

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (WORKING SESSION) – MAY 17, 2011

COMMUNICATIONS

Distributed May 13, 2011

Item No.

- C1. Presentation material, entitled "*Bolton Commuter Rail Feasibility Study Status Overview*". 1

Received at the May 17, 2011 Committee of the Whole (Working Session) Meeting

- C2. Mr. Nick Pinto, The West Woodbridge Homeowners Association, dated May 17, 2011. 2

Please note there may be further Communications.

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COMMUNICATION

CW - (Working Session) -
May 17, 2011

ITEM # - 1

Bolton Commuter Rail Feasibility Study Status Overview

Daniel Haufschild, Director Policy and Planning
May 17th, 2011

Background

- Rail service to Bolton identified in *Move Ontario 2020* (2007)
- *The Big Move* (2008)
- Feasibility Study initiated by GO (2008)
- Merger of Metrolinx / GO Transit (2009)
- Prioritization of Regional (Non-GO) and GO Projects 2010 – ongoing

Metrolinx's Unique Role and Challenge

Metrolinx unique role to:

- plan, develop, and implement transportation for all of the GTHA
- operate regional services through GO, its operating division. GO plays key role throughout the Greater Golden Horseshoe

We have more worthy projects than funds

- The Big Move makes the case for many more needed transit projects across the GTHA than there are currently funds to support

The Big Move identified a \$50B transit capital need over the 25-year horizon of the plan.

- Three of The Big Move top fifteen projects are fully funded
- Others have phased funding (\$9.5B).
- The remaining seven projects could cost up to \$16B, including a subset of thirteen GO expansion projects (~\$4.3B).



Strategic Investments in GO Service System-wide

Capital investments need to be made strategically to meet the vision, goals and objectives of The Big Move

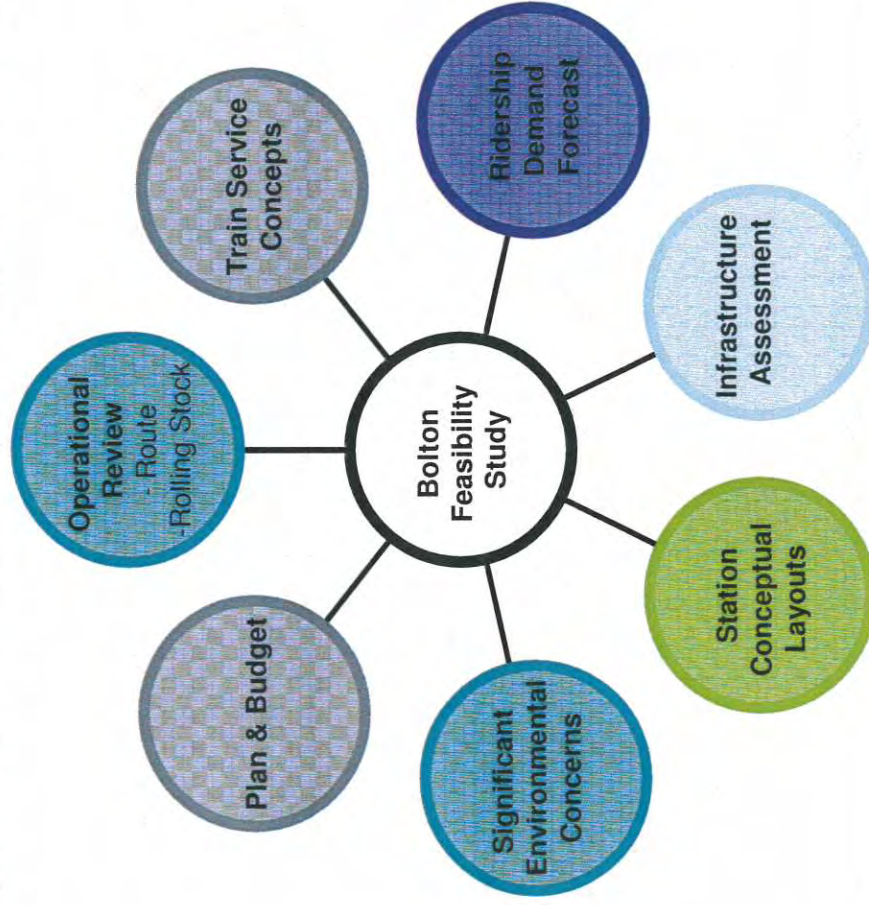
GO is undertaking major capital expansion projects to:

- Address overloads and meet growth requirements on major developed corridors
- Put in place foundational infrastructure that is required for future growth system-wide (e.g. Union Station and East Rail Maintenance Facility)

Ongoing prioritization of Regional and GO Projects inform Provincial 10-year capital planning process

Purpose and Scope of 2008-10 Feasibility Study

Purpose: To assess the feasibility and requirements of providing a commuter rail service between the Town of Caledon (Bolton) and the City of Toronto



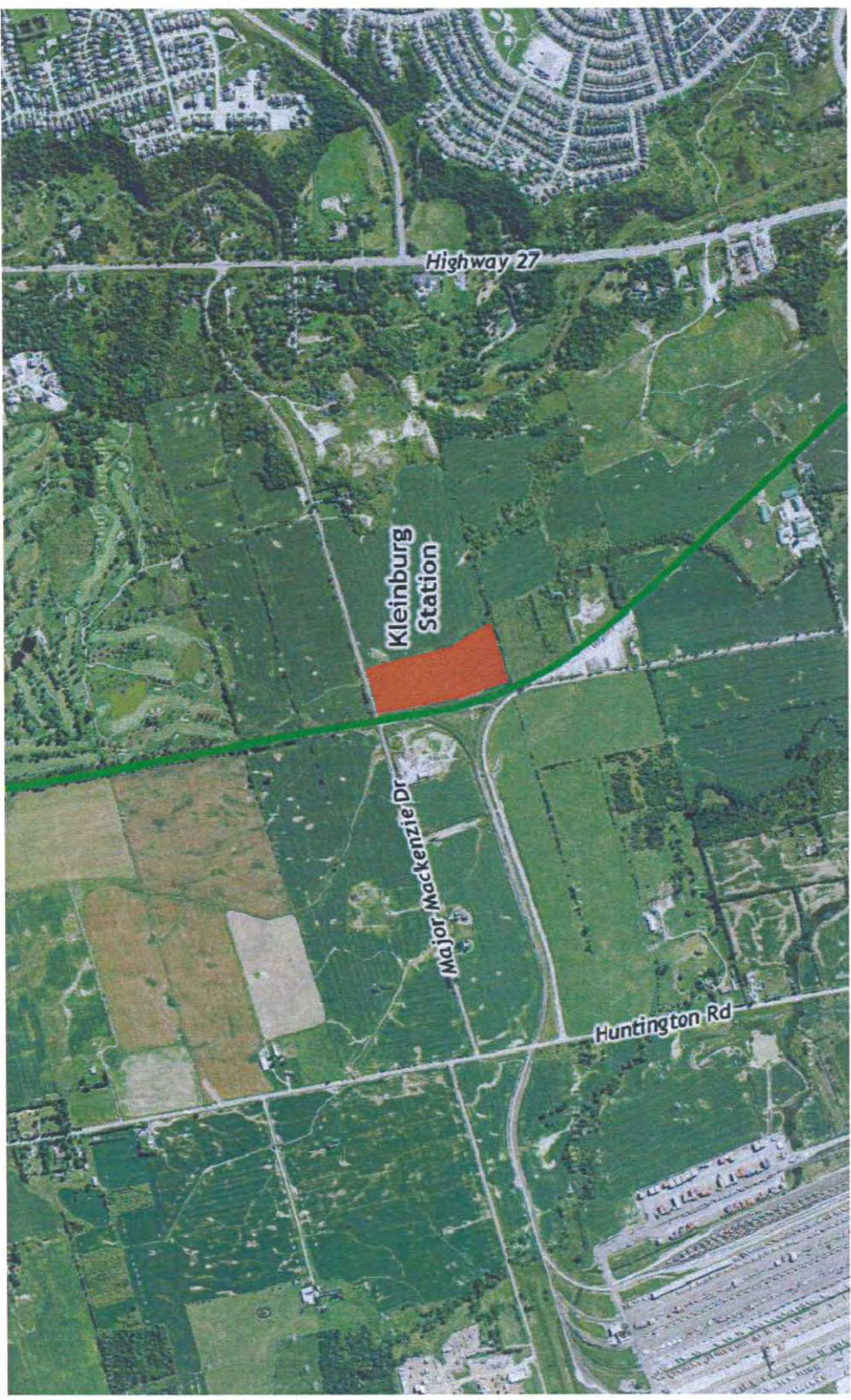
Study Findings

- **Modest ridership anticipated within planning horizon**
 - (4,400 am peak period riders by 2031)
- **Significant infrastructure required, in excess of \$300M**
- **Rail service is technically feasible**
- **Possible route option and candidate station sites identified**

Route Options Examined in Study



Station Location - Kleinburg



Station Location – Vaughan (Elder Mills)



Station Location - Woodbridge



Next Steps

- Rail service to Bolton is not contemplated in the next 15 years
- Consider property protection, as appropriate, through the planning process or acquisition
- Continue to develop the transit market by expanding GO services in the area
 - Address overloads on the existing Barrie and Georgetown lines, and work toward all-day two-way service
 - Expansion of bus services
 - Two GO bus routes currently serve Bolton, providing 17 trips each weekday
 - Connections are made to the Georgetown GO train and bus service, and the TTC subway at Yorkdale and York Mills
 - Average weekday ridership: 191



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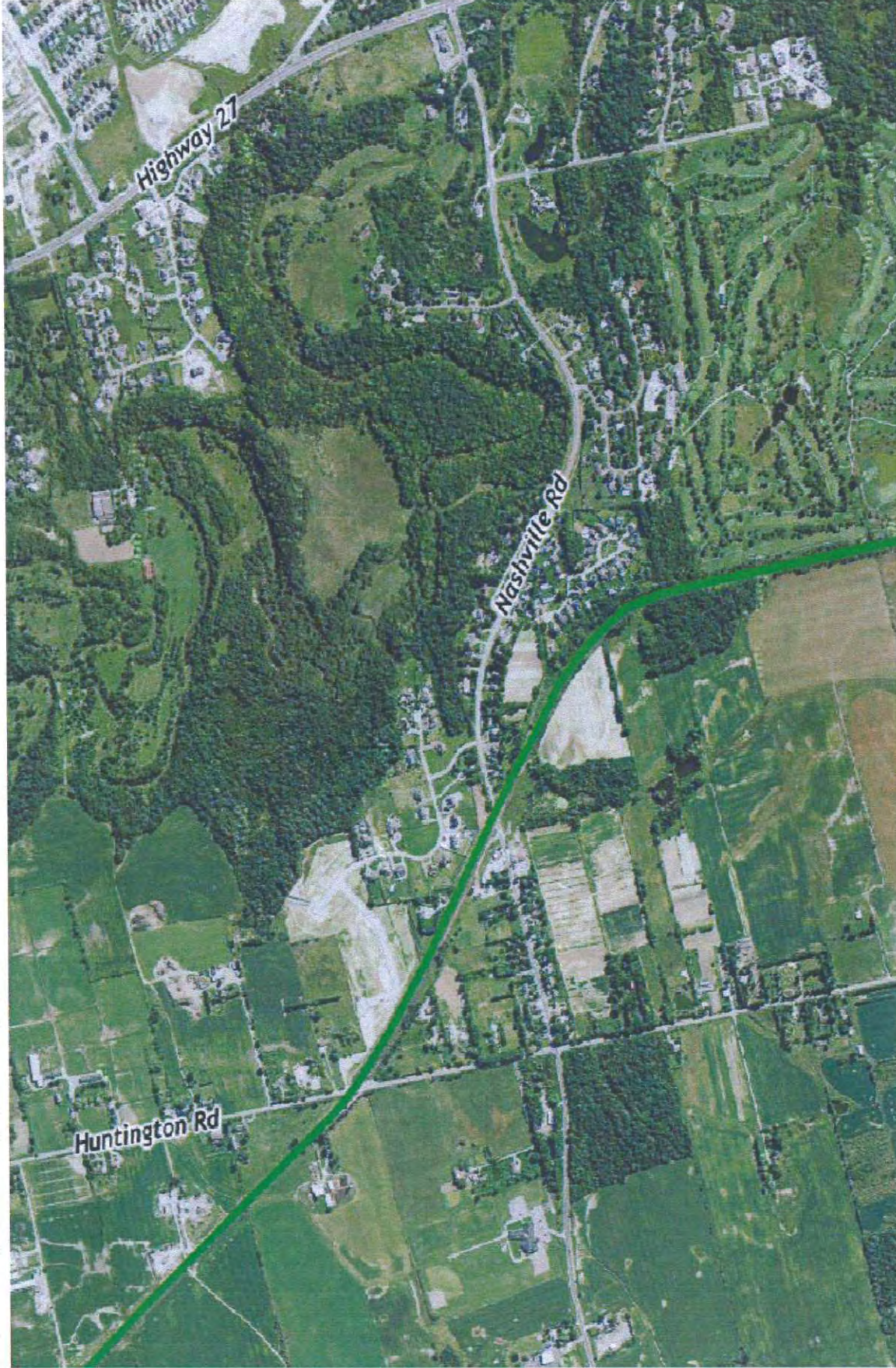
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12



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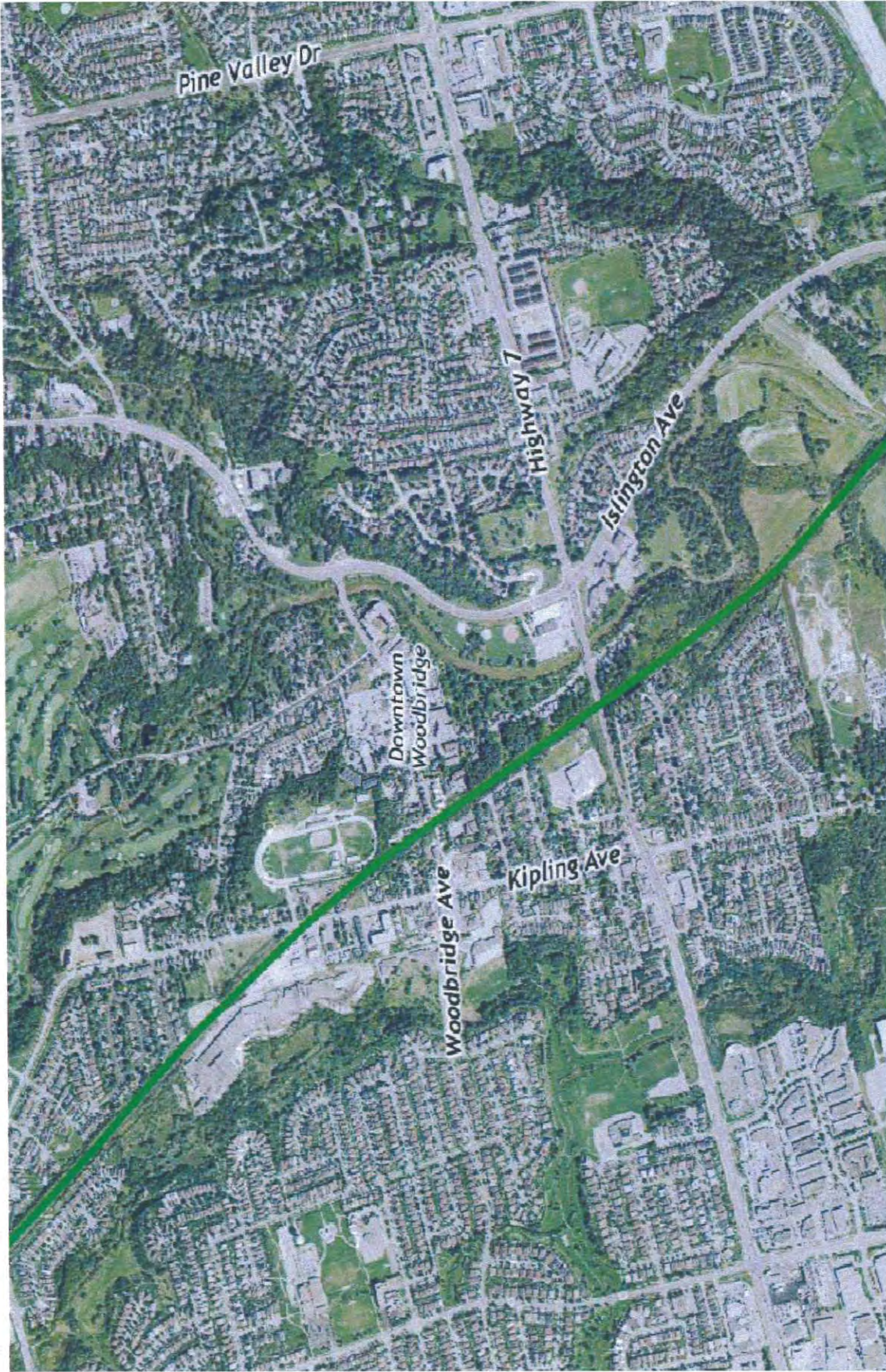
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May 17th, 2011

13



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THE WEST WOODBRIDGE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION INC.

"Informed citizens organized for constructive action!"

May 17, 2011

SENT VIA EMAIL

Mayor & Members of Council
City of Vaughan
2141 Major Mackenzie Drive
Vaughan, ON L6A 1T1

C2
COMMUNICATION
CW - <u>(WS) MAY 17 11</u>
ITEM - <u>2</u>

RE: Committee of the Whole (Working Session) May 17, 2011
Agenda Item #2 – Learning from the Election – Preparations for the 2014 Municipal and School Board Elections

Dear Honourable Mayor and Members of Council,

Residents and property owners of Vaughan have the right to exercise their democratic right to vote and the right to effective representation.

The City Clerk is responsible for conducting the municipal elections including compiling and finalizing voters' list, providing public notification of the election process, establishing voting locations, recruiting and training election officials and tabulating and publishing election results. And, the City Clerk shall have regard for all electors and candidates, and ensuring that all voting locations are accessible to electors with disabilities.

Based on the City Clerk's report to council we would like to make some further recommendations to council for consideration as follows:

I. Ward Boundary Review

We recommend that a Ward Boundary Review be commenced as soon as possible. However, we also recommend that Council hire an experienced consultant to undertake the Ward Boundary Review. We also suggest that council engage local ratepayers and/or local groups and public participation during the review and engage them in the decision making.

In addition, since this will be the second Ward Boundary Review within the last 5 years and considering a lot of time and money is required we recommend that any review being undertaken utilizes the city's growth management plan "Vaughan Tomorrow".

2. Polling Subdivisions:

We recommend that should Council decide to proceed with a Ward Boundary Review and new Ward boundaries are approved that the City Clerk does not reduce the number of polling subdivisions or increase the average poll size. We understand that this might require fewer staff however; this will only create pressure and delays at the polls. Instead we strongly suggest that the City Clerk investigate implementing additional voting tabulators at polls and/or add an additional poll or poll subdivision. In addition, ensure appropriate materials such as: secrecy folders are available on hand to accommodate peak periods and reduce line-ups.

3. Advance Voting

The use of Anywhere Voting during the advance vote period was convenient for the voters. We recommend that the City Clerk incorporate the same plan however, if the City Clerk should decide to continue with an Advance Poll at the York University site we suggest that any communications that is prepared provide voters the proper location of the poll location on campus. In addition, that proper arrangement is made with York University for voter parking. We found many residents excluding students who couldn't make it to other advance voting locations utilized the York University poll location for advance polling but were discontent with lack of parking availability and poor signage.

4. Election Communications

We recommend that Voter Information Cards are sent out at least one week prior to Advance Voting Week. During the 2010 Election, many residents complained that they had not received their Voter Information Card and were not aware of the advance voting location and hours or the location of the polling station. Some residents never ended receiving their voter information card and candidate campaign offices received calls from voters for assistance.

5. Voters List

We realize that the Voters List is created and provided by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) however, the quality of the 2010 Voters List was poor which resulted in election staff needing to take extra time to add electors to the list and confirm identification. We recommend that council prepare and send a letter to MPAC expressing concern about the poor quality of the list.

6. Accessible Voting

We strongly disagree with the City Clerks recommendation to provide accessible voting by appointment. The Municipal Elections Act, 1996, as amended requires the Clerk to have regard for the needs of electors and candidates with disabilities and ensure all voting locations are accessible to electors with disabilities. Furthermore, Ontario's Human Rights Code has long provided that all persons have a right to equal treatment without discrimination on the basis of disability. One of the principals of conducting a democratic election is that an election must be accessible to all electors and this must be a priority for the City Clerk's Office.

We cannot assume that just because there was one elector who utilized the accessible voting appliance during the 2010 election that this will also be the case in any future elections.

Therefore, we recommend that the City Clerk consult with the city's Accessibility Advisory Committee, local agencies and persons with disabilities in order to create an election accessibility plan.

These are only a few recommendations that we hope the City Clerk will incorporate in planning for the next municipal election. However, we also believe that the City Clerk should welcome feedback from candidates and electors to assist in identifying areas where changes need to be considered and ways in which the City can improve with future planning of a municipal election.

We hope that our recommendations will be reviewed and if you require further information please do not hesitate to contact us.

Respectfully yours,



Nick Pinto

President

The West Woodbridge Homeowners Association Inc.

From: The WWHA, Inc. [wwha@wwha.ca]
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2011 7:53 AM
To: Abrams, Jeffrey; Bellisario, Adelina
Subject: Communications for Committee of the Whole (Working Session) May 17, 2011
Importance: High
Attachments: Letter to City Re Election Feedback.pdf

Hello Jeff,

Please find attached our communication for Agenda Item #2 for the Committee of the Whole (Working Session) and we ask that our communication please be added to agenda for council.

Thank you,

Nick Pinto
President
The West Woodbridge Homeowners Association Inc.