

The Mid-Peninsula Transportation Corridor

The Ernie Eves government has listened to public input and announced a broadened Environmental Assessment (EA) study area, including three corridor options in the Hamilton-Halton area, for the Mid-Peninsula Transportation Corridor.

The corridor is part of the government's Smart Growth strategy to build a modern transportation network to support prosperity in Ontario over the next 20 years.

Based on the needs assessment study, and the input received during recent public and stakeholder consultations, the three options recommended for further evaluation are:

Alternative C:

A transportation corridor connecting the Niagara Peninsula to the 407 in Burlington;

Alternative F:

A transportation corridor connecting the Niagara Peninsula to Highway 401, west of the Niagara Escarpment; and

Alternative G:

A transportation corridor connecting the Niagara Peninsula to the QEW and Highway 407 using a widened Highway 403 through Hamilton and Burlington.

The EA study will also consider two options for the corridor's eastern branch, north and south of the City of Welland.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

In June 2001, the government released an assessment of transportation needs in the Niagara Peninsula. The assessment introduced a strategy to improve all modes of transportation, including highways, transit, rail, municipal roads and ferries. The proposed new corridor is just one part of this comprehensive strategy.

Since releasing the needs assessment, the government has conducted extensive consultations with the public and stakeholders before proceeding with the next phase of the Mid-Peninsula Transportation Corridor — the EA study for route location. As a result of input received during these consultations, the government broadened the EA study area. Each of the options will be fully evaluated in terms of environmental, economic and social impacts in the EA study.

NEXT STEPS

Public information centres will be held on November 26, 27 and 28 to unveil the broadened Environmental Assessment (EA) study area and corridor options. Comments from these sessions will be considered before the EA Terms of Reference are presented to the Minister of the Environment for approval. The EA Terms of Reference will outline the scope of the EA study for route location. The EA process will seek to balance a variety of key objectives, including: addressing future transportation demand; supporting the government's Smart Growth objectives; and protecting sensitive and natural features. If the terms of reference are approved, the Ministry of Transportation will proceed with the EA study next year.

WHY WE NEED THIS CORRIDOR

The Ontario government has committed to providing transportation solutions that will keep people and goods moving safely and efficiently across the province. The need for the Mid-Peninsula Transportation Corridor is being driven by factors as follows:

Population growth

Population growth in the central Ontario area, which continues to be one of the fastest growing regions in North America.

Employment growth

The economic success of the region in creating jobs for its residents.

Trade growth

Trade growth, particularly to markets in the United States.

Tourism growth

Tourism travel growth between the Greater Toronto Area, the Niagara area and the United States.

Land use policies

The need to support the preservation of Niagara's tender fruitlands, municipal land use growth policies and to increase accessibility to John C. Munro Airport and southwestern Ontario.

Growing congestion

Growing congestion on area highways, including the QEW and Highway 403.

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For more information visit www.mto.gov.on.ca

Proposed EA Route Location Study Area Conceptual Transportation Corridors

Alternative C or D2

A transportation corridor connecting the Niagara Peninsula to the 407 in Burlington.

Alternative F

A transportation corridor connecting the Niagara Peninsula to Highway 401, west of the Niagara Escarpment.

Alternative G

A transportation corridor connecting the Niagara Peninsula to the QEW and Highway 407 using a widened Highway 403 through Hamilton and Burlington.

