

MEMBERS' RESOLUTION
REGARDING 407 TRANSITWAY ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT REPORT

WHEREAS, the old residential Concord West community has slowly over the decades been flanked on all sides by highways (#7, #407), a traffic-laden Keele Street and a GO rail line; and

WHEREAS, the only green space traditionally available to the community is the land adjoining the Concord West community immediately to the east, land that is presently owned by the Ontario Realty Corporation and denoted by Land Registry Pin Number 032320650; and

WHEREAS, the access to this green space is presently unsafe and technically blocked off to the residents of Concord West and Glen Shields; and

WHEREAS, this same greenspace is a critical part of the already narrow junction between the Marita Payne Park Trail and the Bartley Smith Greenway, and an integral part of the Upper Don River, as well as home to protected species, such as the Blanding's turtle; and

WHEREAS, this same greenspace has been the subject of a petition made by the Concord West community and members of the Glen Shields and Brownridge communities, that asked the Ontario Minister of Infrastructure to transfer title of this land to the Toronto Region Conservation Authority (TRCA); and

WHEREAS, the Toronto Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) has, on July 7, 2010, expressed support for this request and stated that the land in question falls within its Master Plan for acquisitions along the Don River; and

WHEREAS, the Ministry of Transportation has completed the Environmental Project Report for the 407 Transitway; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Project Report recommends that the proposed GO Barrie (Concord) Station and associated intermodal transitway hub be located on a parcel of land encompassed by the GO Transit Railway line to the west, Highway #7 to the north, Highway #407 to the south and the Don River Valley corridor to the east; and

WHEREAS, on August 24, 2010, a General Assembly of the Concord West community (1) unanimously rejected the plan for the intermodal Concord GO/Transitway hub proposed by the Ontario Ministry of Transportation, and (2) unanimously approved an Alternative Plan for the same intermodal GO/Metrolinx and Viva hub, that places the core of these infrastructures on the north side of Highway #7; and

WHEREAS, under the City of Vaughan's new Official Plan of September 10, 2010, which was approved without taking into account the grievances and concerns of the Concord West community or their proposed Alternative Plan, the lands encompassing the intermodal station site are designated as a local centre and community areas on the City's Urban Structure Plan and further designated mid-rise, mixed use on the Land Use Plan; and

WHEREAS, the lands encompassing the proposed intermodal station site, as well as the lands known as the Concord Floral lands that lie immediately to the north of Highway #7 and to the east of Bowes Road, are all subject to the preparation of a future Secondary Plan; and

WHEREAS, Councillor Racco submitted a Letter of Submission regarding the 407 Transitway Environmental Project Report within the prescribed timeframe; and

WHEREAS, Regional Councillor Schulte submitted a Letter of Submission regarding the 407 Transitway Environmental Project Report within the prescribed timeframe; and

WHEREAS, the Concord West Residents Ad Hoc Committee, the Concord West Seniors Club and the Concord West Ratepayers Association representing the residents in the Concord West area (1) prepared and submitted on December 10, 2010, a correct analysis of the Alternative Plan for the intermodal hub proposed by the Concord West community, and (2) submitted in a Letter of Objection detailing a number of objections regarding the 407 Transitway Environmental Project Report within the prescribed timeframe; and

WHEREAS, the Region of York's Planning & Development Services Department submitted a Letter of Submission regarding the 407 Transitway Environmental Project Report within the prescribed timeframe; and

Be it therefore resolved that the City of Vaughan hereby requests the Province of Ontario to (1) relocate the proposed GO Barrie (Concord) Station, along with the parking component, on the north side of Highway #7; and (2) relocate the associated 407 Transitway station to a site adjacent to the intersection of Highway #7 and Centre Street; and (3) further relocate the route segment of the 407 Transitway lying between Keele Street and Centre Street to run parallel and adjacent to, or over, Highway #407, so that the natural green space adjacent on the west side to the Bartley Smith Greenway/Langstaff Ecopark and on the east side to the Concord West community be preserved; and

That the Province of Ontario be requested to transfer the said green space on the south side of Highway #7 to the Toronto Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) for the enhancement of the Natural Heritage System by increasing green space adjacent to important valley land corridors (Don River/Bartley Smith Greenway) and for the purpose of addressing the Concord West residents' request to preserve the said green space and provide

safe passage and access to the green space for the Concord West and Glen Shields communities; and

That the Province of Ontario be requested, through the Ministry of Transportation, to work with the staff of the City of Vaughan and the Region of York, together with the Concord West residents, during the future Secondary Plan process to address all the issues that have been raised and to amend the Environmental Project Report as necessary; and

That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Premier's Office, the Minister of Transportation, the Minister of Environment, Minister of Infrastructure, the Minister of Natural Resources, the 407 Transitway Project Manager, the Region of York, Metrolinx/GO, the Ontario Realty Corporation, the Toronto Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), the Town of Richmond Hill and the Town of Markham.

Attachments

1. The December 10, 2010, letter to 407 Transitway Project Manager regarding the Concord West residents' proposal for the 407 GO Concord/Transitway station, by the Concord West Residents Ad Hoc Committee, the Concord West Seniors Club and the Concord West Ratepayers Association.
2. Letter of Submission by Councillor Racco.
3. Letter of Submission by Regional Councillor Schulte.
4. Letter of Submission by the Concord West Residents Ad Hoc Committee, the Concord West Seniors Club and the Concord West Ratepayers Association.
5. Letter of Submission by the Region of York.