

From: Sandra Racco

Sent: Tuesday, January 20, 2011 11:15:28 -0500

To: Minister John Wilkinson, MOE

Cc: Premier Dalton McGuinty, Minister Kathryn Wynne (MTO); Greg Sorbara (MPP); Michael Chan (MPP); Mayor Maurizio Bevilacqua; Vaughan Regional Councillors; Bill Fisch (York Region Chairman and CEO); Clayton Harris (Deputy City Manager, Vaughan); Bill Robinson (Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works, Vaughan); John Zipay (Commissioner of Planning, Vaughan); Andrew Pearce (Director, Development/Transportation Engineering, Vaughan); Rob Bayley (Vaughan); Cindy Furfaro (Council Executive Assistant)

Subject: Re: 407 Transitway Environmental Project Report

Dear Mr. Wilkinson,

Let me start by wishing you a Happy New Year and the very best in 2011!!!

I am writing to you today, as I wrote to Minister Wynne 2 days ago (see attached), on a very sensitive issue that will impact the constituents, as well as the City of Vaughan as a whole. I have been advised that in fact, it is the Ministry of Environment that would be able to grant us our request and thus, my letter to you.

As you are well aware, your Ministry, in partnership with the MTO, have undertaken the Environmental Assessment on the 407 Transitway, between Hwy. 400 and across to Kennedy Road.

While I believe this is a very important project and it will certainly help fight the ongoing traffic congestion that we all experiencing on a daily basis here in Vaughan and across the Region of York, however I believe public input is extremely important.

The Final Environmental Project Report was received by our staff on the 23rd of December, 2 days before Christmas and frankly, right in the middle of most people's holiday. I have just recently learned that the due date for any public input, including our comments must be submitted by January 24, 2011

Unfortunately, due to holiday schedule and already scheduled meetings, staff have not had the opportunity to present this final report to council members and we have not been afforded the time to discuss this very important project amongst ourselves and with the affected community. The first opportunity for us to review this matter is not until Monday, January 31st, with a recommendation coming forth on February 15th for ratification. These dates unfortunately will be too late for us.

As a politician, I believe you understand the importance of public input and public consultation and to show true transparency, I believe it is only fair to extend the deadline so that we can have a fulsome discussion and be afforded the opportunity to provide you with our Council's comments.

Please give serious thoughts and consideration to our request. I await a favourable response from you.

Yours truly,

Sandra Yeung Racco

Councillor, Concord/North Thornhill

City of Vaughan

"For the Community"

"Don't be distracted by criticism.

Remember that the only taste of success some people have is when they take a bite out of you"