



# JULIE DZEROWICZ

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT *for* DAVENPORT

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## MP Julie Dzerowicz's Response to Letters on Highway 413

Davenport friends and neighbours,

Many of you have written to me over the past few weeks expressing your concerns about the provincial government's proposed Highway 413, which would cause environmental damage, including harm to farmlands, wetlands, forests, and part of the Greenbelt. I am completely opposed to this project and hope the provincial government cancels it immediately. The previous provincial Liberal government cancelled this project in 2018 and concluded that it was not the best way to address transportation needs.

Our federal Environment Minister, the Hon. Jonathan Wilkinson, has received a request to designate the Ontario government's proposed GTA West & Bradford Bypass Projects for application under the federal environmental assessment process, and as required by law, the Minister will be making a decision in the next 90 days. Prior to making a decision, the Minister will assess all available and relevant information that is gathered by the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada -- including information from the proponent, scientific information, and Indigenous knowledge. Members of the public can also submit their comments to the Impact Assessment Agency's Public Registry for the [GTA West](#) and [Bradford Bypass](#) designations.

In addition, I want to add that I am completely opposed to the provincial government's changes to the Conservation Authorities Act (Schedule 6 of the provincial budget), which undermine protections for the Greenbelt. In December, former Toronto mayor David Crombie and other members of the Ontario Greenbelt Council resigned in protest of these changes, and I commend them for doing so. The Highway 413 project is just one potential development that could threaten the Greenbelt.

Our federal Liberal government understands that we need to build transportation infrastructure that keeps people and goods moving in a sustainable way, and helps lower emissions. We have made significant investments in infrastructure, with a focus on green infrastructure and public transit. **Since 2015, we have invested more than \$13B in 1,300 public transit projects across Canada, including more than 240 km of new metro and light rail lines, more than 300 zero-emission buses and more than 500 km of active transportation trails for pedestrians and cyclists.** Through the Investing in Canada Plan, we have already laid out \$28.7B in transit investments over the next decade, and **this year, we announced a further \$14.9B, which includes permanent federal funding for public transit for the first time.** And to keep transit moving during this pandemic, we invested \$2.3B in Ontario transit systems (cost-shared with the province) as part of the Safe Restart Agreement.

Better public transit means lower emissions, better sustainability, and a higher quality of life. That is our focus at the federal level, rather than building more highways.

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Thank you to everyone who has written to me about Highway 413 and the Ontario government's erosion of environmental protections. I hope that the provincial government reverses course on this harmful proposal.

Very best,



Julie Dzerowicz  
Member of Parliament  
Davenport