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DATE: May 20, 2009

REPORT TITLE: **REVIEW OF CITIZEN CONCERNS - HIGHWAY 410 DESIGN**

FROM: Dan Labrecque, Commissioner of Environment, Transportation  
and Planning Services

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## OBJECTIVE

To provide Regional Council with staff feedback with respect to concerns raised by the Valleywood Residents Association in regards to the design of Phase III of Highway 410.

### REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- There are no grounds for Regional Council to request the Ministry of the Environment to revoke Environmental Assessment approvals on Phase III of the Highway 410 extension.
- Regional Council has input, through site plan approval process, to mitigate any impacts on the Valleywood community of future development proposals.

## DISCUSSION

### 1. Background

At the General Committee meeting held on April 16, 2009, Regional Council received a delegation from the Valleywood Residents Association (VRA). The delegation raised a number of concerns with respect to the Ministry of Transportation's (MTO) environmental assessment process and design. The delegation's request to Regional Council was to seek support in halting the Phase III construction and the subsequent realignment of the Highway 410 infrastructure, so that the connection to Highway 10 would be north of the settlement area, which incorporates the Valleywood community.

### 2. Findings

The Highway 410 construction process and its relationship with the Valleywood community has been both extensive and complex. As noted above, the VRA's objective has been to suspend the current Phase III construction process and achieve a new alignment for the highway, which bypasses the community.

As part of the deputation process, it was inferred that Regional Council was party to matters relating to design and safety. It is with this context that the request has been made for Council to re-consider its support for this project. However, Regional Council does not have approval authority over any of the technical aspects of this project. Council's involvement to date has been as a party to a fiscal agreement, which required the Region of Peel and the

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City of Brampton to provide some financial support to this project, in order to attain an earlier construction of the infrastructure than otherwise would have been achieved without said financial support. The Region has also been engaged as one of many community stakeholders that were consulted through the project's Environmental Assessment process.

The Region has supported the completion of this critical highway infrastructure project throughout the process, with the only noted concerns being with respect of timing delays in the delivery of the project, and resulting cost impacts. The delegation's concerns, about MTO's process, have been reviewed with both internal and MTO staff and we conclude that there is no basis for Regional Council to take the drastic steps being recommended by the VRA. The Region of Peel should continue to support the completion of this critical infrastructure component of our broader transportation plan.

The delegation also identified a number of concerns about how future development might impact the Valleywood community and its connection to Highway 410. Through the development approval process all applications are subject to intensive reviews by various agencies, including the Region of Peel, the City of Brampton, the Town of Caledon and the MTO. This will ensure that we will have sufficient community oversight to ensure that any future proposals will have minimal impact on both the highway infrastructure and the overall community.



Dan Labrecque  
Commissioner of Environment, Transportation  
and Planning Services

**Approved for Submission:**

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D. Szwarc, Chief Administrative Officer

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