

# TERMS OF REFERENCE - NOTICE OF APPROVAL

## ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ACT

### SUBSECTION 6(4)

### APPROVAL OF TERMS OF REFERENCE

### FOR

### THE PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

RE: Proponent: Ministry of Transportation

Undertaking: GTA West Corridor Terms of Reference

EA File No.: EA 02 07

As provided for by subsection 6(4) of the *Environmental Assessment Act*, Terms of Reference, as submitted for approval to the Ministry of the Environment on June 15, 2007 and revised through the submission of Terms of Reference dated July 2007, to govern the preparation of an environmental assessment for the above-noted undertaking, is hereby approved.

Pursuant to subsection 6.1(1) of the *Environmental Assessment Act*, any environmental assessment for the above-noted undertaking, submitted to the Ministry of the Environment pursuant to subsection 6.2(1) of the *Environmental Assessment Act*, must be prepared in accordance with the Terms of Reference as hereby approved.

#### Reasons:

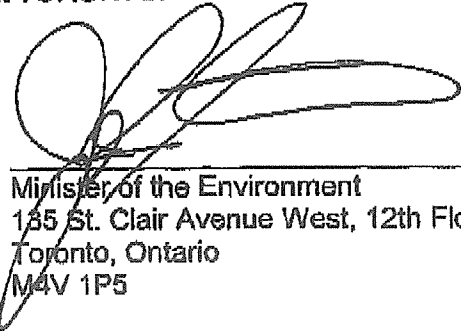
I am satisfied that an environmental assessment prepared in accordance with the Terms of Reference will be consistent with the purpose of the *Environmental Assessment Act* and the public interest for the following reasons:

1. The Terms of Reference prepared by the Ministry of Transportation, meets the requirements of the *Environmental Assessment Act* by providing for the identification of issues and concerns, and the preferred means of addressing them with due regard to the adoption of environmental management, protection and mitigation measures.
2. The Terms of Reference has been made available for comment to the public and Aboriginal communities and has been reviewed by government agencies. As a result, the Terms of Reference has been revised to address the issues raised. The Terms of Reference provides a balanced and reasonable approach to consider issues as part of

the proposed study. There are no significant outstanding concerns that cannot be addressed in the environmental assessment.

3. The Terms of Reference provides for adequate assurances that there will be coordination with other transportation studies and that the most updated and protective policies will be applied. This will be in accordance with prescribed legislative requirements.
4. The Terms of Reference requires Ministry of Transportation to implement a consultation plan during the preparation of the environmental assessment. In addition, the *Environmental Assessment Act* requires continued consultation and documentation of the consultation for the preparation of the environmental assessment. As well there will be additional opportunity for public and agency consultation when the environmental assessment is submitted for approval to the ministry.
5. The ToR establishes a framework that if followed will result in a completed environmental assessment that will contain a sufficient level of detail to accurately assess the environmental effects of all alternatives and the proposed undertaking. This will help to ensure that the completed environmental assessment will be consistent with the purpose of the *Environmental Assessment Act* and the public interest.

Dated the 10<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2008 at TORONTO.

  
Minister of the Environment  
135 St. Clair Avenue West, 12th Floor  
Toronto, Ontario  
M4V 1P5

Ministry  
of the  
Environment

Office of the Minister

135 St. Clair Ave. West  
12th Floor  
Toronto ON M4V 1P5  
Tel (416) 314-6790  
Fax (416) 314-6748

Ministère  
de  
l'Environnement

Bureau du ministre

135, avenue St. Clair ouest  
12<sup>e</sup> étage  
Toronto ON M4V 1P5  
Tél (416) 314-6790  
Télééc (416) 314-6748



MAR 07 2008

ENV1283MC-2007-3156

Honourable Jim Bradley  
Minister of Transportation  
Ferguson Block  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, 77 Wellesley Street  
Toronto ON M7A 1Z8

Dear Minister Bradley:

On June 15, 2007, the former Minister of Transportation, the Honourable Donna Cansfield submitted to the ministry for approval a Terms of Reference (ToR) for the GTA West Corridor Environmental Assessment (EA). The ministry has completed its review and I wish to inform you that I have approved the ToR as revised by the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) for the preparation of an EA with regard to the MTO's GTA West Corridor ToR.

Enclosed please find a signed copy of the Notice of Approval for the ToR.

As required by subsection 6.1(1) of the *Environmental Assessment Act*, MTO's EA must now be prepared in accordance with the approved ToR. While this approval provides additional certainty to the EA decision-making process, it does not secure approval of an undertaking. MTO is responsible for fulfilling the commitments outlined in the July 2007 ToR and providing the appropriate level of detail in the EA.

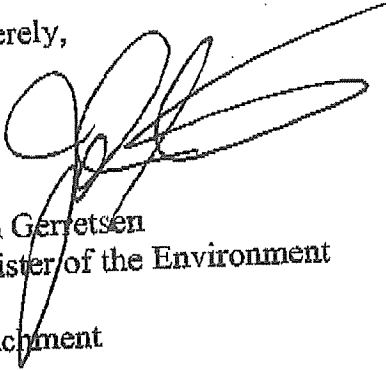
Should MTO wish to vary from its approved ToR, in preparing the EA MTO will need to re-submit a new or (amended) ToR for my approval. In the event of any uncertainty, MTO should consult with the Ministry of the Environment through the ministry's Environmental Assessment and Approvals Branch (EAAB).



Minister Bradley  
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Should you require further assistance please contact Solange Desautels, of the EAAB, at 416-314-8360 or by email at Solange.Desautels@ontario.ca.

Sincerely,



John Gerretsen  
Minister of the Environment

Attachment

c: M. Bricks, McCormick Rankin  
J. Wang, MTO