



**Sylvia Jones, MPP**  
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November 21st, 2016

Chair Emmerson and Members of Council  
Regional Municipality of York  
17250 Yonge Street  
P.O. Box 147  
Newmarket, ON L3Y 6Z1

Dear Chair and Members of Council,

As you are no doubt aware, last fall the Minister of Transportation suspended work on the environmental assessment of the GTA West Corridor. After taking this unprecedented move the Minister announced in June that a panel would be struck to look into alternatives and to assess whether the proposed highway, "still aligns with recent changes in government policy and emerging technologies."

Since the announcement of the panel in June, I have been calling on the Minister to make the process transparent to the public. That is why in June I wrote to the Minister asking for more details on the panel, the timeline to a decision and whether there would be an opportunity for public consultation. After initially refusing to disclose, the Minister has finally decided to make the names of the panel public and announce his intention to allow public consultation.

Please find attached my June letter to the Minister and my recent statement in the legislature about the impact the delay has caused for landowners. If you and your council have submitted letters or resolutions regarding the government's plan, I would be interested in receiving a copy so I can follow-up with the Minister.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Sylvia Jones".

Sylvia Jones, MPP  
Dufferin-Caledon

cc: Gila Martow, MPP Thornhill  
Julia Munro, MPP York-Simcoe



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June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Hon. Steven Del Duca  
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Dear Minister Del Duca,

As you know, your "spring update" for the Greater Toronto Areas West Highway Corridor (GTA West) was provided right before the deadline of June 20<sup>th</sup>. My constituents and I have been waiting for this update because first, we have a serious and intense interest in knowing the future of the project and because the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) has frozen the land around the proposed corridor. Affected landowners and Ontarians deserve to know the status of the project, but unfortunately, the Ministry's update is insufficient.

While the Ministry is forced to change its policies to deal with its own Government policies, constituents of Dufferin-Caledon continue to be left in the dark about the future of this project. Indeed, residents of Dufferin-Caledon deserve to know if and when the government plans on going forward with the GTA West Corridor, or what the alternatives will be. Indeed, the statement, "... the Panel is expected to provide its advice, and we will provide an update as soon as it's available," is not sufficient. Furthermore, while the Ministry is looking into "alternatives" constituents of Dufferin-Caledon do not know the future character of their land and communities. In fact, because of the recent update, one is left wondering what the plan for transportation in the GTA West area will be in general, let alone the initially proposed freeway.

Therefore, I am asking you to: provide more details on the Panel which has been struck, including its members, its mandate and its schedule; delineate whether there will be opportunity for public consultation and lastly provide a timeline as to when you will make your decision so that landowners can plan their land use. This is a fundamental decision which will affect millions of Ontarians. Therefore they deserve an open and transparent government vis-à-vis the decision making process. Ultimately, Ontarians deserve a decision, not government policy in limbo. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Sylvia Jones, MPP  
Dufferin-Caledon





*Ontario*

## Statement in the Ontario Legislative Assembly

### GTA WEST CORRIDOR

**16 November 2016 Ms. Sylvia Jones:** I want to share concerns about the ongoing delays in the review of the GTA West Corridor which impacts residents in my riding of Dufferin–Caledon and across the GTA.

Rather than moving the project towards a decision and giving affected residents more information on the future of their community, the minister has decided to strike a panel to discuss alternatives.

This is after taking the unprecedented move of suspending work on an environmental assessment of the proposed highway.

I want to share a letter from a constituent of mine that they have sent to the GTA West Corridor panel. They write:

“We are writing you as an agricultural family that is currently the largest feedlot operation in the region of Peel.

“It is very disappointing to note that the terms of reference noted on your Web page makes no reference to impact on the agricultural and your task force doesn’t appear to have any representation from the agricultural industry.

“The long process to decide hinders our expansion plans, prohibits investment decisions causing us to make short-term more expensive investment decisions and prevents intergenerational planning.

“The ministry by failing to make a decision in a timely manner is negatively impacting agricultural operations in the area, an industry we thought the Liberal government wanted to see grow.”

Speaker, landowners have had their land frozen with no indication of the future of their land for almost 10 years now. It’s time for the minister to make a decision that will impact millions of Ontarians and residents in my riding.