

Proposed Brampton highway a cause for concern, says councillor

Halton Hills Councillor Clark Somerville is urging all residents to turn out to two public information meetings on a north-south highway that parallels the town's eastern border with Brampton.

"We've got to get it up on the radar," said the Wards 1 and 2 Regional Councillor. "We've got to get people out there to know what's going on."

The meetings are scheduled for Nov. 29, 5-9 p.m. at Huttonville School and Nov. 30, 6-9 p.m. at the Croatian Cultural Centre on Winston Churchill Blvd.

The City of Brampton is preparing a Terms of Reference for an Environmental

Assessment for a new six-lane highway between Winston Churchill Blvd. and Heritage Rd., stretching from Hwy. 401 to Mayfield Rd. One Brampton report shows the North-South highway coming through Halton Hills just north of Embleton Rd. (5 Sideroad) and going south to the Hwy. 401 west of Halton Hills' Tenth Line. Brampton's transportation plan is also calling for provision of all-day GO Rail services on the Georgetown line and a bus service to Georgetown.

But Somerville says this isn't just a case of Brampton building a six-lane road with exchanges pointing towards Halton

Hills or that about 80,000 people are expected to live right on this town's borders, it's a case of sovereignty.

"How can another municipality say they are going to do an Environmental Assessment in our area, especially when we've never taken a position formally on this (North-South) corridor?" Somerville said in a phone interview Wednesday.

The map— shown on page 13 of the Nov. 17 *Independent & Free Press*— highlighting the EA study area, encompasses practically all of south and east Halton Hills.

While Somerville says Town planning staff assures him that Brampton cannot

come into Halton Hills to do their EA, he wonders why the City of Brampton is showing a huge swath of Halton Hills land and is holding a public information meeting at a Halton Hills location—the Croatian Centre on Winston Churchill Blvd.

It would be one thing if the province were driving this, said Somerville, but it's not, it's the City of Brampton.

Somerville said the Town of Halton Hills has never taken a formal position on the road, and that is something he intends to discuss at Monday's council meeting.

—By Cynthia Gamble, staff writer

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