

FIVE THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT HIGHWAY 413 PROPOSAL

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The provincial government has been consulting with local residents and councils recently on its proposal to build a major highway through part of the region. The proposed four to six-lane road, with an adjacent transitway, would wind its way through southern Halton Hills and along the border with Milton.

Here are five things to know from the latest presentations being given by the Hwy. 413 project team:

1. The federal minister of the environment and climate change has designated the Hwy. 413 project under the Federal Assessment Act — a measure that regional council called for.

Now, the Ministry of Transportation says it's preparing an initial project description, which the Impact Assessment (IA) Agency of Canada will use to inform the decision on whether a federal IA is required or not.

This type of federal process examines the positive and negative environmental, economic, health and social effects of proposed projects, along with impacts on Indigenous groups and the rights of In-



Graham Paine/Metroland

The Highway 413 proposal has been opposed locally by both residents and some politicians.

digenous people.

2. According to the ministry, the IA agency feels the project may cause adverse direct, or incidental effects, on the habitat of three federally-listed species at risk: the rapids club-tail dragonfly, western chorus frog and red-headed woodpecker.

3. In their presentations, the project team detailed the key issues that have been raised regarding the project, including concerns about: the loss of agricultural land and impacts on greenbelt lands, potential impacts on human health, insufficient community engagement with Indigenous communities, and whether or not the

highway is needed if more people work from home in the future.

4. A variety of studies related to the project are planned or underway. Social, economic and health studies are being conducted in the three regions and seven municipalities that would be impacted by Hwy. 413, including Halton Region and the towns of Halton Hills and Milton.

5. The Hwy. 413 project team told both Halton Hills and regional councils that at the moment, there are no plans to make the proposed thoroughfare a toll road.

For further information or to submit comments on the proposal, visit highway13.ca.

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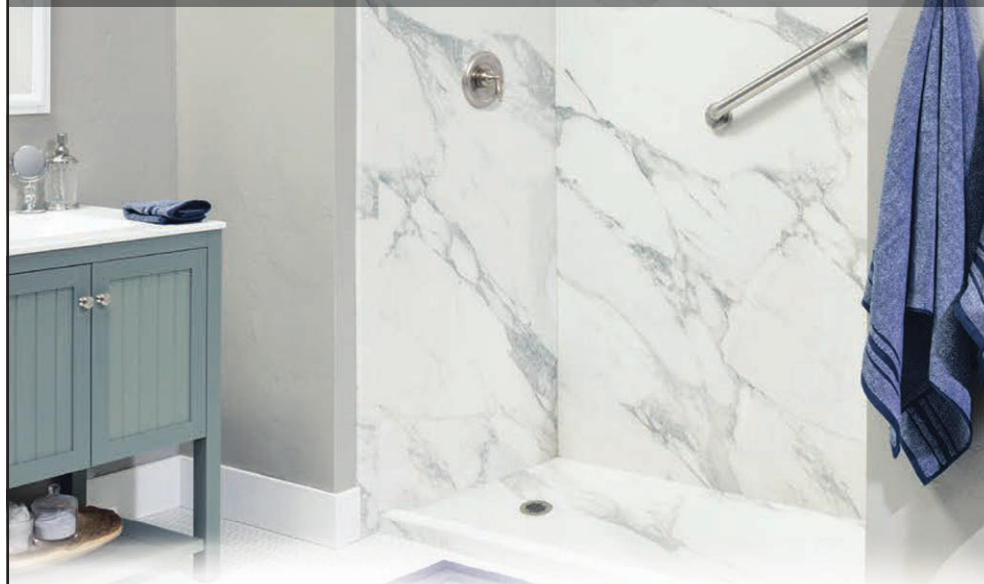
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