

 **TORONTO AND REGION**
Conservation
for The Living City

April 21, 2011

CFN 39454

BY MAIL AND EMAIL (robb.minnes@ontario.ca)

Robb Minnes
Project Manager
Ontario Ministry of Transportation
4th Floor Building D
1201 Wilson Avenue
Downsview, Ontario
M3M 1J8

Dear Mr. Minnes:

**Re: 407 Transitway from Highway 400 to Kennedy Road
Transit Project Assessment Process, Ministry of Transportation
Humber, Don and Rouge River Watersheds, City of Vaughan, Town of Markham**

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) staff met with Dr. Paulo Correa, Chair, Concord West Residents Ad Hoc Committee and Josephine Mastrodicasa, President, Concord West Seniors Club on Monday, April 4, 2011 to discuss their members concerns related to the proposed transportation hub at the Go Barrie (Concord) Station shown in the Ministry of Transportation (MTO), 407 Transitway Environmental Assessment report (Report). The hub is proposed adjacent to the Concord West residents, south of Highway 7 east of Keele Street in the City of Vaughan. Staff understands that the residents are concerned with the proposed transportation hub as it relates to impacts to safe access to the Bartley Smith Greenway and impacts to the natural heritage system.

GO Barrie (Concord) Station Plan

As stated in the Environmental Project Report, dated December 23, 2010, prepared by Delcan/LGL, the GO Barrie (Concord) Station is proposed to serve as a regional intermodal station for passengers transferring between the proposed 407 Transitway, GO Rail line as well as bus services run by GO Transit and YRT/VIVA. The main function of the GO Barrie (Concord) Station, is proposed to be to provide park-and-ride and passenger pick up and drop off (PPUDO) facilities for commuters from the surrounding, residential communities located to the north and west of the station site in addition to local walk in access. The GO Barrie (Concord) Station's surface facilities are to include: a parking area (including carpool spaces), PPUDO and bus loop for local buses. The station facility was designed to accommodate a central entrance type platform serviced from the main entrance/vertical access from the inter-modal station. The MTO has confirmed that at detailed design stage, the surface facility at this station will be reviewed with the other transit agencies to confirm requirements and preferences.

TRCA Comments

TRCA staff provided comments on the linear facility, the stations and the proposed plan for the GO Barrie (Concord) Station throughout the Environmental Assessment review process. Staff requested that preliminary assessment and discussion of site constraints based on Provincial, municipal and TRCA planning policies be completed at the EA stage to ensure that adequate developable area is available for all station locations. The MTO response stated that several of the proposed station facilities are either part of another project or cannot be confirmed due to other land, transit and stormwater management studies currently being undertaken. The MTO committed to working with TRCA and other agencies to determine appropriate development limits and the opportunity to address habitat and natural heritage protection needs to the extent possible.

Member of Conservation Ontario



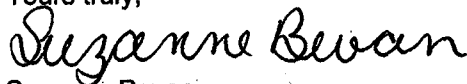
From staff's perspective, the key issues at this site are anticipated to be related to station design rather than construction of the linear facility. As such the defining of the developable portion of the site should be undertaken at the earliest planning stages to ensure that valley and stream corridors are appropriately delineated and protected. Staff notes that refinements to the proposed layout in particular and their associated SWM facilities, may be required pending resolution of development limits, based on existing policies. The MTO again, acknowledged this comment and committed to further discussion. Staff accepted MTO's response and looks forward to working with the proponent on the next phases of the project.

Next Steps

Staff acknowledges the concerns raised by the Concord West residents. Notwithstanding these concerns, TRCA understands that the City of Vaughan will be undertaking a secondary plan study in the area of the GO Barrie (Concord) Station. We further understand that MTO will be working closely with the City during the development of the Concord West Secondary Plan to ensure the City's planning objectives will be integrated with transit planning for this community. TRCA is committed to working with both the City and MTO during this process to ensure our interests with respect to natural heritage and water resources planning are also integrated in the process.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at extension 5759 or by email at sbevan@trca.on.ca.

Yours truly,



Suzanne Bevan
Senior Planner, Environmental Assessment Planning
Planning and Development

cc:

Concord West Residents

Ad Hoc Committee:

Concord West Seniors Club:

LGL:

MOE:

MNR:

TRCA:

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