
L9T 6Z5

Sent by email to Town Clerk at brett.stein@milton.ca.

Re: Request that Council vote in favour of the "Notice of Motion", Consideration Date May 31, 2021 (Item #4 under Items for Consideration on the May 31, 2021 Council Agenda)

Dear Mayor Krantz and Members of Council:

Please accept this letter as my written submission/delegation in support of the "Notice of Motion", Consideration Date May 31, 2021 that requests that Town Council support the Regional Municipality of Halton's resolution reaffirming its opposition to the GTA West Transportation Corridor.

I wish to thank Councillors Di Lorenzo and Best for the "Notice of Motion" and I am requesting that members of Council vote in favour of all three parts. I also wish to thank Mayor Krantz and Regional Councillors Best, Cluett, Hamid, and Malboeuf for voting in favour of a similar motion brought before Regional Council in March, 2021. It is my understanding the vote at Regional Council on that motion was unanimous.

I have been a resident of Milton for 40 years. I care deeply about my community and do what I can to give back. I am the Vice Chair of the Board of Milton Transitional Housing, a founding member and Board member of Sustainable Milton, a member of the Board of the Italian Cultural Centre of Milton (the sustainability lead), and a member of the Canadian Federation of University Women. I have served as a provincial appointee on

the Halton Regional Police Services Board and held the positions of Vice Chair and Chair of the Board. I was on the Board of Halton Women's Place for six years. I retired from the Ontario Public Service in 2019 after 20 years of service, most of which was spent as a manager of a court-based program that provided services to victims and witnesses of violent crime. I hold a Master's degree in Social Welfare Policy from McMaster University.

Although I am writing to you as a resident of Milton and not on behalf of any group or organization, I can confirm that **Sustainable Milton** endorses the "Notice of Motion" and my written submission/delegation. I have copied Ms. Marsha Smith, the Chair of Sustainable Milton, on this submission. Ms. Smith may be reached at chair@sustainablemilton.ca should any member of Council wish to discuss this submission and Sustainable Milton's position with Ms. Smith.

Some background - As some of you may recall, in 2010 a number of residents formed the Milton Heights Residents' Group in response to the then proposed development in Milton Heights. In February 2012, six representatives of that group, myself included, met with the GTA West Corridor Environmental Assessment Study Team [Team] to share our concerns and recommendations regarding what was referred to as the "4-3 option" of the proposed GTA West Corridor.

As illustrated in our letter to the Team as a follow-up to that meeting (please see attached), many of our concerns related to the impact of the proposed highway on natural habitat, the Niagara Escarpment, the watershed and local wells. We asked the Team to emphasize the importance of ensuring a thorough and up-to-date environmental assessment, with extensive community consultation throughout. In 2016, the provincial government of the day abandoned the project and our group had no further involvement.

I opposed the GTA West Corridor/Highway 413 project in 2012 primarily because of the destruction it would cause to prime agricultural land, environmentally sensitive lands and natural habitat. I oppose the highway even more strenuously today. The concerns I had in 2012 remain, but are now compounded by what we know about the impacts of greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants on the environment and human health – especially for those living near highways – and in the context of sprawl, GHG emissions and the climate change emergency.

I concur with, and have reiterated below, the points made in the "Notice of Motion" presented to, and passed unanimously by, Halton's Regional Council. I don't know if all

members of Town Council have seen the “Notice of Motion” approved unanimously by Regional Council. It notes:

- All four municipalities in Halton and the Region of Halton have declared a Climate Change Emergency;
- The GTA West project will lead to more urban sprawl resulting in more GHG emissions;
- Responding to the climate emergency requires immediate re-evaluation of all transportation plans to ensure that those investments help to reduce GHG emissions;
- The COVID-19 pandemic has fundamentally altered the way we work, and the full impact on the long-term travel and mobility choices of people and goods is not yet fully understood and is likely to reduce the need for this highway;
- We encourage that we work and live in our own communities where possible to help reduce GHG emissions;
- 2,000 acres of farmland and 400 acres of environmentally sensitive land will be destroyed if this highway is constructed;
- A significant portion of land required for the GTA West project in Halton is prime agricultural land with outstanding soils that will be lost forever;
- The COVID-19 pandemic and other impacts related to climate change represent a threat to food security, where the protection of agricultural land must be a priority to enable food production for the long-term health, sustenance and resiliency of the population;
- The GTA’s Agricultural System is critically important to ensure an economically viable agricultural industry and rural landscape over the long-term;
- The focus of provincial; spending should shift away from individual travel and should be invested in more sustainable modes such as mass transit; and
- The 407 is underutilized and the Province could prioritize improving the use of existing infrastructure rather than investing in the GTA West project.

I also concur with the points raised in the “Notice of Motion” before ***Town Council***, including:

- A new highway will encourage more driving that will rapidly fill to capacity;
- The focus of provincial spending should shift priorities away from incentivizing individual travel and invest more in public transportation such as transit and high speed rail; and

- COVID-19 has started a shift in working habits and normalized remote work and in some industries a reduced demand in individual transportation.

GTA West project and the federal *Impact Assessment Act*

The “Notice of Motion” presented to and passed unanimously by Regional Council notes that, on behalf of Environmental Defence, Ecojustice made a request to designate the GTA West project for a federal Impact Assessment. It further notes that, on March 3, 2021, Halton Region submitted a letter in support of that request and identified that the Ontario Ministry of Transportation is not addressing the interests and issues of importance to our municipality.

Subsequent to Regional Council’s resolution and as indicated in the “Notice of Motion” before Town Council, on May 3, 2021, the federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change announced that the GTA West project will be designated under the federal *Impact Assessment Act*.

In April 2021, subsequent to Regional Council’s resolution, Environmental Defence released its report, “*Paving Paradise: The Impact of Highway 413 on greenhouse gas emissions, air pollution & suburban sprawl*”. That report is at https://d36rd3gki5z3d3.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Highway-413-Paving-Paradise-Report_Environmental-Defence.pdf

Environmental Defense commissioned Eunomia Research and Consulting to perform an assessment of the carbon emission and air pollution impacts of the proposed GTA West Highway.

The report concludes “... the vehicles using Highway 413 will add up to 700,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions annually by 2050 if today’s vehicle mix remains unchanged. This would mean a cumulative total of 17.4 million tonnes of emissions by 2050, the same year the federal government has pledged to reach net-zero emissions ...”

Further, according to that same report, the GTA West project will increase suburban sprawl along the highway route and will cause billions of dollars in damages from increased air pollution in nearby communities.

Other adverse impacts of the project include those referred to in the resolution passed unanimously by the Region of Halton in March 2021, including the destruction of prime agricultural farmland and environmentally sensitive lands.

Consistent with the points raised in the Notices of Motion referred to above, the Environmental Defence report notes that the province ought to increase investment in public transit and improve the use of existing infrastructure rather than investing in the GTA West project.

In conclusion, I am requesting that members of Council vote in favour of the Notice of Motion regarding the GTA West Project.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions. You can reach me at at

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Wendy Roberts

cc. Marsha Smith, Chair, Sustainable Milton

Attachment – Letter to the GTA West Corridor Environmental Assessment Study Team, etc., dated March 19, 2012