

**From: Deb Schulte**

**To: Participants of the mail campaign in support of the Concord West community**

Thank you very much for your e-mail request. I am not sure you are aware that Council did bring forth a motion at Committee to ask the Province to reconsider the 407 Transitway EA and to allow us to continue to work with them on finding a better solution for the 407 Transitway station near Concord West, and if we can find a better compromise, that the land be transferred to the TRCA to enhance the Bartley Smith Greenway and Don River ecological function. I also got the Region to include a request to the Ministry, in their written comments to the EA, to continue to work with us and to preserve all options.

The Minister is considering our request and we are hopeful that we can continue to work with everyone involved to promote a more respectful solution, taking into account all the needs for this area.

To address your requests directly:

1) We are being asked to request this land be transferred to the TRCA to hopefully protect it from the identified infrastructure. If the Ministry wants to put the infrastructure on those lands, putting it in the hands of the TRCA will not protect it. There is also no way the ORC will transfer those lands to the TRCA for free and the TRCA is not in a position to buy them. The only way we can get it protected is to prove its environmental significance through evaluation in the spring. Despite the claims being made, it is essential that we have valid data to back up the claims and we need the time to do that.

2) Currently the Ministry, through the EA, has identified this land as the prime site for their transitway station, the GO station, bus transfer and the associated parking lot. The Concord West residents have put forth a proposal to move it all north to the Concord Floral lands. Unfortunately this solution, while protecting the greenspace, does not provide an optimal solution for connecting the GO station to the Transitway station. I believe we can come up with a more respectful solution once Vaughan's intensification plan for the area is developed through the Secondary Plan. We also need to take into account that we may need to bring the GO station on-line before the transitway, and that will be difficult to do with the current configuration. We need to continue to work with the Ministry to develop a more flexible solution and one respecting the residents, environment and the future plans of the City.

3) I totally support working on a solution ASAP to get safe passage across the railway tracks to enable access to the greenspace for the Concord West residents.

I believe the motion put forward at Committee has the best chance of keeping the dialogue open with the Ministry, and ultimately providing the best chance for a workable solution and saving the greenspace.

Best Regards!

P.S. I have copied Sandra Racco on the e-mail, as I believe she may have been inadvertently left off.

Deb Schulte  
Local & Regional Councillor  
City of Vaughan