

Columbus Trail Residents'
Association
208 America Ave
Maple, ON L6A 3E8
(905) 832-5949

April 29, 2004

Members of City of Vaughan
Budget Committee
City of Vaughan
2141 Major Mackenzie Drive
Maple, Ontario
L6A 1T1

Dear Members,

RE: America Avenue Overpass
Section 2.21 – Budget Documents – Item Number 6

After reviewing the 2004 Draft Capital Funding – CWDC Engineering section of the budget we noticed the Overpass on America Avenue in Block 33 East has been put on the budget for the committee's approval. (Section 2.21)

On Monday, June 3, 2002 at the special Committee of the Whole - Public Hearing regarding this matter, council decided with a unanimous vote that this issue would be discussed at the next scheduled Committee of the Whole and be placed on the agenda so that a resolution could be made. This never took place. Why? We are still waiting for this matter to be resolved!! Surely council doesn't intend to address this matter in a roundabout way. Or does it?

As indicated to council on numerous occasions, by the residents and members of the Columbus Trail Residents' Association (see Item "A" attached) and in a report prepared by the commissioner of planning regarding Special Committee of the Whole March 24, 2003 (see Item "B" attached) regarding the approval of the Block Plan for Block 33 West a paragraph stated: "*the North Maple Ratepayers' group (Block 33 East) indicated an interest in having direct input into the Block 33 West block plan as it relates to the future east-west overpass across Highway #400 connecting to America Avenue*". Which acknowledged formally (by staff) that there is no desire nor is there a need for an overpass running through a residential area that will be connected to a "High Performance Employment Area" on the eastern side of the 400 in block 33 West.

Council has indicated to our group and other area groups that they have made a mistake in allowing a development such as ours (i.e. wide shallow lots and traditional lots in one development). Why make another mistake?

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In addition, on several occasions during election time (see Item "C" attached), many members of existing council have indicated that they are opposed to such an overpass beening built. With a \$10 million dollar shortfall in the 2004 budget this year, surely the money could be allocated to matters that will improve neighbourhoods. It would be a shame to see this area of Maple turned in to the Ghetto of Maple.

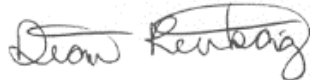
Surely a strong council as you have influence on decisions made with the region and should express concerns on behalf of their constituents that such an overpass should be reconsidered.

We urge you as representatives of our community to press that an Environment Assessment is unnecessary and that funds be spent on a neighbourhood park as previously promised to the residents of this community by the area developers, Mattamy Homes, Arista Homes, National Homes and Sundial Homes.

Recommendation:

The EA for the overpass be deleted from the 2004 budget until such time as council makes a decision on this matter.

Sincerely,



Diane Rembacz
President
Columbus Trail Residents' Association

Copies:
Mayor and Members of Council

List of Enclosures:
Item A – Petition Dated Monday, June 3, 2002
Item B – Block 33 West Block Plan Report Dated March 24, 2003
Item C – Mario Ferri Campaign Brochure