

**York Region Council**  
**9:30 a.m , Thursday, March 24, 2011**

**Item 11**

**Re: Report No. 3 of the Planning and Economic Development Committee**

**Deputation by Dr. Paulo Correa**

Dr. Correa required a 2/3 majority vote of support from Council in order to present his deputation. Deb Schulte put the motion forward. It was seconded by Councilor Jones. The vote carried.

**Regional Chair B. Fisch:** Members of Council, this is a new policy. There's no correspondence at all [in the agenda]. The correspondence is not allowed to be on the agenda. That's the purpose of the policy. If someone is deputed at a Committee meeting, and then wishes to depute again, the clerk does not even have the authority to put the request on the Council agenda. It must be moved and seconded by a member of Council, and put forward by a member of Council and a 2/3rds majority must approve the request. And that 2/3rds majority has approved the request. Dr. Correa, if you would come forward please. Thank you very much for coming, sir. I know you had a couple of emails back and forth over the last couple of days, and I know that it was a tough situation to get into – but I do want to use our policy and use it as often as we possibly can to make it work for us as well as for our constituents. I'm going to give you 5 minutes, if you wouldn't mind, and it is Item 11 of our Planning Committee Report and it relates to – well, go ahead Sir.

**Dr. Paulo Correa:** Thank you very much Mr. Chair. Good morning Council members. My name is Dr. Paulo Correa and I'm here representing my community, which is the Concord West community, and its three civic organizations. I would like first to make a statement and then a recommendation, and I will try to be as short as possible, considering that you gave me this 5 minutes, after I had made my deputation in Committee. The discussion, as I see it, in York Council, on February 17th was not particularly enlightening. The interests of Markham and Vaughan were convergent, but that did not come out. That's at least the perception that I have and that my community has. The decision to refer the problems of Markham and Vaughan to the Economic Development Committee ended up by being, in my view unproductive, since the Minister of Environment just steamrolled ahead and approved the EPR, in complete disregard of the serious objections expressed by Markham, Vaughan and the Concord West Community. It is no longer, in my view, a question of not 'endorsing' the EPR and only 'supporting' it. York Planning went ahead and supported it, but the political decision and the direction given to Planning belongs to this Council, and it should be based on the defense of York's best interests. The present resolution, as it stands under the recommendations, is weak, in my view, and does not accommodate the desires of either Markham or Vaughan Councils to obtain a delay or a moratorium, say, for 1 year on the EPR approval, until the fundamental issues before this Council and the MTO can be resolved. The 30-day request that was being discussed previously in the Committee, is now a moot point, since the Minister has already approved the EPR, contrary to everybody's expectations. Changes in the alignment and hub implantation sites are *not* decisions that can be relegated to the Secondary Plan. At least, that is my view and the view of our private planner and of our community. They need serious rethinking and they need the engagement of the Province together with the Region, the cities and the affected communities, before

being determined in the form of an already approved EA. Indeed, I want to emphasize, that this 407 Transitway environmental assessment is an EA in name only, since there is no collection of scientific data, no field studies and, under Ontario Regulation 231/08, they are not needed. That's perhaps the reason why everybody was somewhat puzzled about why this had to be passed so fast. There was talk about the rush - a rush to judgment, a rush to decision. I want to emphasize that, if the EPR is permitted to stand as is, it will destroy my community, its natural environment and the ecology of both the greenspace under petition and the Upper West Don River. My community requests that, at the very least, while being supportive of the idea of a comprehensive transportation infrastructure, this Council should send a stronger message to the Province, addressed directly to Premier McGuinty and Cabinet, requesting a 1-year delay or moratorium on the planning of the 407 Transitway, and it should cite specifically the resolutions of Markham and Vaughan. Vaughan passed a resolution on the 15<sup>th</sup> of February that's not even mentioned in the existing, proposed recommendations.

Finally, I want to draw your attention to the fact that our MPP, Peter Shurman, on Tuesday, March 21st, submitted a petition to Queen's Park, signed by 1,229 constituents, which requested the McGuinty government to transfer, to the TRCA, the greenspace that is currently threatened by the now approved emplacement of a Concord-GO intermodal hub. We need your strong views and your strong voice to support our community and Vaughan Council's resolution. Thank you.