

Added Item 4.2

Joanna Chapman
[REDACTED]

November 15, 2020

The Chair and Members,
Public Works Committee,
City of Hamilton

Subject:

Road Safety Review York Road etc.
(PW/20071/PED20196 – Ward 13)

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

It appears that this Road Safety Review, is premature and can even interpreted as an end run around planning approvals. The impetus for this appears to be a plan by Columbia College to convert the Convent (built to house 100 nuns), at 574 Northcliffe into a secondary school for 1000 students plus 80 staff. The development would include the construction of a massive new gymnasium. **However, this grandiose plan is currently before the Niagara Escarpment Commission and open for public input until the November 30, subsequent to this will be discussion and a public meeting prior to any decision.**

The suggestion in the staff report is for major changes to York Road including re-profiling and *widening*, in addition to a proposal to install a roundabout on Highway 6 at the off-ramp. These major proposed changes are mainly to accommodate Columbia College, a private corporation. The Columbia's scheme for a large secondary school in a rural area would have a great environmental impact and be a major blow for this supposedly protected area. It should not be assumed that Columbia's plans will receive approval, and indeed there are multiple reasons why it should not.

In light of the above, I believe that no decision should be made due to the premature nature of the report, because the matter has not even been discussed by the Niagara Escarpment Commission.

Thus I request:

... that this report from the Transportation Operations and Maintenance Division be tabled, and not discussed further, until the Niagara Escarpment Commission has reached a decision on the appropriateness of the Columbia proposal.