



SIERRA CLUB ONTARIO

November 23, 2013

To: The Vaughan Committee of the Whole, 26 November 2013, 7pm, Item #2, File 26.3

Sierra Club Ontario has supported and continues to support the initiative of the Concord West Ratepayers Association to ensure that the proposed Metrolinx transportation hub has an appropriate environmental footprint. It is our shared opinion that opportunities exist to locate this transportation infrastructure within Vaughan in a location *north of Highway #7* that does not destroy natural areas and ensures that this project does not compromise Don River headwater lands.

The needed expansion of Southern Ontario's transportation network and the infrastructure necessary to support this is supported by Sierra Club. It has been clearly established that this environmentally beneficial project can co-exist with Vaughan's natural areas. The Vaughan Official Plan can and must meet these twin goals. Concord West residents have worked for years to achieve the win-win result that is clearly achievable and should be approved by Vaughan and by the Government of Ontario.

The Greenbelt stands as evidence of Ontario's commitment to protecting green space and natural areas. One year ago the Ontario Government announced the Urban River Valley designation as a new tool for extending protection to these key ecosystems. Surely the Don headwaters merit protection. Ontario and Vaughan can have both the environmental benefits of expanded public transportation and those derived through preserving natural areas. Sierra Club strongly urges the City of Vaughan to lead the way in supporting expanded green transportation that protects our green and natural areas.

Sincerely,

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