

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 9, 2014

Item 51, Report No. 41, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on December 9, 2014.

51 CP RAIL BRIDGE AT REGIONAL ROAD 7 AND ISLINGTON AVENUE

The Committee of the Whole recommends approval of the recommendation contained in the following resolution submitted by Councillor Carella, dated December 2, 2014:

Member's Resolution

Submitted by Councillor Tony Carella.

Whereas, traffic congestion is among the greatest concerns of the citizens of Vaughan, as identified in the recent municipal election campaign; and

Whereas, such congestion along Regional Road 7 (commonly referred to as Highway 7---the main east-west artery in the city) is intensified by the narrowing of the highway where the road passes under the CP Rail bridge west of Islington Avenue, so that the highway narrows from six lanes to four from the western approach to the bridge near Kipling to the eastern approach near Bruce Street; and

Whereas, the return on planned multi-jurisdictional rapid transit investments on Regional Road 7 west and east of this location will be diminished by virtue of the congestion resulting from this current narrowing; and

Whereas, CP Rail has historically been averse to considering the widening of their bridge at this location; and

Whereas, any plan to widen the roadway will require the leadership and capital investment from the Region of York, as owner of the roadway and operator of the planned rapid transit system, and the involvement of the City of Vaughan, as the owner of a nearby roadway (McKenzie Street) that may be impacted by the widenings of the bridge and the regional roadway; and

Whereas, CP Rail being an interprovincial railway, is regulated by the Government of Canada;

Whereas, a formal petition will be filed with the Government of Canada seeking government action to widen the bridge.

It is therefore recommended:

- 1. *That*** appropriate staff be directed to compose an on-line petition (the "Campaign") to support the filing of a formal petition with the Government of Canada seeking government action to widen the CP Rail bridge over Regional Road 7 west of Islington Avenue;
- 2. *That*** the Campaign request both the Government of Canada and CP Rail, to widen the railway bridge, in cooperation with the Region of York and the City of Vaughan, for the purpose of improving the flow of transit and vehicular traffic along the portion of Regional Road 7; and
- 3. *That*** appropriate staff devise and execute, using normal operational funds, a plan for communicating the Campaign, its purpose, and the method of accessing and supporting it to the citizens of Vaughan and users of the roadway; and
- 4. *That*** this Campaign be launched online within 30 days of the approval of this recommendation by Council, so that the petition can be presented to the Government of Canada in advance of the upcoming federal general election, with the intention of securing the attention of the federal government to this matter.