

# Council strongly against 4-3 option

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liminary route for 4-3 through Halton Hills between Five and 10 Sideroads, stretching from its west border to its east. The 4-2 encompasses a stretch from Steeles Ave. to 10 Sideroad (from Eighth Line to the eastern border). Council is supporting the 4-2 option as it is in sync with a Halton-Peel transportation study.

But four consultants hired to peer review the Provincial study called it flawed, making some of these key findings:

- By utilizing urban standards, rather than rural, with wide ditches, it may be possible to construct a 12-lane Hwy. 401 through Milton, making the 4-3 option redundant. (The GTA-West study said 10 was the max.)

- Alternative ramp designs could be done at 401/407 easing the need for industrial/commercial lands in the Town's tax assessment-rich 401 Corridor, west of Ninth Line

- The GTA-West study looks only to address needs to 2031

- The study fails to consider how the GTA-West and Niagara to GTA studies mesh

- The alternatives weren't compared objectively

- The study fails to meet the Environmental Assessment Act requirements because it does not adequately "provide for the protection, conservation and wise management of Ontario's environment."

For example, compared to 4-2, 4-3 affects 50 per cent more watercourses with aquatic species at risk, removes an additional three kilometres of woodlot, potentially affects two additional species at risk, and consumes an additional 119 hectares of prime agricultural land.

Council is also concerned the 4-3 highway would bisect the Town, creating a de facto new southern border, destroying the rural buffer the town has striven for between Brampton, Milton and Mississauga.

Wards 1&2 Regional Councillor Clark Somerville said it would likely mean the demise of all farming operations in south Halton Hills.

It could also signal the start of Halton Hills being paved over completely (by roads, houses and businesses), suggested Ward 4 Councillor Bob Inglis.

While about 250 concerned people turned out to a recent resident-hosted public meet-

ing on the proposal, Mayor Rick Bonnette said residents in all corners of the town should be worried about the 4-3 highway.

Consultant Gord Feniak confirmed that MTO could look at land beyond the Five to 10 Sideroads delineation for their highway if it's easier to avoid environmental or commercial obstacles.

"People have got to get involved," Bonnette said. "This is more than just the landowners south of Georgetown ... this is going to affect our future growth and flies in the face of Sustainable Halton."

Ward 3 Councillor Moya Johnson agreed. The people of Georgetown South bought their homes in good faith that the urban boundary was set at 10 Sideroad, she said, "and potentially now they're less than a kilometre from a 12-lane highway. ... It's one thing to move to an area with a highway, but to buy a home ... and (say) 'Oh sorry, we're putting not one, but two 12-lane highways within sight of your homes.' That to me is unconscionable."

Bonnette generated a postcard for citizens to send to Transportation Minister Kathleen Wynne protesting the 4-3. Already more than 800 have been handed out, and another 500 have been requested.

### Want more information?

For more details about the highway proposal go to [www.gta-west.com](http://www.gta-west.com).

### Want to have your say?

The deadline to make a comment to MTO has been extended to July 8. Written comments should be sent to [www.gta-west.com/commentform.php](http://www.gta-west.com/commentform.php) or to Neil Ahmed, Consultant Project Manger, [project\\_team@gta-west.com](mailto:project_team@gta-west.com) If residents are unable to meet that deadline they should call Ahmed at 1-877-522-6916.

### Want to fight this?

- A citizens' group is being formed. Those interested in participating should email Wendy Bruchal, [bruchals@aol.com](mailto:bruchals@aol.com)

- Pick up a postcard at the Civic Centre and send to MTO Minister Kathleen Wynne, Queen's Park, 77 Wellesley St. W, Ferguson Block, Third Floor, Toronto, M7A 1Z8. Or call Wynne, 416-327-9200 or email [kwynne.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org](mailto:kwynne.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org)

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