

Motion regarding GTA West Corridor (Highway 413)  
(ADM-07-22)



April 18, 2022

Burlington City Council  
Committee Services  
426 Brant Street, PO Box 5013  
Burlington, ON L7R 3Z6

*Sent electronically*

**RE: 15.3: Motion regarding GTA West Corridor (Highway 413) (ADM-07-22)**

The Residential and Civil Construction Alliance of Ontario (RCCAO) would like to take this opportunity and comment on the proposed motion before Burlington City Council regarding the GTA West Corridor (Highway 413).

RCCAO is a unique organization that represents both labour and management stakeholders from the residential and civil construction sectors of Ontario. Our primary focus is the importance of investing in core public works and critical infrastructure assets such as transit and water systems, roads, bridges and housing. Our members, both labour and management, help build and maintain most of Ontario's critical infrastructure that all of us rely on.

We are deeply concerned by the motion proposed today to not support Highway 413. This is not a pragmatic approach for the future of Burlington, its residents and the City's long-term economic competitiveness.

The GTA is among the fastest growing regions in North America and expects to welcome an additional 2.8 million people over the next 25 years, with 58% of that population growth destined for Peel, York and Halton regions. Over 1.1 million people are expected to move into Burlington, Milton, Oakville and Halton Hills between 2031 and 2051.

This growth will increase demand for critical infrastructure on everything from water, housing, transit systems, highways and roads. That is why Highway 413 must proceed and create transportation infrastructure for Burlington and Ontario's future. Highway 413 is of vital importance in terms of reducing congestion, fostering economic recovery and long-term competitiveness, improving connectivity, supporting housing initiatives, and facilitating job creation.

Highway 413 is infrastructure for the future. It not only being proposed with consideration for future population growth, but also with innovative elements such as AV and EV technologies as well as incorporating public transit into its design. The highway is being proposed with a transitway that will run alongside it and be dedicated exclusively for public transit, such as buses and light rail. This sort of mix of transit and transportation infrastructure in one project is commendable and forward-thinking.

Our highways and transit must work together. It is not an either, or scenario. Given the geographical nature of Ontario and the region, we will always need roads for vehicles – whether they be gas-powered or electric. Studies that Ministry of Transportation has conducted in the

region as part of the Federal Impact assessment process found that majority of people, or 75 percent, choose to commute in their personal vehicle even those that had access to public transit.

As Canada pledges to transition to all new cars and light-duty trucks being zero emission by 2035, this will add a new perspective to the role that highways and roads will play. They will become important facilitators and enablers of environmental stewardship, which is reflected in the planning of Highway 413 as it is being designed with significant EV-related infrastructure in place and considerations for AV technology.

There will always be a need for highways and roads to facilitate the movement of people and goods in the region. Significant public opinion research, which was undertaken by RCCAO in 2021 to assess the level of support for Highway 413 in the GTA and Ontario at-large, found 3 to 1 support in favour of the corridor in the 905 area of the region. The research was conducted using two separate companies – Campaign Research and Mainstreet Research, with both finding near identical results.

Roads and highways are also essential infrastructure for the movement of goods across Ontario, which is the backbone for local and regional economies. Demand for goods has reached historic levels, especially during the pandemic, and that demand is only projected to increase as both as e-commerce takes firm hold and as the population of the region continues to grow. Building and maintaining road infrastructure increases business productivity by reducing time and cost of transporting goods and allowing products to move efficiently through the supply chain.

The construction of transportation infrastructure also brings significant economic opportunities. A recently commissioned [RCCAO jobs and economic impact report](#) found that building Highway 413 will create up to 8,000 jobs a year during construction, generate \$2.3 billion in earnings for Ontario workers, create up to 600 apprenticeship, and produce \$906 million in tax revenue.

Thus, we urge City Council not to adopt this motion, but rather consider the benefits of critical infrastructure like Highway 413 and the opportunities it would provide now and in the long-term.

Thank you,



Nadia Todorova  
Executive Director