



Wellington County Municipal Economic Development Group

Minutes
 OMAF & MRA Office, County Road 7, Elora,
 June 4, 2013
 9:30 a.m.

Present:

Rose Austin (Saugeen Economic Development), George Bridge (Mayor, Town of Minto), Alex Goss (LIP), Gerry Horst (OMAFRA), Karen Landry (Township of Puslinch), Kirk McElwain (Township of Centre Wellington), Andrea Ravensdale (County of Wellington), Doug Reddick (MEDI), Jana Reichert (County of Wellington), Jane Shaw (WWCFDC), Patty Sinnamon (Township of Mapleton), Dale Small (Township of Wellington North), Mandy Jones (Town of Minto), Chris White (Warden, County of Wellington), Scott Williams (GBEC)

Regrets:

Deb Dalziel (Township of Centre Wellington), Brad Dixon (GRCA) Andy Lennox (WFA), April Marshall (Township of Wellington North), Don McKay (Councillor, County of Wellington), Judi Riddolls (GBEC), Brett Salmon (Township of Centre Wellington), Janice Sheppard (Township of Guelph/Eramosa), Carol Simpson (WFPB), Scott Wilson (County of Wellington)

Others Present: Kathryn Ironmonger (Acting CAO, Town of Erin), Gord Grant (Wellington Federation of Agriculture), Al Rawlins (Township of Wellington North), Chantalle Pellizari (Township of Centre Wellington), Rose Austin (Saugeen Economic Development), Kaitlyn McFadzen (Centre Wellington Energy Project), Janet Harrop (Wellington Federation of Agriculture), Meghan Reed (Township of Guelph/Eramosa), John Brennan (Town of Erin), Barb Maly (City of Guelph), Stephen Morris (OMAFRA)

1. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve agenda as written

Moved by Patty Sinnamon, seconded by Jana Reichert.

Carried

2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

None declared.

3. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from the May 4th, 2013 meeting, as written.

Moved by Jana Reichert, seconded by Dale Small.

Carried

4. Implementation Plan

The Workforce Strategy Summit was well attended on May 30th, with many new employers wanting to provide input. Data has been collected and analyzed, the report has been drafted and 42 interviews with employers have been completed. A final workforce strategy will be presented to the Group in August. The implementation plan including recommendations will follow. Business Retention and Expansion: The four key sectors (manufacturing, agriculture, health care and creative economy) will be focused on across the County. This is an opportunity for municipalities and partner ED agencies to build a rapport with businesses and to work on creating a more conducive environment for business. We want to diversify our economy and help small businesses turn into medium sized operations and beyond, 7-10 employers will be interviewed within each sector. Carolyn O'Donnell has been chosen as the BRE Project Coordinator, logistically organizing the project countywide for the next 9 months. The delivery structure will be geographical, by Municipality. Each Township Coordinator will be responsible for leading within each Township, deciding the sector focus for the Township. The County ED landing page: To be live in September. The County website landing page will profile local businesses within Wellington County and showcase each businesses as well as "why" work in Wellington County. It will include a very exciting feature, an interactive mapping system of businesses within the County. The next step will be to validate the information from the list provided in November 2012 to determine sectors and volunteer interviewers. To take the burden off the townships, the County has obtained a student for two months to validate the business contact information in the business directory. Puslinch was thanked for hosting the upcoming BR&E Training and a thank you was also extended to those that have registered and will be attending the training. The survey results from the BR&E training held on June 12th will be discussed at the next meeting.

5. BR&E Program Overview

Business Retention & Expansion is a locally driven project to build economic opportunities, integrate and enable local organizations. The program builds capacity, improves business climate and community competitiveness, is a support for new and existing resources, provides job creation and builds relationships with existing businesses and organizations. The program is a 14 step program which contains two parts:

1. The Systematic Approach
2. Community Engagement

The program determines, develops and implements action for needs and opportunities for businesses to grow within the community. Volunteers are a critical portion of the BR&E program as is the leadership team, which consists of 5-8 people to manage the project, a task force of 15-25 people to provide direction and visit at least one business, an interview team of 25-50 people to visit businesses and a business resource network to provide project resources.

Survey results containing downtown and community based questions will outline the key business concerns of the project.

6. Roundtable/Other Business

Centre Wellington

- The Group extends their thoughts to Deb Dalziel as her son recently had a serious industrial accident.
- The Elora Skyrider opened at the beginning of June.
- The inflight airline magazine, Eagle Latitude, will be visiting Elora this summer.
- Doors Open will be held June 22nd and the Elora Festival begins in July.
- Sunday afternoon concerts will be held over the summer at the corner of Mill St. and Metcalfe St.

County

- Taste Real Maps are now available at Janas' office.
- The University of Guelph 2nd Annual Rural Employment will be held on June 17th.
- Local manufacturing business, A.O. Smith, will be closing at the end of June. A creating job connection session will be held at the end of June for employees. The County is researching hosting job fairs with various partners in the future.
- On June 20th the County is to receive the designation for the "Safest Communities" at the Mt. Forest Community Centre.
- Jana will begin working on the Credit Review for the County within the next few months.

GBEC

- Offering a youth employment program for the summer and "Business for a Day"

Guelph/Eramosa

- Creating a Community Guide to be distributed in August.

GRCA

- no update

Erin

- The Farmers Market will open in June.

LIP

- The CIRRO (Community Immigration Retention in Rural Ontario) process is currently being reviewed.
- The attractiveness of communities for immigrants is also being reviewed.

MAPLETON

- Positive feedback was received regarding the recent Spring Rural Romp
- Two agreements have been completed for Fiber Optics to be installed and available in Alma, Moorefield, Drayton and the Mapleton Municipal Office.
- A communication strategy for the Municipality is being reviewed for social media (Facebook, Twitter...) and a branding exercise is being started.
- Municipalities will be contacted to help identify the Broadband gaps within rural areas.

- 25 acres of industrial land has been sold and researching an RFP to partner with local developers for the remaining 25 acres.
- The Harvest Festival and Farmers Market begin June 21st.
- The Township received tenders for mold removal in the Township building.
- Krystal will be working 3 days a week for Economic Development.

MEDI

- The Self-Assessment Regional Workshops were well attended. 18 Regions will be represented in Toronto at the MEDI conference to help identify overlap and gaps determined within the workshops.
- SWOTDF application has been presented to the committee; however there is no update at this time.

Minto

- The Rural Creative Economy Summit will be held October 22 -24th.
- Both the Minto Farmers Market and the Harriston Farmers Market open the weekend of June 7th.
- The Culture Guide will be distributed this week.

OMAFRA

- Federal/Provincial funding has been received for Growing Forward 2
- Map to local farms has been distributed.
- The Guelph Wellington Local Food Fest takes place June 23rd at Ignatius Jesuit Centre.
- The OMAFRA Beef Team has recently completed tours at local farms within Wellington County.

Puslinch

- Aberfoyle farmers market open

Wellington North

- In September / October the mapping will be completed for the Municipal Cultural Plan.
- The Visitors and Community Guide has been distributed. Copies will be distributed to group members as well.
- The Economic Development meeting with the Town of Minto & Mapleton Township went well.
- Arthur is to be recognized as the most Patriotic Village during the July 1st weekend.
- Council announced treasurer Mike Gibbons will be acting CAO.

WPBWWD

- no update

Next meeting will be held July 2nd, 2013 at the OMAF & MRA office at 9:30am.

Meeting adjourned at

George Bridge, Chair

Jane Shaw, Recording Secretary



Wellington County Municipal Economic Development Group

Minutes

OMAF & MRA Office, County Road 7, Elora,

July 2, 2013

9:30 a.m.

Present:

John Brennan (Town of Erin), George Bridge (Mayor, Town of Minto), Deb Dalziel (Township of Centre Wellington), Crystal Ellis (Mapleton Township), Alex Goss (LIP), Gerry Horst (OMAFRA), Karen Landry (Township of Puslinch), Andy Lennox (WFA), Don McKay (Councillor, County of Wellington), Carolyn O'Donnell (County of Wellington), Chantalle Pellizzari (Township of Centre Wellington), Andrea Ravensdale (County of Wellington), Jana Reichert (County of Wellington), Jane Shaw (WWCFDC), Janice Sheppard (Township of Guelph/Eramosa), Patty Sinnamon (Township of Mapleton), Mandy Jones (Town of Minto), Scott Wilson (County of Wellington)

Regrets:

Rose Austin (Saugeen Economic Development), Brad Dixon (GRCA), April Marshall (Township of Wellington North), Kirk McElwain (Township of Centre Wellington), Doug Reddick (MEDI), Brett Salmon (Township of Centre Wellington), Carol Simpson (WFPB), Dale Small (Township of Wellington North), Chris White (Warden, County of Wellington), Scott Williams (GBEC)

Others Present: Kathryn Ironmonger (CAO, Town of Erin)

1. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve agenda as written.

Moved by Jana Reichert, seconded by Don McKay.

Carried

2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

None declared.

3. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from the meeting held June 4th, 2013, as written.

Moved by Patty Sinnamon, seconded by Deb Dalziel.

Carried

4. Implementation Plan Update

BR&E Next Steps

Since the last meeting there have been ongoing discussions with Stephen Morris and Gerry Horst regarding the BR&E. The BR&E will identify the economic contributors in the County and will provide support to create jobs within the County. There are four strategic sectors being reviewed to assist with creating sector profiles.

There will be a 7 step process over the next 9 months which will consist of:

1. **Project Preparation:** identifying additional sectors, selecting 10 businesses from each sector, creating and editing survey questions, providing a business list to members and submitting completed questions from data base survey and community questions by August.
2. **Project launch:** schedule municipal council delegations, media release and official launch July 15, 2013.
3. **Interviewing:** County will mail BR&E introduction letter and prepare and provide packages for distribution to businesses which will include confidentiality agreement, company information sheet, survey page, red flag form and thank you gift. Municipality coordinators will arrange interview dates and provide the question link to businesses before interviews in the months of September to November. An interviewer will be chosen from each municipality by August 23rd and interview training will take place August 30th.
4. **Data Entry:** entering the information from each interview will take approximately 20 minutes using the Executive Pulse Software. Each municipality will confirm who will be completing the data entry by the August meeting.
5. **Analysis:** the information gathered and entered through the data software for the interviews completed will be reviewed and calculated.
6. **Reporting:** interview results and actions will be reported.
7. **Implementing:** actions from the BR&E surveys and interviews will be implemented.

Each interview should be no longer than two hours, start to finish, and may contain 58 questions. OMAF has set questionnaires prepared for agriculture, tourism, local food, manufacturing and downtown. The OMAF field staff is available to provide training and support to coordinators as well as interview training. Media releases will be created by the County and Municipalities and can be proofed by Andrea Ravensdale. The County will supply each coordinator with a "thank you" bag for each business to express our gratitude for their time and cooperation during the interview process.

5. Roundtable/Other Business

Centre Wellington

- A new planner has recently been hired and will start with the Township office on July 2nd.
- Doors Open took place on June 22nd and was another successful year.
- During the Elora Festival, free concerts will be held in Fergus and Elora as part of the Bicycle Opera Project – Toronto to Bayfield.

County

- The County contributed to the local economic development in Centre Wellington with the redeveloping of the Fergus Library.
- Palmerston Library is being considered for future redevelopment.
- There have been County OPP Service upgrades and the Teviotdale OPP station will complete this process.
- The Local Food Fest held at Ignatius Jesuit was a success with 1800-2000 people in attendance.
- The Credit review will be starting within the next few weeks and presented to Standard and Poor on July 31st.

GBEC

- No update

Guelph/Eramosa

- Adopted Parks & Recreation Master Plan.
- A new fall Community Guide is currently in the works.
- Signage is being updated.

GRCA

- No update

Erin

- Kathryn Ironmonger was recently approved by Council as the new CAO, therefore the hiring process for the Clerk position has begun.

LIP

- A Group was recently formed to review the attraction and retention plan.
- The planning process for Job Fair Tour has started. The job fair will be incorporated with a bus tour within Wellington County for employment opportunities.

MAPLETON

- The Drayton Rodeo will be held July 5th – 7th.
- The Harvest Festival is coming up on September 21st from 9am to 4pm.
- The Community Guide was adopted at the last council meeting.

MEDI

- No update

Minto

- The 3rd Annual Mayor's Charity Golf Tournament will take place at Pike Lake on August 15th.
- Communities in Bloom judging will take place July 15th – 17th.

OMAFRA

- Minister of Agriculture & Food also Premier of Ontario, Kathleen Wynne, will be visiting Farmers Markets
- OMAF Farm Smart Expo will take place July 11th and 12th at the Elora Research Station, University of Guelph
- The month of July celebrates the 125th anniversary for the Department of Agriculture.

Puslinch

- Recently hired a Director of Finance - Treasurer

Wellington North

- No Update

WPBWWD

- No Update

Next meeting will be held August 6th, 2013 at the OMAF & MRA office at 9:30am.

Meeting adjourned

George Bridge, Chair

Jane Shaw, Recording Secretary

RECEIVED

SEP 04 2013

Township of Puslinch

MINUTES

I.G.# 3

Board of Directors Meeting

July 4, 2013

CLERK'S DEPARTMENT	
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Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on Thursday, July 4, 2013 at Woodend Auditorium, 838 Mineral Springs Road, Ancaster, Ontario at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Maria Topalovic, in the Chair
 Dan Bowman
 Duke O'Sullivan
 Brad Whitcombe

Santina Moccio
 Robert Pasuta

Richard MacDonald, Foundation Chair

PHONE: James Howlett

REGRETS: Brad Clark, Chad Collins, Tom Jackson, Brian McHattie

STAFF PRESENT: Lisa Burnside, Gord Costie, Chris Firth-Eagland, Tony Horvat, Darren Kenny, Bruce Mackenzie, Neil McDougall, Val Pazzi, Scott Peck, and Toby Tresidder – HCA Staff

OTHERS: Richard Leitner – Media

NOTE: The agenda order was changed. For clarity purposes, the minutes are reported in the original agenda order.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone present.

BD12,1862 **MOVED BY:** Santina Moccio
SECONDED BY: Duke O'Sullivan

Members complimented Tony for the work done on this project. Several members had questions regarding the stability of the ruins, the historical value, and the long term costs to maintain the walls.

BD12,1871

MOVED BY: Dan Bowman
SECONDED BY: Santina Moccio

THAT the Board of Directors approve the following recommendations:

THAT the staff recommendation for agenda item 6.1 Hermitage Ruins: Existing Condition & Stabilization Options be amended as follows:

THAT the HCA staff be authorized to:

1) Pursue the detailed design and required permits to implement a restoration of the Hermitage Ruins according to Option 5 which will:

- a) lower the existing walls to safe height,**
- b) stabilize the ruins as required and**
- c) improve the overall accessibility and interpretive features on the site**

2) Report back to the CAB with a report including draft design and estimates for final heritage site approval and funding by the end of 2013; and further

THAT the staff recommendation for agenda item 6.1 Hermitage Ruins: Existing Condition & Stabilization Options be approved as amended.

CARRIED

Resolution Number from Conservation Advisory Board Minutes – CA1320

Members asked Scott about project-specific basis and site specific treatment, and whether a license would be required to apply herbicides. It was suggested that a summary report would be brought back to the boards for review.

BD12,1872

MOVED BY: Dan Bowman
SECONDED BY: Santina Moccio

THAT the Board of Directors approve the following recommendations:

THAT the Hamilton Conservation Authority Emerald Ash Borer Protocol be approved and:

THAT the following pesticide and herbicide policy be approved;

- 1. HCA is to use pesticides and herbicides in a very minimal way as a component of our land management practices;**
- 2. HCA staff are permitted to utilize pesticide and herbicide on a project-specific basis when required to combat invasive species or for ecological restoration purposes.**
- 3. HCA Board of Director approvals will be required for larger scale pesticide and herbicide proposals.**

CARRIED

Motion to Receive the Minutes

BD12,1873

**MOVED BY: Dan Bowman
SECONDED BY: Santina Moccio**

THAT the minutes of the Conservation Advisory Board held on June 13, 2013 be approved.

CARRIED

11.3 Foundation Chairman's Report

Richard MacDonald reported on the following:

- Total Donations – June - \$24,605
- EcoPark Campaign received \$15,000 in grants with an additional \$10,000 pledged

Richard thanked the Board of Directors for all their support and positive steps taken to promote the Foundation.

12. OTHER STAFF REPORTS/MEMORANDUMS

12.1 5 Year Strategic Plan

Scott Peck presented the report on the 5 Year Strategic Plan for 2014 – 2018.

The Strategic Plan has been developed through an extensive public consultation process and with input from staff, Board members, and our partner organizations. The Strategic Plan is a concise document with specific goals and objectives. The essence of the Strategic Plan is to provide a higher level of direction relating to goals and objects and the priorities of the HCA.

Scott indicated the next step in this process is for each department to prepare work plans based on budget implications to implement these Strategic goals and objectives.

Scott answered Board members questions. The Board of Directors requested that the work plans once prepared based on budgets are to be brought back to the board for approval. Robert Pasuta suggested that the Agricultural Community should be included in one or more of the Strategic Goals. Robert Pasuta indicated that the picture on the front of the Strategic Plan be changed or enhanced. Robert Pasuta requested that Scott Peck attend the Agricultural Committee meeting during the winter.

BD12,1874

**MOVED BY: Santina Moccio
SECONDED BY: Dan Bowman**

THAT the Board of Directors approve the following recommendations:

THAT the Hamilton Conservation Authority 2014 – 2018 Strategic Plan be approved; and

THAT staff be directed to prepare departmental work plans with associated budgeting implications to implement the goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan; and

THAT departmental work plans be approved by the Board of Directors; and

THAT the Agricultural Community be included in one or more of the Strategic Goals; and

THAT the photo on the cover of the Strategic Plan be changed; and further

THAT that Scott Peck attend the Agricultural Committee meeting during the winter.

CARRIED

12.2 Upcoming Events

Bruce Mackenzie provided an update of the upcoming events that are included in the agenda package.

12.3 Special Board Remuneration

Neil McDougall presented the report. This report was brought forward from the AGM meeting. Staff recommended that Board members be compensated for special meetings or events going beyond the regular meeting per diem and mileage reimbursement for special circumstances. Payments will be made only by an authorization of the Chair or a motion passed by the Board. A usage report will be brought forward to the Board of Directors for review twice a year.

BD12,1875

**MOVED BY: Robert Pasuta
SECONDED BY: Duke O'Sullivan**

THAT the Board of Directors approve the following recommendations:

THAT Board member compensation be expanded beyond the current meetings per diem and mileage reimbursement to include attendance at special meetings or events when attendance of a specific Board member has been requested by the Chair or motion of the Board.

CARRIED

13. **NEW BUSINESS**

13.1 Millgrove Works Yard

Robert Pasuta asked about the progress to date on the construction yard move to Millgrove. Chris provided members with an update.

14. **IN-CAMERA ITEMS FOR MATTERS OF LAW, PERSONNEL AND PROPERTY**

BD12,1876

**MOVED BY: Brad Whitcombe
SECONDED BY: Duke O'Sullivan**

THAT the Board of Directors moves *in camera* for matters of law, personnel and property.

CARRIED

There was two legal matters and two property matters discussed during the *in camera* session.

14.1 Confidential Report – BA/June 01-2013

Chris Firth-Eagland presented the report.

BD12,1877 MOVED BY: Brad Whitcombe
SECONDED BY: Duke O’Sullivan

THAT the Board of Directors approve the following recommendations:

THAT Report BA/June 01-2013 be approved and remain in-camera.

CARRIED

14.2 Confidential Report – BA/June 02-2013

Chris Firth-Eagland presented the report.

BD12,1878 MOVED BY: Santina Moccio
SECONDED BY: Dan Bowman

THAT the Board of Directors approve the following recommendations:

THAT Report BA/June 02-2013 be approved and remain in-camera.

CARRIED

14.3 Confidential Report – Verbal

Chris Firth-Eagland presented the report.

BD12,1879 MOVED BY: Brad Whitcombe
SECONDED BY: Duke O’Sullivan

THAT the Board of Directors approve the following recommendations:

THAT the report be approved and remain in-camera.

CARRIED

14.4 Confidential Report – Verbal

Duke O'Sullivan expressed a concern with the Hermitage Ruins. Due to safety concerns, the Board of Directors suggested that staff set up a site meeting with the Hamilton Municipal Heritage Committee.

BD12,1880**MOVED BY: Duke O'Sullivan
SECONDED BY: Brad Whitcombe****THAT the Board of Directors moves out of *in camera*.****CARRIED****15. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Thursday, September 5, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at Woodend Auditorium, 838 Mineral Springs Road, Ancaster, Ontario.

16. ADJOURNMENT

On motion, the meeting adjourned.

Ministry of Infrastructure

Ministère de l'Infrastructure

Ministry of Transportation

Ministère des Transports

Office of the Minister

Bureau du ministre

Ferguson Block, 3rd Floor
77 Wellesley St. West
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1Z8
416-327-9200
www.ontario.ca/infrastructure
www.mto.gov.on.ca

Édifice Ferguson, 3^e étage
77, rue Wellesley ouest
Toronto (Ontario)
M7A 1Z8
416-327-9200
www.ontario.ca/infrastructure
www.mto.gov.on.ca



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SEP 03 2013

CLERK'S DEPARTMENT	
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His Worship Dennis Lever
Mayor
Township of Puslinch
7404 Wellington Road 34
Guelph ON N1H 6H9

Dear Mayor Lever,

Ontario's economy depends on efficient highways, roads, border-crossings and public transit. We know businesses want to spend less time in traffic to deliver services and get goods to market on time. Ontarians want to spend less time in traffic so they have more time to do the things that matter the most.

Our government is doing its part to tackle congestion across the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) and throughout the Greater Golden Horseshoe.

Since 2003, unprecedented investments have been made to address congestion. We have invested more than \$13.4 billion in public transit across the province, including \$6 billion to improve GO Transit. And, more than \$17 billion has been committed to design, repair and expand provincial highways and bridges across the province.

Planning for the future is important for the economy of our province.

I am pleased to announce that the final Transportation Development Strategy for the Niagara to GTA Corridor Planning and Environmental Assessment (EA) Study is available for review.

This strategy provides an outlook to 2031 with several recommendations, including support for transit enhancements, transportation demand management, advanced technologies and new highway capacity to meet the challenges of today and those posed by future growth.

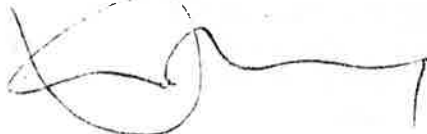
We are committed to ensuring a high quality of life in the region while balancing social, environmental and economic objectives. The recommendations in the strategy will help realize the goals and aspirations of the provincial *Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe* – and prepare us for the future by making strategic decisions today to secure an even better tomorrow.

Throughout the Niagara to GTA Study process, we have received significant public and stakeholder input, which was greatly valued and taken into consideration. The end result is a comprehensive, innovative and multimodal transportation strategy.

The strategy will be available for review on the project website (www.niagra-gta.com) and at local libraries and municipal offices from September 5, 2013 to November 4, 2013. After the review period, we will schedule the necessary planning and design work required to implement the recommended improvements. Extensive outreach and consultation was a cornerstone of Phase 1 and will continue to be a key part of the process as we move forward.

Thank you for your interest in the Niagara to GTA Corridor Study.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Glen Murray', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Glen Murray
Minister

c. Karen Landry, CAO - Township of Puslinch

September 4, 2013

Brenda Law, CAO/Clerk-Treasurer
Township of Puslinch
7404 Wellington Road, # 34
R.R. #3,
Guelph, Ontario N1H 6H9

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SEP 06 2013

Township of Puslinch

Dear Ms. Law:

**RE: Niagara to GTA Corridor Planning and Environmental Assessment Study – Phase 1
Final Transportation Development Strategy – Available for Review**

We are pleased to inform you that the final multimodal Transportation Development Strategy (final Strategy) for the Niagara to GTA (NGTA) Corridor Planning and Environmental Assessment Study has been released for review. Please find enclosed a CD containing the final Strategy. In addition, the final Strategy is available on the NGTA website: <http://www.niagara-gta.com>, under the "Reports" tab.

Beginning September 5, 2013 the report will be available at main branches of libraries and local and regional municipal offices within Niagara, Hamilton and Halton. Please see the enclosed list of review locations, which is also available on the NGTA website.

The final Strategy includes the following multimodal elements:

- Optimizing the existing transportation network.
- Supporting transit initiatives that are consistent with the Metrolinx *Regional Transportation Plan* and the GO Transit *2020 Strategic Plan*, as well as recommendations to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the non-roadway modes of transportation.
- Several highway widening and new highway corridor recommendations, including:
 - **Hamilton and Halton:** Widening of key highway facilities by two or more lanes to address medium term transportation needs. In addition, a future study is recommended to identify a longer-term transportation strategy.
 - **Hamilton to Niagara:** Widening of the QEW to eight lanes (including HOV lanes). Continuing to monitor traffic volumes on the QEW to determine capacity requirements beyond 2031.
 - **Niagara:** New highway corridor connecting Highway 406 south of Welland to the QEW near Fort Erie.

The final Strategy will be available for a 60-day review period ending on November 4, 2013. Comments received following the review period will be taken into consideration and included as a part of the public record. Please submit comments on the final Strategy to:

NGTA Study Team
c/o URS Canada Inc.
4th Floor, 30 Leek Crescent
Richmond Hill, ON Canada L4B 4N4
Tel: 905.882.4401
Fax: 905.882.4399
Toll free: 1-866-890-6441
www.niagara-gta.com

NGTA Study Team
c/o URS Canada Inc.
4th Floor, 30 Leek Crescent
Richmond Hill, Ontario L4B 4N4
Fax: 905-882-4399 ATTN: NGTA
Email: project_team@niagara-gta.com

Phase 1 of this Planning and Environmental Assessment (EA) Study was initiated by MTO in support of the transportation objectives of the provincial *Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe*. The study is being undertaken in accordance with the *Ontario Environmental Assessment Act* (EA Act) and the Terms of Reference, which was approved by the Minister of the Environment in June 2006.

The completion of the Transportation Development Strategy represents the conclusion of Phase 1 of the NGTA Study. The recommendations embodied in the final Strategy will be further pursued through Phase 2 of the NGTA study or as separate future studies and initiatives.

Comments will be maintained on file for use during the project and may be included in project documentation. Information collected will be used in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and the *Access to Information Act*. With the exception of personal information (e.g., name and address), all comments received will become part of the public record.

We thank you for your participation and assistance in this important study.

Sincerely,



Mr. John Slobodzian
MTO Study Team Lead
Provincial Planning Office
Ontario Ministry of Transportation



Mr. Paul Hudspith, P. Eng.
Consultant Project Manager
URS Canada Inc.

Encl.

NGTA Study Team
c/o URS Canada Inc.
4th Floor, 30 Leek Crescent
Richmond Hill, ON Canada L4B 4N4
Tel: 905.882.4401
Fax: 905.882.4399
Toll free: 1-866-890-6441
www.niagara-gta.com

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ONTARIO GOVERNMENT NOTICE

FINAL TRANSPORTATION DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

Niagara to GTA Corridor Planning and Environmental Assessment Study Phase 1

The public are invited to review the final multimodal Transportation Development Strategy (final Strategy) for the Niagara to GTA (NGTA) Corridor Planning and Environmental Assessment Study. The final Strategy will be available **beginning September 5, 2013** on the NGTA website: <http://www.niagara-gta.com>, at main branches of public libraries and at local and regional municipal offices within Niagara, Hamilton and Halton. A complete list of the review locations is available on the study website.

THE STUDY:

Phase 1 of this Planning and Environmental Assessment (EA) Study was initiated by MTO in support of the transportation objectives of the provincial *Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe*. The study is being undertaken in accordance with the *Ontario Environmental Assessment Act (EA Act)* and the Terms of Reference, which was approved by the Minister of the Environment in June 2006.

In March 2011, MTO released a draft Transportation Development Strategy (draft Strategy) that outlined several recommendations to expand the capacity of the transportation network that connects Niagara Region and the U.S. border to the Greater Toronto Area. The draft Strategy included support for enhanced transit, measures to optimize the existing transportation network, additional lanes on existing highways and new highways. Since the release of the draft Strategy, the Study Team has carried out additional analysis of the recommendations for highway expansion. **The analysis, findings and recommendations from this work are documented in the final Strategy.**

The completion of the Transportation Development Strategy represents the conclusion of Phase 1 of the NGTA Study. The recommendations embodied in the final Strategy will be further pursued through Phase 2 of the NGTA Study or as separate future studies and initiatives.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The final Strategy includes the following multimodal elements:

- Optimizing the existing transportation network.
- Supporting transit initiatives that are consistent with the Metrolinx *Regional Transportation Plan* and the GO Transit *2020 Strategic Plan*, as well as recommendations to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the non-roadway modes of transportation.
- Several highway widening and new highway corridor recommendations, including:
 - **Hamilton and Halton:** Widening of key highway facilities by two or more lanes to address medium term transportation needs. In addition, a future study is recommended to identify a longer-term transportation strategy.
 - **Hamilton to Niagara:** Widening of QEW to 8 lanes (including HOV lanes). Continue to monitor traffic volumes on the QEW to determine capacity requirements beyond 2031.
 - **Niagara:** New highway corridor connecting Highway 406 south of Welland to the QEW near Fort Erie.

COMMENTS:

The final Strategy will be available for a 60-day review period ending on November 4, 2013. Comments and input regarding this study will be collected to assist the MTO with Phase 2 of the NGTA Study. This material will be maintained on file for use during the project and may be included in project documentation to meet the requirements of the *EA Act*. Information collected will be used in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and the *Access to Information Act*. With the exception of personal information (e.g., name and address), all comments received will become part of the public record.

For further information, or to be added to the mailing list for this study or future studies, please visit the study website or contact:

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**Niagara to GTA Corridor Planning and Environmental Assessment Study – Phase 1
Final Transportation Development Strategy – Available for Review**

Municipal Clerk's Offices

City of Burlington (426 Brant Street)
City of Hamilton (71 Main Street West, 2nd Floor)
City of Niagara Falls (4310 Queen Street)
City of Port Colborne (66 Charlotte Street)
City of St. Catharines (50 Church Street)
City of Thorold (3540 Schmon Parkway)
City of Welland (60 East Main Street)
County of Wellington (74 Woolwich Street, Guelph)
Haldimand County (45 Munsee Street North, Cayuga)
Halton Region (1151 Bronte Road)
Niagara Region (2201 St. David's Road, Thorold)
Town of Fort Erie (1 Municipal Centre Drive)
Town of Grimsby (Administration Offices, 160 Livingston Avenue)
Town of Halton Hills (1 Halton Hills Drive)
Town of Lincoln (4800 South Service Road, Beamsville)
Town of Milton (150 Mary Street)
Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake (1593 Four Mile Creek Road, Virgil)
Town of Oakville (1225 Trafalgar Road)
Town of Pelham (20 Pelham Town Square, Fonthill)
Township of Wainfleet (31940 Highway 3)
Township of West Lincoln (318 Canborough Street)

Libraries

Aboyne Branch (552 Wellington Rd.18, RR 1, Fergus)
Acton Branch (17 River St., Acton)
Ancaster Branch (300 Wilson Street E., Ancaster)
Arthur Branch (183 George Street, Box 550, Arthur)
Binbrook Branch (2641 Highway 56, Binbrook)
Caistorville Public Library (9549 York Street, Caistorville)
Caledonia Public Library (100 Haddington Street, Unit 2, Caledonia)
Carlisle Branch (1496 Centre Rd., Carlisle)
Cayuga Public Library (28 Cayuga St. N., Cayuga)
Centennial Branch (136 Gilmore Road, Fort Erie)
Clifford Branch (7 Brown Street N., Clifford)
Drayton Branch (24 Wood Street, Drayton)
Dundas Branch (18 Ogilvie St., Dundas)
Dunnville Public Library (317 Chestnut St, Dunnville)
Elora Branch (144 Geddes St., P.O. Box 280, Elora)
Erin Branch (14 Boland Drive, Erin)
Fergus Branch (190 St. Andrew St. W, Fergus)

Review Locations

Fonthill Branch (P.O. Box 830, 43 Pelham Town Square, Fonthill)
Freelton Branch (1803 Brock Rd., Freelton)
Georgetown Branch (9 Church St., Georgetown)
Greensville Branch (59 Kirby Ave., Greensville)
Grimsby Public Library (18 Carnegie Lane, Grimsby)
Hagersville Public Library (13 Alma St. North, Hagersville)
Harriston Branch (88 Mill Street, Harriston)
Hillsburgh Branch (98B Main Street, Hillsburgh)
Jarvis Public Library (2 Monson St, Jarvis)
Lincoln Public Library Fleming Branch (4996 Beam Street, Beamsville)
Lincoln Public Library Moses Rittenhouse Branch (4080 John Charles Blvd., Vineland)
Lynden Branch (79 Lynden Rd., Lynden)
Maple Acre Branch (P.O. Box 294, 781 Canboro Road, Fenwick)
Milton Public Library (45 Bruce Street, Milton)
Mount Forest Branch (118 Main Street, Mount Forest)
Mount Hope Branch (3027 Homestead Dr., RR1, Mount Hope)
Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library (10 Anderson Lane, Niagara-on-the-Lake)
Palmerston Branch (265 Bell Street, Palmerston)
Port Colborne Public Library (310 King Street, Port Colborne)
Queenston Public Library (32 Queenston Street, Queenston)
Rockton Branch (795 Old Highway 8, Rockton)
Rockwood Branch (85 Christie Street, Rockwood)
Saltfleet Branch (131 Gray Rd., Stoney Creek)
Selkirk Public Library (34 Main Street West, Selkirk)
Smithville Public Library (318 Canborough Street, Smithville)
Thorold Library Main Branch (14 Ormond St. N., Thorold)
Thorold Library Port Robinson Branch (46 Cross St., Port Robinson)
Wainfleet Township Public Library (P.O. Box 118, 19M9 Park Street, Wainfleet)
Waterdown Branch (25 Mill St. N., Waterdown)
Wellandport Public Library (5042 Regional Road 63, Wellandport)

Burlington

Aldershot Branch (355 Plains Road. E., Burlington)
Central Library (2331 New Street, Burlington)
Kilbride Branch (6611 Panton Street, Burlington)
New Appleby Branch (676 Appleby Line, Burlington)
Tansley Woods Branch (1996 Itabashi Way, Burlington)

Guelph

Marden Branch (7368 Wellington Road 30, R.R. 5)
Puslinch Branch (29 Wellington Road 46 S., RR#3)

Hamilton

Barton Branch (571 Barton St. E.)
Central Library (55 York Blvd.)
Concession Branch (565 Concession St.)

Kenilworth Branch (103 Kenilworth Ave. N.)
Locke Branch (285 Locke St. S.)
Red Hill Branch (695 Queenston Rd.)
Sherwood Branch (467 Upper Ottawa St.)
Terryberry Branch (100 Mohawk Rd. W.)
Valley Park Branch (970 Paramount Dr.)
Westdale Branch (955 King St. W.)

Niagara Falls

Chippawa Branch Library (3763 Main Street)
MacBain Community Centre Branch Library (7150 Montrose Road)
Stamford Centre Branch Library (Town and Country Plaza, 3643 Portage Road)
Victoria Avenue Library (main) (4848 Victoria Avenue)

Oakville

Central Branch Library (120 Navy Street)
Glen Abbey Branch Library (1415 Third Line)
Iroquois Ridge Branch Library (1051 Glenashton Drive)
White Oaks Branch Library (1070 McCraney Street East)
Woodside Branch Library (1274 Rebecca Street)

St. Catharines

Brock University Library (500 Glenridge Avenue)
Central Library (54 Church Street)
Merritt Branch (149 Hartzel Road)
Port Dalhousie Branch (23 Brock Street)
St. Catharines Public Library Dr. Huq Family Library Branch (425 Carleton Street)

Welland

Main Branch (50 The Boardwalk)
Northwest Branch (650 South Pelham Rd.)



THE STRATEGY

The Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) is pleased to release the multimodal Transportation Development Strategy (final Strategy) for the Niagara to GTA (NGTA) Corridor Planning and Environmental Assessment Study.

In March 2011, MTO released a draft Transportation Development Strategy (draft Strategy) that outlined several recommendations including support for enhanced transit, measures to optimize the existing transportation network, additional lanes on existing highways and new highways. Since the release of the draft Strategy, the Study Team carried out additional analysis of the previous recommendations for highway expansion and new highways. The analysis, findings and recommendations from this work are provided in the final Strategy.

The completion of the Strategy represents the conclusion of Phase 1 of the NGTA Study. The recommendations embodied in the final Strategy will be further pursued on a number of fronts. The new highway corridor recommendation in the East Area will be the subject of Phase 2 of the NGTA study. All of the highway widening recommendations in the West and Central areas will be the subject of separate Class Environmental Assessment studies. All of the optimization and non-road recommendations throughout the NGTA study area will be further pursued by MTO and relevant jurisdictions as part of separate future initiatives.

IMPROVEMENTS TO FOSTER AND MANAGE GROWTH

The NGTA Strategy includes the following:

- Optimizing the existing transportation network including support for Transportation Demand Management (TDM) programs throughout the NGTA study area and beyond.
- Support for transit initiatives that are consistent with the Metrolinx *Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)* and the *GO 2020 Strategic Plan*, as well as recommendations to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the non-roadway modes of transportation.
- Several highway widening and new highway corridor recommendations, including:
 - **Hamilton / Halton (West Area):** Widening of key highway facilities to address medium term needs, and a future study to identify a longer-term transportation strategy.
 - **Hamilton to Niagara (Central Area):** Widening of QEW to 8 lanes and a recommendation to continue to monitor traffic volumes in the Central Area.
 - **Niagara (East Area):** A new highway corridor connecting Highway 406 south of Welland to the QEW near Fort Erie.



THE RECOMMENDATIONS



OPTIMIZE EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE

Priority: *Develop an Active Traffic Management strategy that improves performance of the existing transportation system by reducing demand and improving system efficiency.*



The NGTA recommendations also assume and support the full implementation of the Metrolinx RTP:

- Providing information systems for travelers where and when they need it - online and in real-time;
- Providing a wayfinding system to make the transit system easier to use and navigate; and,
- Integrating transit fares so that travelers can cross municipal boundaries or transfer between modes without fare duplication.

Other optimization initiatives under MTO's jurisdiction include:

Providing frequent updates on traffic conditions

Adjustable speed limits (speed harmonization) to avoid stop and go traffic

Smooth vehicle access to highways with signals on ramps (ramp metering)

Reversible (contra-flow) lanes and moveable barriers

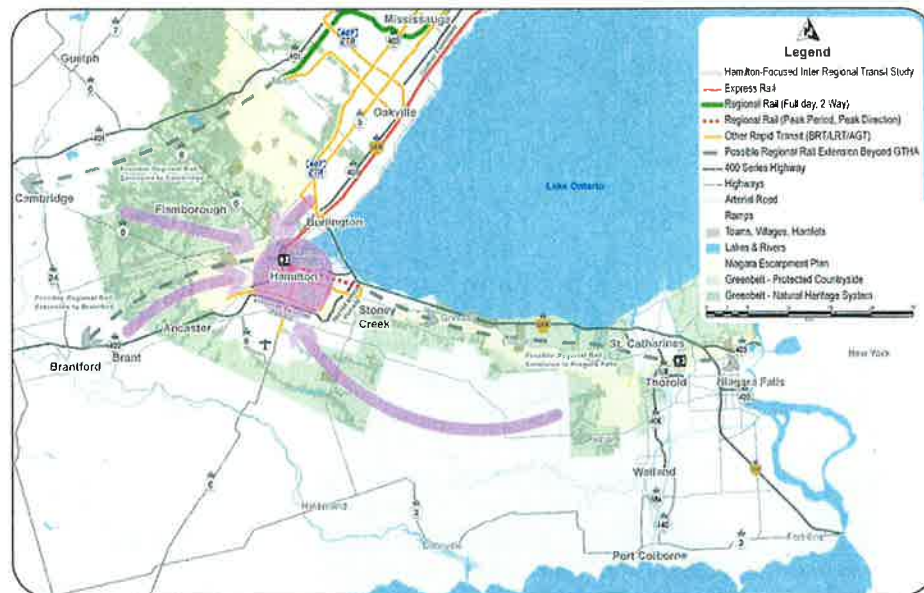
HOV / Transit only bypasses on ramps



NEW / EXPANDED NON-ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE

PRIORITY: *Improve existing and / or provide new non-road infrastructure and transit.*

- Support for the transit projects outlined in the Metrolinx RTP;
- A future Hamilton focused inter-regional transit study to examine the feasibility of new transit services bringing commuters to Hamilton city centre from outlying areas;
- Improve freight rail efficiency by addressing grade separation issues at highway / rail crossings; and,
- Explore options for improving linkages between marine ports and provincial highways.





HIGHWAY EXPANSION – Hamilton to Burlington / Oakville

In addition to existing plans and the recommended optimization and the non-road improvements, widening of key highway facilities has been recommended. This recommendation addresses medium-term transportation requirements (2021 to 2031), and provides the foundation for a future longer-term study.

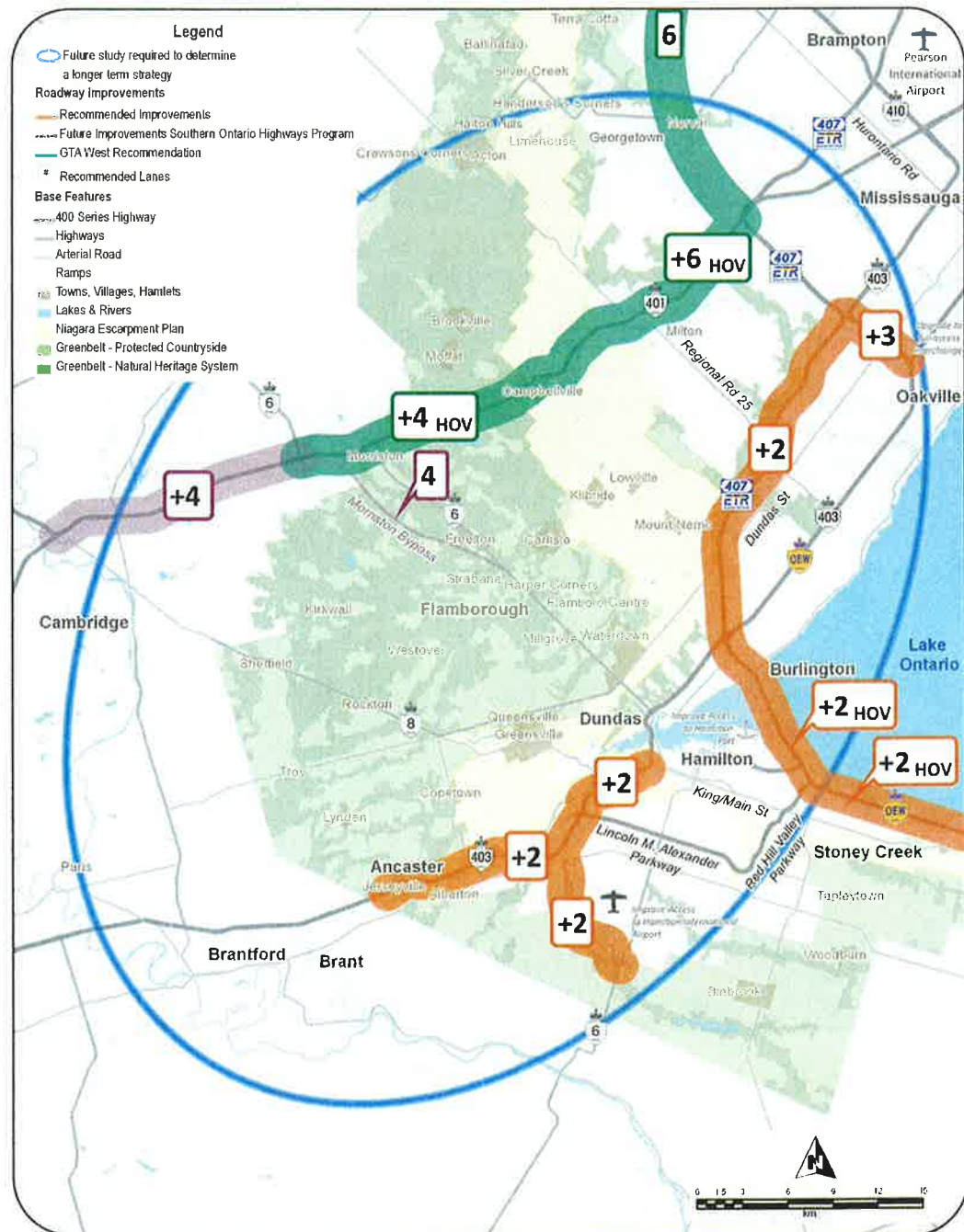
The medium-term improvements proposed for the West Area include the following:

- **Highway 403 Hamilton** - widen by two lanes from King Street/Main Street to Jerseyville;
- **Highway 403 Oakville** - widen by three lanes from the Ford Plant to 407 ETR;
- **407 ETR** - widen by two lanes between the Freeman Interchange and Highway 403 Interchange in Oakville;
- **QEW Halton** – widen by two HOV lanes from the Freeman Interchange over the Burlington Bay Skyway to the Red Hill Valley Parkway Interchange; and,
- **Highway 6 (New)** – widen by two lanes between Hamilton Airport and Highway 403.

FUTURE STUDY

The longer-term need for additional capacity in the transportation network will be addressed in a separate future study. The scope of this study will be developed in consultation with municipalities and stakeholder groups. Elements of the future study may include:

- Longer planning horizon (e.g. 2041 or later);
- An expanded study area (including areas to the west of the current study area);
- Expansion of the transportation problems and opportunities, based on the expanded study area and planning horizon; and,
- Opportunities for increased mode shift and integration of non-roadway transportation service providers.



THE RECOMMENDATIONS



HIGHWAY EXPANSION – Hamilton to Niagara

In addition to existing plans, optimization and the non-road improvements, widening the QEW to eight lanes (including HOV lanes) is recommended.



If current population and employment growth patterns continue as predicted, additional transit services, a new transportation corridor or a further widening of QEW may be required beyond 2031. The study also recommends continued monitoring of the performance of the QEW and transportation network that connects the City of Hamilton to Niagara Region. The results of this monitoring can be used to determine when additional capacity may be required to address the demand for travel beyond 2031.



HIGHWAY EXPANSION – Niagara (Welland to Fort Erie)

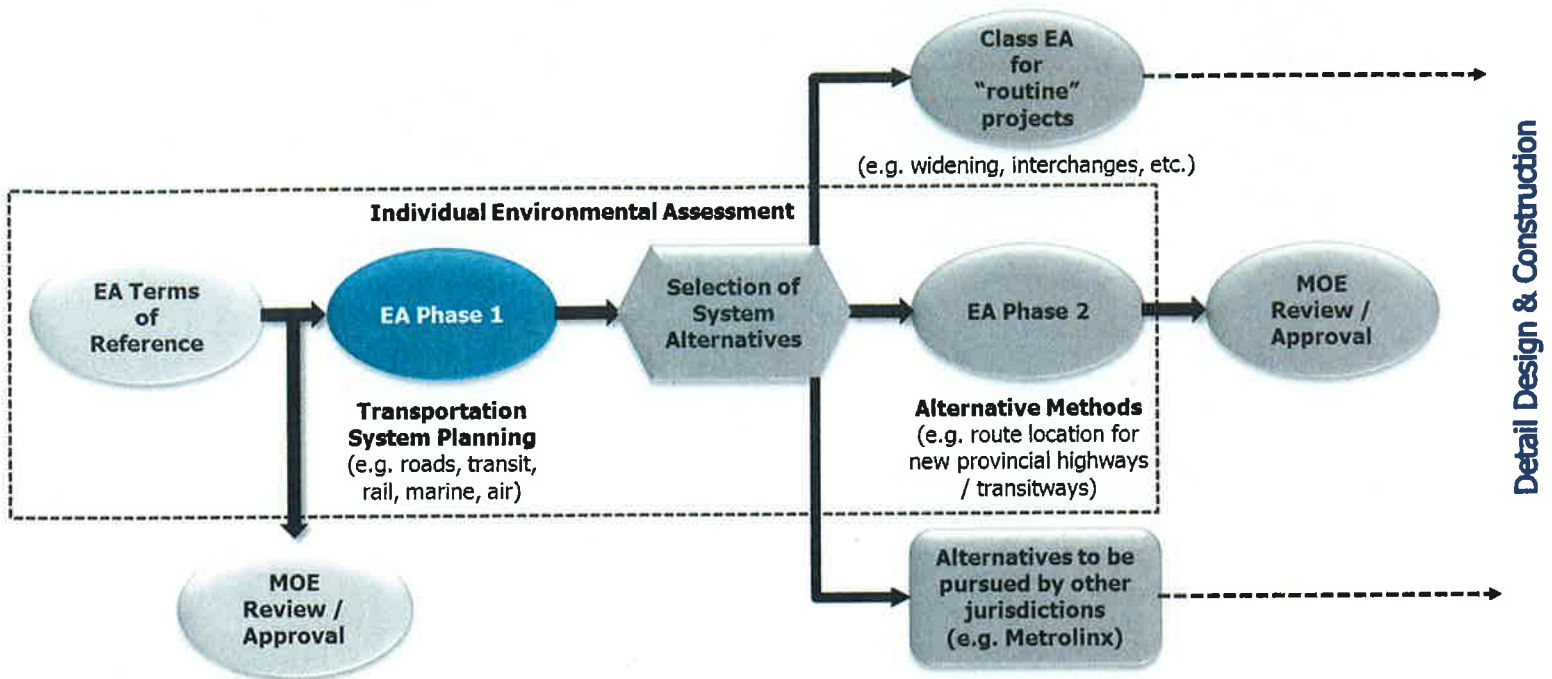
In addition to existing plans, optimization and the non-road improvements, a new highway corridor connecting Highway 406 to QEW is recommended. This corridor extends from Highway 406 south of Welland to QEW near Fort Erie. It is anticipated that widening / improvements to Highway 406 will also be required in conjunction with this new highway corridor.

This recommendation will provide support for the *Growth Plan* objectives for the Gateway Economic Centre and Zone, and aligns with Niagara’s “Grow South” Strategy.



LOOKING AHEAD

The Transportation Development Strategy documented in the report will form the basis for the subsequent stages of each recommendation. There are three possible "streams" for the various recommendations in the Strategy:



- **Stream 1:** Each of the widening recommendations will be subject to future "Class Environmental Assessment" (EA) studies to identify the preferred widening solution along each section of the provincial highway network.
- **Stream 2:** "EA Phase 2" refers to the new highway corridor connecting Highway 406 to QEW in the southern tier of Niagara. Phase 2 is a route planning and preliminary design study to identify the preferred route for the new highway including an examination of transit and/or freight priority design options.
- **Stream 3:** "Alternatives to be pursued by other jurisdictions" applies to those recommendations that are to be implemented by transportation service providers other than MTO. These recommendations will be forwarded to the relevant jurisdictions for further review and action as appropriate.

COMMENTS

Comments and input regarding this study are encouraged and will be considered as each recommendation moves forward to more detailed planning, design and implementation. Comments received will be maintained on file and may be included in project documentation to meet the requirements of the provincial *Environmental Assessment Act*. Comments can be provided by mail, email or by visiting the study website's Contact Us page.

Mailing Address:

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