

January 15, 2008

1965 Bur Oak Ave.  
Markham, On  
L6E 1W4  
905 471 0548  
smceleney@rogers.com

RE: Widening of Bayview Ave.

Dear Mayor Scarpitti and Town of Markham Council:

I am writing in support of the Tuesday, Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup> request on behalf of Regional Councillor Wong, Councillor Shapero and Councillor Burke for York Region and Markham to seek alternatives to widening Bayview Avenue from John St. to Major MacKenzie.

I feel that this is a step in the wrong direction when it comes to making our communities more accessible. I don't think building wider roads is the best solution to easing traffic. We need to get people thinking about how they get to and from places. Specifically, our focus as community planners and leaders should be about not widening roads but getting people to take transit, cycle and share rides whenever possible.

My general thought is that yes, the Region and Markham specifically are growing as per the mandate for our area, but we need to consider other options other than this monumental road widening project through some of Markham's most environmentally sensitive areas.

I appeal to you, Mr. Mayor and all of Council to seek other options in partnership with York's planners at this time. With the huge investment in transit and work/live communities that we are making, I feel this project would not provide the relief from commuter congestion that you desire. It would only serve to encourage more people to drive and use the widened road thereby negating any positive outcomes.

Thank you very much.

Sandra McEleney  
Markham Resident and Member, Conservation Committee