

Grits spent \$14M on EA before it was halted

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Corridor, also known as Highway 413, would feature a 400-series highway, a transitway, and potential goods movement priority features.

The highway going through north Peel and Halton would run near the current 407 toll highway and connect Highway 400 in the north with Highway 407/Highway 401 in the west.

In December of 2015, the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) announced it had suspended Environmental Assessment (EA) work on the proposal.

Documents obtained through a Freedom of Information request by Jones, the Ontario Progressive Conservative (PC) Party's infrastructure critic, indicate the government had spent \$14 million on the EA before it was halted to reassess the project.

sess the project.

"To suggest that you would get essentially three quarters of the way through an Environmental Assessment and be willing to walk away from \$14 million is just an example of such waste," Jones told the Brampton Guardian in early December.

Former minister Steven Del Duca said the project was undergoing an internal review and later formed an advisory panel to assess potential alternatives to the proposal. At the end of November, the MTO reported the panel's report had been submitted and the government would respond in 60 days.

In her letter to McGarry, Jones noted that 60-day deadline has since passed. She also urged the MTO get back to completing the EA.

"Despite nearly a decade of study and millions

of taxpayer dollars spent, you have failed to provide the promised answer," Jones wrote. "Landowners and municipalities have been unable to plan for years. Frankly, further delay is irresponsible and unacceptable."

When contacted by the Banner, MTO spokesperson Bob Nichols explained the Liberals' recent cabinet shuffle has influenced the timeline. McGarry was sworn in as minister of transportation on Jan. 17.

"At this time, the ministry is working on getting the new minister fully briefed on MTO's various policy files, including the GTA West Corridor," Nichols said in an email. "We are committed to providing an update as soon as possible."

- With files from the
Brampton Guardian and
Vaughan Citizen

30 years for Curl for Kids' Sake

The average sale price of a home in Toronto hit a whopping \$273,698, movie tickets cost \$3.50 and Oakville welcomed Mayor Ann Mulvale. The year was 1988 - a special year for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Halton, which joined forces with the Oakville Curling Club to hold its first fundraising bonspiel.

Thirty years later, the event is still going strong, having raised more than

\$500,000 in support of mentoring programs for hundreds of children.

While BBBSH expects to see many returning guests at the event, it welcomes new faces on the ice at the 30th annual RBC Curl for Kids' Sake event slated for Feb. 24 at the Oakville Curling Club.

Those interested in rock-in' the house are encouraged to register. No curling experience is required.

Teams of four must raise a minimum entry fee of \$500, funds they can raise through pledges and sponsorships. Each team will receive instructions, breakfast sponsored by Dundee Precious Metals, lunch and snacks. Grade prizes, sponsored by Glenn Graydon Wright, will be up for grabs.

To register or for more information, call BBBSH at 905-339-2355 or visit bbbshalton.ca.



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