

November 30, 2021

Dear Mayor Taylor, Councillor Morrison and All Council Members,

Re: Bradford Bypass

As you are aware, members of Drawdown Newmarket-Aurora and all the environmental groups with whom we are in touch, are deeply distressed by the intent to build the Bradford Bypass.

I write to request that Council support the resolution provided by The Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition, at the Council of the Whole meeting on December 6th.

Members of Newmarket Town Council have shown that they are well aware of the need to view development activity through the lens of a climate emergency, and that they are deeply committed to making Newmarket supportive of the environment. We have seen how storms and floods have become more threatening with global warming.

Our resiliency is dependent upon the protection of valuable farmland and natural spaces.

The Ontario government has significantly weakened the provincial environmental assessment process for the Bradford Bypass via an exemption to the Environmental Assessment Act on October 7, 2021. As a result, the Bradford Bypass project would be allowed to proceed with construction through the Holland Marsh based on an outdated 24-year-old Environmental Assessment (EA). The original EA approval was conditional on performing additional studies on archaeological resources, stormwater management, hydrogeological systems (including the development of a groundwater protection plan). The Province has exempted itself from these conditions.

Any positive outcome of building this new bypass, as it relates to saving a few minutes of commuter time, would be overshadowed by the negative impacts on the valuable farmland and natural spaces that would be sacrificed.

Please vote for protection of our farmland, our green spaces and for Lake Simcoe.

Sincerely,

Fran Bazos, Member of Drawdown Newmarket-Aurora