



GTA West Corridor Environmental Assessment Terms of Reference

Consultation Record

June 2007

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) is working to provide for the efficient movement of people and goods within the context of the province's *Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe*. To support the policy directions in the *Growth Plan*, MTO has commenced the formal environmental assessment (EA) process for the GTA West Corridor. The purpose of this study is to examine long-term transportation problems and opportunities and consider alternative solutions to provide better linkages between *Urban Growth Centres* within the GTA West Corridor Preliminary Study Area.

This study is being undertaken as an Individual EA in accordance with the *Ontario Environmental Assessment Act* (the Act). Prior to preparing an Individual EA, the Act requires that a proponent prepare a Terms of Reference (ToR). The ToR is a document that provides a framework to guide the preparation of the EA, and requires approval by the Minister of the Environment (MOE). If approved, the ToR will serve as the framework for an EA Study to develop and select transportation alternatives.

This Consultation Record has been prepared as required under section 6(3) of the *Ontario Environmental Assessment Act* whereby a “*description of the consultation by the proponent and the results of the consultations*” in preparation of the ToR must be appended to the ToR document as part of the submission to the Minister of the Environment for approval.

2. CONSULTATION OVERVIEW

The GTA West Corridor Planning and EA Study was initiated in January 2007, with notices published in newspapers across the Preliminary Study Area. This activity was designed to encourage early identification of issues, provide extensive opportunities to participate in the study and foster input into the ToR.

Soon after the study commencement notification, potentially affected regulatory agencies and municipalities were invited to participate on a Regulatory Agency Advisory Group and Municipal Advisory Group respectively. Meetings were held with both advisory groups prior to the release of the draft ToR to provide an overview of the study, the role of the ToR, the general content and the anticipated consultation plan for the document. In addition, a list of area interest groups (ratepayers associations, environmental groups, agricultural groups etc.) was developed in consultation with the local municipalities. This list will be updated and refined as the study progresses.

The draft ToR was released for public and agency review on March 15th, 2007 with a deadline for comments of May 18th, 2007. During this 9-week pre-submission review period, the Project Team met with local municipal councils and committees, First Nations, and held four Public Information Centres (PICs) across the Preliminary Study Area in mid to late April.

The consultation program was flexible to permit requests for additional presentations, meetings or PICs. At the request of Caledon Council, the Project Team arranged an additional PIC in the Town of Caledon on May 8th, 2007. In addition, the Project Team accommodated all nine requests for presentations from the Niagara Escarpment Commission, municipal councils and committees.

All comments received during this preliminary stage of the EA, from the general public, interest groups, First Nations, agencies and municipalities were considered by the Project Team. The revised ToR submitted to the Minister of the Environment is a reflection of this consultation effort.

A list of stakeholders consulted in the preparation of the Terms of Reference are included in Appendix A. Consistent with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, public lists developed as part of this study have not been included.

A comprehensive list of agency / municipal comments submitted in the preparation of the ToR, and the associated responses provided by the Project Team, are included in Appendix B.

A list of responses to First Nation comments received during the preparation of the ToR, are included in Appendix C.

Public and interest group comments submitted, summarized and organized by theme, are included in Appendix D, with the corresponding response that was generally provided. All public comments submitted to which a reply was requested, received a response from the Project Team. These comments and responses are bound under separate cover.

3. PUBLIC CONSULTATION IN THE PREPARATION OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE

3.1 Background

The project website (www.gta-west.com) was launched to coincide with the study commencement notification on January 31st 2007, and provides an ongoing opportunity for stakeholders to review up-to-date study information and to contact the Project Team through the e-mail address (project_team@gta-west.com) provided on the “Contact Us” page. The “Contact Us” page also includes a “webform” feature, where comments can be entered and sent directly to the project team from the website to facilitate feedback from interested parties.

The project website will remain active throughout the ToR submission period and subsequent EA Study.

A copy of the project website pages is included in Appendix E.

3.2 Newspaper Notifications

Notices were published in 16 newspapers selected across the Preliminary Study Area to provide: notification of project milestones; a key map for study context; information on the EA process, and contact information for key Project Team members. A copy of the newspaper notices are included in Appendix F, and were published as outlined below.

Notice of Study Commencement

A notice announcing the commencement of the study was published from January 31st, 2007 to February 4th, 2007 in the following list of newspapers on the specified dates. The notice was also posted to the project website to coincide with the first publication date.

DAILY NEWSPAPERS

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Toronto Star | Saturday February 3, 2007 |
| 2. The Guelph Mercury | Saturday February 3, 2007 |

TRI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 3. Mississauga News | Sunday February 4, 2007 |
| 4. Brampton Guardian | Sunday February 4, 2007 |

BI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 5. Caledon Enterprise | Saturday February 3, 2007 |
| 6. Vaughan Citizen | Sunday February 4, 2007 |
| 7. Guelph Tribune | Friday February 2, 2007 |
| 8. Georgetown Acton Independent | Wednesday January 31, 2007 |
| 9. Milton - The Canadian Champion | Friday February 2, 2007 |

WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 10. Caledon Citizen | Wednesday January 31, 2007 |
| 11. King Township Sentinel | Wednesday January 31, 2007 |
| 12. The Erin Advocate | Wednesday January 31, 2007 |
| 13. Le Metropolitain (French) | Wednesday January 31, 2007 |
| 14. Turtle Island News | Wednesday January 31, 2007 |
| 15. Tekawennake New Credit Reporter | Wednesday January 31, 2007 |
| 16. The Halton Compass | Thursday February 1, 2007 |

Notice of Public Information Centre and Review of draft ToR

A notice announcing the Public Information Centre, and providing information on the viewing locations for the draft ToR, was published in the following list of newspapers on the specified dates. The notice was also posted to the project website to coincide with the first publication date.

DAILY NEWSPAPERS

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Toronto Star | Sat April 7, 2007 | |
| 2. The Guelph Mercury | Sat April 7, 2007 | Sat April 14, 2007 |

TRI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS

- | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 3. Mississauga News | Sun April 8, 2007 | Fri April 13, 2007 |
| 4. Brampton Guardian | Wed April 4, 2007 | Wed April 11, 2007 |

BI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| 5. Caledon Enterprise | Sat April 7, 2007 | Sat April 14, 2007 |
| 6. Vaughan Citizen | Thurs April 5, 2007 | Thurs April 12, 2007 |
| 7. Guelph Tribune | Fri April 6, 2007 | Fri April 13, 2007 |
| 8. Georgetown Acton Independent | Wed April 4, 2007 | Fri April 13, 2007 |
| 9. Milton – The Canadian Champion | Fri April 6, 2007 | Tues April 10, 2007 |

WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| 10. Caledon Citizen | Wed April 4, 2007 | Wed April 11, 2007 |
| 11. King Township Sentinel | Wed April 4, 2007 | Wed April 11, 2007 |
| 12. The Erin Advocate | Wed April 4, 2007 | Wed April 11, 2007 |
| 13. Le Metropolitain (French) | Wed April 4, 2007 | Wed April 11, 2007 |
| 14. Turtle Island News | Wed April 4, 2007 | Wed April 11, 2007 |
| 15. Tekawennake New Credit Reporter | Wed April 4, 2007 | Wed April 11, 2007 |
| 16. The Halton Compass | Thurs April 5, 2007 | Thurs April 12, 2007 |

Notice of Additional Public Information Centre

A notice providing advance notification of the additional PIC arranged in the Town of Caledon, was published in the following list of newspapers on the following dates. The notice was also posted to the project website to coincide with the first publication date.

NEWSPAPER

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Caledon Enterprise | Saturday April 28, 2007 |
| Caledon Citizen | Wednesday May 2, 2007 |

3.3 Mailing List and E-mails / Letters

Study Mailing List

A study mailing list was developed following the study commencement notification and included interested stakeholders that submitted requests through the project website (webform), e-mail, fax, phone or letter. Those who signed in at the Public Information Centre were also added to the study mailing list.

Once stakeholders were added to the study mailing list they received subsequent notifications of the study milestones outlined below through their preferred method of contact (e-mail or letter).

In addition, a list of area interest groups (ratepayers associations, environmental groups, agricultural groups, etc.) was developed in consultation with the local municipalities. This list will be updated and refined as the study progresses.

E-mail / Letter Notification of Release of Terms of Reference

Individuals on the study mailing list were notified on March 15th, 2007 by e-mail / letter of the release of the draft Terms of Reference. The e-mail / letter also described the subsequent review process, including a deadline for comments of May 18th, 2007 and a description of the second review period that would be initiated by the Minister of the Environment, following the submission of the Terms of Reference. A list of public review locations, including 16 local libraries, was included with the letter or attached to the e-mail.

E-mail / Letter Notification of Public Information Centre and Review of ToR

Individuals on the study mailing list were notified of the Public Information Centre by letters mailed on March 30th, 2007 or e-mails sent on April 3rd, 2007, depending on the preferred method of contact. The letter / e-mail provided a list of the four PICs arranged within the Preliminary Study Area, as well as a reminder of the availability of the draft Terms of Reference for review and the deadline for comments of May 18th, 2007. The e-mail/letter also included a description of the second review period that would be initiated by the Minister of the Environment, following the submission of the Terms of Reference.

A correction notice advising of an error in the dates included in the initial letter was sent by e-mail or courier on April 11th, 2007 to all agencies and individuals who received the initial letter. This error was not in any other notification materials and did not result in any notable concerns by the public.

Copies of the notification materials are included in the Public Information Centre Summary Report in Appendix G.

E-mail / Letter Notification of the Additional Public Information Centre

Individuals on the study mailing list were notified by e-mail / letter on April 27th, 2007 regarding the additional PIC in Caledon.

3.4 Public Information Centre

Public Information Centres (PICs) were held to provide the public with an opportunity to review the draft ToR, provide comments and discuss issues with representatives of the Project Team. Municipalities were consulted on appropriate venues, and provided the schedules of other local public consultation events to avoid conflicts.

Representatives of the Project Team attended the PICs. The PICs were held as drop-in centres with display panels that presented contents of the draft EA Terms of Reference, mapping of existing conditions and information for providing comments. The Project Team participated in discussions with the attendees to ensure that all questions and concerns were addressed.

The PICs were held as follows:

Monday April 16 2007	Wednesday April 18, 2007
Holiday Inn Select Brampton Caledon Room 30 Peel Centre Drive Brampton, ON	Le Jardin Special Events Centre Venetian Room 8440 Highway 27 Woodbridge, ON
4:00 to 8:00 p.m.	4:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Monday April 23, 2007	Tuesday April 24, 2007
River Run Centre Canada Company Hall 35 Woolwich Street Guelph, ON	Cultural Centre Gallery 9 Church Street Georgetown, ON
4:00 to 8:00 p.m.	4:00 to 8:00 p.m.

At the request of Caledon Council, the Project Team arranged an additional PIC in the Town of Caledon on May 8th, 2007 at the time and location listed below.

Tuesday, May 8, 2007
Brampton Fair Grounds Hall 4269 Heart Lake Road Caledon, ON
4:00 to 8:00 p.m.

The information presented at the PICs included:

- Overview and purpose of the study;
- Overall EA process for the GTA West Corridor;
- Proposed process to generation and evaluate alternatives;
- Existing environmental conditions; and
- Proposed consultation plan.

Copies of the draft ToR were available for review at the PICs, in addition to relevant supporting policies and plans, including the *Provincial Policy Statement*, the *Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe*, the *Greenbelt Plan*, the *Niagara Escarpment Plan*, the *Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan*, the *Ontario Environmental Assessment Act* and the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*.

Hand-outs of the display material were available on request in both English and French. Also available, on request, were copies of the draft ToR.

In addition to verbal comments, the Project Team encouraged visitors to express, in writing, all comments they had regarding the information presented. In total, 64 written comments were received at the PICs.

A breakdown of attendance and comments by PIC date/venue is provided as follows:

Date / Location		Total Attendance	Written Comments Received
April 16 2007	Brampton	42	9
April 18 2007	Vaughan	45	6
April 23 2007	Guelph	79	22
April 24 2007	Georgetown	72	2
May 8 2007	Caledon	140	25
Total		378	64

Additional detail on the PICs is provided in Appendix G, in the PIC Summary Report.

3.5 Interest Groups and Applications for the Community Advisory Group

A list of local interest groups was compiled by the Project Team in consultation with local municipalities. These interest groups received notice of the release of the draft ToR and the Public Information Centres as described in Section 3.4 of this Consultation Record.

To assist the Project Team as the study progresses, a Community Advisory Group (CAG) will be formed, once the ToR is approved, to provide valuable input on community perspectives. It is anticipated that the CAG will include representatives from several stakeholder / interest groups, organizations, and individuals in, and around, the Preliminary Study Area.

The application for the CAG was initiated following the study commencement through an application form available on the project website. At the Public Information Centres, the future formation and role of the CAG was described on a display panel and application forms were available for individuals to fill out and submit, to the Project Team. In total, 12 applications were received at the PIC, and an additional 8 were received through the project website, e-mail or fax.

The application form provided for the CAG is included in Appendix H.

3.6 Summary of Comments Received from the Public and Interest Groups

In addition to PICs, public input was encouraged throughout the study, and facilitated through the project website, the project team e-mail address, and project team contact information listed in each newspaper notification.

A breakdown of the submissions received, from the study commencement to the deadline for comments on the draft ToR (May 18th, 2007), is provided below:

Summary of Public and Interest Group Input / Submissions	# Received
Webform	55
E-mail	32
Letter / Fax	16
Total Community Advisory Group Application Forms Received	20
Total	123

Public and interest group comments submitted, summarized and organized by theme, are included in Appendix D, with the corresponding response that was generally provided. All public comments submitted, to which a reply was requested, received a response from the Project Team. These comments and responses are bound under separate cover.

4. CONSULTATION WITH MUNICIPALITIES, AGENCIES AND FIRST NATIONS IN THE PREPARATION OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE

4.1 Municipal Advisory Group

A Municipal Advisory Group (MAG) was formed based on the geographic context of the Preliminary Study Area and includes representatives from upper and lower tier municipalities in the Preliminary Study Area.

The first meeting of the MAG was held on March 6th, 2007, prior to the release of the draft ToR, to provide an overview of the EA study approach, details on the draft ToR and an opportunity for preliminary feedback and questions.

The summary notes from this meeting are provided in Appendix I.

4.2 Regulatory Agency Advisory Group

A Regulatory Agency Advisory Group (RAAG) was formed to include potentially affected federal ministries, provincial ministries, regional agencies (Conservation Authorities) and Transportation Service Providers.

The first meeting of the RAAG was held on March 9, 2007, prior to the release of the draft ToR, to provide an overview of the EA study approach, details on the draft ToR and an opportunity for preliminary feedback and questions.

The summary notes from this meeting are provided in Appendix J.

A separate presentation was requested by the RAAG representative of the Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC). Subsequently, members of the Project Team attended the April 19th, 2007 meeting of the NEC and presented components of the draft ToR, followed by a question and answer session.

On May 22nd, 2007 MTO presented the study to the chair, CEO and staff of the Greater Toronto Transportation Authority.

4.3 Presentations to Municipal Councils and Committees

The Project Team accommodated all requests from municipal councils and committees for presentations on the draft ToR. These meetings also provided an opportunity to discuss the draft ToR with councils and committees across the Preliminary Study Area. The presentations were held as follows:

Upper-tier Municipalities

- Halton Region – Planning and Public WorksApril 11, 2007
- Peel Region – Council.....April 12, 2007
- York Region – Council..... May 2, 2007
- Halton Region – Transportation Advisory Committee..... May 10, 2007
- County of Wellington/City of Guelph*..... May 24, 2007

*The City of Guelph as well as lower-tier municipalities in the County of Wellington were invited to attend the Wellington Council presentation.

Lower-tier Municipalities

- City of Brampton – Planning CommitteeApril 16, 2007
- Town of Caledon – CouncilApril 17, 2007
- Town of Halton Hills – CouncilApril 30, 2007

4.4 First Nations Engagement

During the development of the draft ToR, MTO initiated contact with four First Nations groups / committees including: the Six Nations of the Grand River Elected Council; the Six Nations of the Grand River Confederacy Council; the Mississaugas of the New Credit and the Kawartha Nishnawbe First Nations, to introduce the GTA West Corridor Planning and EA study and the draft Terms of Reference. All four groups were provided with the opportunity to review and comment on the draft ToR prior to submission to the Minister of the Environment. Meetings or presentations were held as outlined below. A summary of the comments provided during the preparation of the draft ToR, and the associated responses provided by the Project Team, are included in Appendix C.

Six Nations of the Grand River - Elected Council and Lands and Resources Staff

Meetings and Written Contact

- Introductory Meeting with Staff January 22, 2007
- Meeting with Staff regarding comments on draft ToR April 10, 2007
- MTO letter regarding GTA West Study Commencement January 24, 2007
- MTO letter regarding release of draft ToR March 15, 2007
- MTO letter regarding PIC #1 March 29, 2007

Six Nations of the Grand River - Confederacy Council

Meetings and Written Contact

- MTO letter regarding GTA West Study Commencement January 24, 2007
- MTO letter regarding release of draft ToR March 15, 2007
- MTO letter regarding PIC #1 / e-mail regarding correct PIC dates March 29 / April 13, 2007

Six Nations of the Grand River – Community Meeting

On May 30, 2007 MTO hosted a Community Meeting from 5:00pm to 8:00pm at the Six Nations Polytech. The purpose was to provide an overview of provincial transportation projects for the Six Nations of the Grand River Community.

The Community Meeting was advertised as follows:

NEWSPAPERS

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1. Tekawennake New Credit Reporter | Mon May 23, 2007 | Mon May 30, 2007 |
| 2. Turtle Island News | Mon May 23, 2007 | Mon May 30, 2007 |

RADIO, POSTERS and FLYERS

- | | | |
|---|--------------------|------------------|
| 1. Six Nations Radio (CKRZ FM)
Broadcast up to 3 times daily | Thurs May 26, 2007 | Mon May 30, 2007 |
| 2. Posters at 15 prominent locations in the reserve | | |
| 3. Flyers distributed to almost 2,000 homes on the reserve | | |

The Community Meeting was attended by a total of 41 people, including the following:

Summary of Attendance	#
Six Nations of the Grand River Elected Council	1
Six Nations of the Grand River Confederacy Council	10
Six Nations of the Grand River Lands and Resources Office Staff	3
Six Nations of the Grand River Community	24
Media outlets	3
Total	41

The following was presented/ provided:

- information on 18 projects within and adjacent to the Haldimand Tract, with a higher level of detail for nine of the major studies/projects (5 transportation corridor studies including the GTA West Corridor EA Study, 1 new highway study, and 3 bridge rehabilitation/replacement projects over the Grand River);
- 56 display boards covering the above;
- a 27-page colour hand-out with maps, photos, diagrams, etc;
- light refreshments – traditional native snacks and juices.

During the community meeting, no comments specific to the GTA West Corridor EA Study were received.

Mississaugas of the New Credit

Meetings and Written Contact

- Introductory Meeting with Council and Staff.....April 20, 2007
- MTO letter regarding GTA West Study Commencement January 24, 2007
- MTO letter regarding request for a meeting March 5, 2007
- MTO letter regarding release of draft ToR March 15, 2007
- MTO letter regarding PIC #1 / e-mail regarding correct PIC dates ...March 29 / April 13, 2007

Kawartha Nishnawbe First Nations

Written Contact

- MTO letter regarding GTA West Corridor Study draft ToRApril 30, 2007

Discussions with First Nations will continue throughout the subsequent EA study in a manner appropriate to them.

5. PRE-SUBMISSION REVIEW OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Project Team conducted a review of the draft ToR prior to submitting the final document for approval. The consultation activities outlined in Sections 3 and 4 of this Consultation Record were coordinated with the pre-submission review so that the Project Team could inform stakeholders of the purpose of the Terms of Reference and the process for submission / approval and opportunities for public / agency participation (reviewing and commenting on the contents of the draft Terms of Reference).

The Project Team allocated a 9-week review period of the draft Terms of Reference, and sent a copy of the draft ToR to all agencies and municipalities by e-mail. A hard copies was mailed to all those who requested a copy of the document.

The draft ToR was made available for public review at the following viewing locations and was posted on the project web site (www.gta-west.com):

Review Locations of the Draft ToR	
1. Guelph Public Library, Main Branch	2. Brampton Public Library, Chinguacousy Branch
3. Wellington County Public Library, Puslinch Branch	4. Brampton Public Library, Cyril Clark Branch
5. Wellington County Public Library, Rockwood Branch	6. Caledon Public Library, Caledon East Branch
7. Wellington County Public Library, Marden Branch	8. Mississauga Public Library, Meadowvale Branch
9. Wellington County Public Library, Erin Branch	10. King Township Public Library, Nobleton Branch
11. Milton Public Library, Main Branch	12. King Township Public Library, King City Branch
13. Halton Hills Public Library, Acton Branch	14. Vaughan Public Library, Pierre Berton Resource Branch
15. Halton Hills Public Library, Georgetown Branch	16. Vaughan Public Library, Kleinburg Branch

All comments received during the pre-submission review were carefully considered in finalizing the ToR document.

A comprehensive list of agency / municipal comments submitted in preparation of the ToR, and the associated responses provided by the Project Team, are included in Appendix B.

A list of responses to First Nation comments received during the preparation of the ToR, are included in Appendix C.

Public and interest group comments submitted, summarized and organized by theme, are included in Appendix D, with the corresponding response that was generally provided. All public comments submitted, to which a reply was requested, received a response from the Project Team. These comments and responses are bound under separate cover.