**Neil E. Taylor**

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February 25, 2014

Attention:

Chair and Members

Planning and Works Committee

Region of Waterloo

Re. Planning and Works Committee Meeting and River Rd. Extension

I will be out of the country March 4th, the date of the above cited meeting. I would like to have this letter attached to the agenda and be made available to all members of the committee.

Since I attended the Public Information Meeting on Dec 3rd, 201, I am in receipt of Report EEAC-14-001 through the kindness of Mr. C. Gosselin.

I had a frank discussion with Mr. W. Cheater on Feb. 24th. I reiterated my concerns that I outlined at the Dec. 3rd meeting. I also made some further suggestions re. the proposed 4 lane highway.

These included:

* The removal of the current bridge in the location shown and the construction of a tunnel or bridge that would link Hidden Valley from the north-west to River Road more directly toward the Stonegate stop lights and thus remove the need for destruction of the adjacent ESPA and Provincially Significant Wetland as per Alternatives 4 and 5.
* Removal of the ingress from River Road to Hidden Valley Rd. This would remove potential extra traffic on Hidden Valley Road, but also reduce considerably the impact on the PSW, yet accommodate the need for ingress of emergency service vehicles.
* Limit trails and sidewalks to one side of the proposed highway to reduce the impervious surface and to reduce the destruction of natural habitat as per Alternative 5.
* Use of roundabouts at Fairway at the current #8 as well as at point straight through the current off ramp from # 8 where it would intersect with River Rd.
* Concerns re. regulated areas for several other Species At Risk, particularly Cerulean Warbler.
* Lack of request from the Region and receipt of permission from Provincial Ministries to destroy Provincially Significant Wet lands even though each of the alternatives would result in such destruction.

Mr. Cheater assured me that the Region is still open to such suggestions as I have outlined. For my part, I acknowledged that through some 25 years of planning proposals, much has been done to improve and correct earlier plans, though much more must be done to further improve the proposed project. I ask members to consider how many times staff has already submitted what was to have been the final design.

I look forward to a written response to the concerns I have outlined in this letter.

Respectfully submitted,

Neil E. Taylor

Cc. Interested parties