

GTA West Transportation Corridor Route Planning and EA Study – Stage 2

Municipal / Regulatory Agency Advisory Group Meeting #4 November 13, 2019





TODAY'S AGENDA

- Introductions
- Purpose, roles and responsibilities of the MAG/RAAG
- Study overview and update on project activities
- Debrief on Public Information Centre #2
- Breakout sessions:
 - Session 1: Overview of the evaluation of the short listed route and interchange location alternatives, Technically Preferred Route and 2019 Focused Analysis Area
 - Session 2: Issues to inform the preliminary design of the Technically Preferred Route
- Next steps/schedule
- Open forum



PURPOSE, ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- The Municipal Advisory Group (MAG) comprises technical staff from all upper and lower tier municipalities in the study area
- The Regulatory Agency Advisory Group (RAAG) comprises staff from all regulatory agencies, transportation and utility service providers with an interest in the study
- The intent is for these groups to meet at key milestones to discuss project specific updates and share information on items such as:
 - o Project findings
 - Municipal infrastructure plans
 - o Municipal and Agency interests

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- o Future development plans
- o Community feedback
- In addition to the broader MAG/RAAG meetings, working groups are held to focus on specific issues and areas of interest



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MINUTES OF MAG/RAAG MEETING #3

- MAG/RAAG Meeting #3 held on May 11, 2015
- The group discussed:
 - Project activities that occurred since Public Information Centre #1
 - The two methodologies being used by the Project Team to evaluate the short list of route alternatives, including the evaluation factors being used
 - Attendees provided comments on the factors, sub-factors, criteria and measures that the Project Team were to use to evaluate the short list of route alternatives
 - For the arithmetic evaluation method, attendees identified the importance of the natural, land use/socio-economic, and cultural environments as well as transportation by assigning weights out of 100 to each factor (for both urbanized and rural/natural/agricultural areas)
 - Key issues and trade-offs in the west, central and east sections of the study area
- Minutes were finalized and available on the project website

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- The need for the GTA West Study remains and is strengthened by the GGH population and employment growth forecasts, reflecting more people and jobs by 2041 - it is good practice to do long-range planning for areas under development pressure
- Committed to an open and transparent process that provides opportunities for all stakeholders to help shape the outcome of the project
- Strive to arrive at a recommended solution that provides the best balance of benefits and impacts for the local communities and the users of the transportation system

To accomplish this, we are committed to engaging our municipal and agency partners in open two-way communication that leads to meaningful discussions, proactive information exchange and a constructive working relationship





GTA WEST – A SHORT HISTORY

2008:	Terms of Reference was approved March 2008
2008 to 2012:	Stage 1 of the GTA West Study (Systems Planning) recommended a Transportation Development Strategy (TDS)
2014 to 2015:	Stage 2 of the GTA West Study (Route Planning and Preliminary Design of the multimodal transportation corridor component of the TDS)
December 2015:	 The GTA West Study was suspended Prior to suspension, the Project Team had identified a Technically Preferred Route, but had not yet presented the route to the public
Spring 2016:	Independent Advisory Panel asked to assess the GTA West Study in light of transportation technologies/changes in government policies
February 2018:	Advisory Panel report was released. The former government announced that the province would not proceed with the GTA West Study
February 2018:	MTO and the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO), with support from the Ministry of Energy, initiated a study called the Northwest GTA Corridor Identification Study to identify and protect lands for a multipurpose linear infrastructure corridor
November 2018:	2018 Fall Economic Statement noted that Ontario is doing the work necessary to resume the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the GTA West multimodal transportation corridor
June 2019:	 On June 19, 2019, the government announced that the GTA West Study will resume from its point of suspension in 2015 The GTA West Study will protect lands for a future multimodal transportation corridor The Northwest GTA Corridor Identification Study will not be proceeding The Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines and IESO have initiated a new separate study to identify an adjacent electricity transmission corridor





STUDY OVERVIEW



Stage 2:

GTA West Study focuses on a new multimodal transportation corridor:

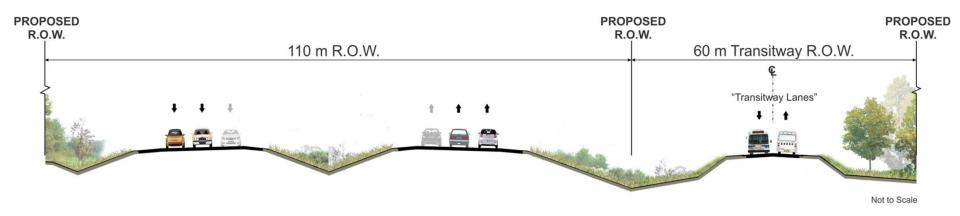
- Extending from Highway 400 in the east to the Highway 401/407 ETR interchange area in the west
- Includes a 400-series highway, transitway, and potential goods movement priority features





THE NEW MULTIMODAL CORRIDOR

- The multimodal transportation corridor will initially be designed as a 4- to 6-lane highway with a separate adjacent transitway
- The total proposed right-of-way (ROW) will be 170m



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WHAT HAS BEEN DONE TO RESUME THE STUDY?

- To select the Technically Preferred Route in 2015, lead environmental and transportation specialists had completed a comprehensive evaluation of each short list route alternative
- Following the recent resumption of the GTA West Study, the evaluation was updated including a review of more recent policies and plans, including, but not limited to:
 - The Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe (2019)
 - o Greenbelt Plan (2017)
 - Source Protection Plans for Credit Valley, Halton and Toronto and Region Conservation Authority Areas (2017)
 - o Municipal Official Plans and Transportation Master Plan updates
 - Municipal Secondary Plans including existing and proposed developments
 - o General changes in land use and existing conditions since 2015
 - Transportation Association of Canada (TAC) Geometric Design Guide for Canadian Roads (2017) and MTO Supplement for the TAC Geometric Design Guide for Canadian Roads (2017)
 - Updates to secondary source natural environment data, as applicable and publicly available
- The Preferred Route is being reviewed and confirmed based on feedback provided from Public Information Centre #2 and the continued collection of relevant data

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STAGE 2 STUDY SCHEDULE

	2014			2	2015					2019					2020					2021				2022				
Activity																												
Study Commencement	•																											\square
Data Collection / Constraints Mapping									Ш																			Æ
Introductory Meetings and Workshops																											T	
Generate Route Planning Alternatives																												
Meetings with Advisory Groups and Councils																												
Public Information Centre #1																												
Assess and Evaluate Alternatives																\square												
Advisory Group Meetings																\square												\square
Community Workshop #2						\square																						
Meetings with Indigenous Communities																						Π						П
Public Information Centre #2									Ш				•									Π			TT	\square		П
Meetings with Advisory Groups and Councils - WE ARE HERE -									Ш																			T
Meetings with Indigenous Communities																												
Confirmation of Preferred Route																												
Notification of Confirmed Preferred Route																												
Preliminary Design of Preferred Route																												
Specialist Fieldwork																												
Community Workshop #3																		•										T
Community Workshop #4																					•							
Meetings with Advisory Groups and Councils																												
Meetings with Indigenous Communities																				T								
Public Information Centre #3																							•					
Technical Reports / EA Documentation																												í E
Stakeholder and Indigenous Community Review of Draft EA Report																												
Incorporate Comments from Stakeholder and Indigenous Community Review																												
Submission to MECP																											1 17	
*Schedule is subject to change											→ S	tudy s	uspen	sion: l	ate 20	15 to	mid 2	019										





- Approx. 1000 stakeholders attended
- Mixture of support and opposition for the Technically Preferred Route but majority of input was supportive:
 - The transportation corridor is needed, expedite the EA process, start construction as soon as possible
 - Protect for extra land now so that future widening of the right-of-way is not required
 - Concern about congestion on connecting roads (e.g. Mayfield Rd, Hwy 400, Hwy 401, Coleraine Dr, Weston Rd, etc.)
 - The transportation corridor should go west to Guelph, east past Highway 400 and be closer to Highway 9 in the north
 - Concern about impacts to nearby property owners (noise, air quality, etc.) and inquiries about mitigation measures
 - Mixed feelings about impacts to agricultural and Greenbelt lands. Some felt these features were given priority in the evaluation and appropriately influenced route selection (i.e. crossing of Credit and Humber Rivers) while others expressed concern about ability to support food production and ecosystem services





- Mixture of support and opposition for the Technically Preferred Route but majority of input was supportive:
 - Mixed feelings on Preferred Route S1-2. Some say it provides good access to the designated future employment lands while others are concerned about congestion on Trafalgar Road
 - Mixed feelings on whether Preferred Route S2-2 provides convenient access to Brampton and Georgetown. Some say it is further east from Norval and avoids segregating the broader community while others say it doesn't address the congestion issues in Norval (Bovaird Drive interchange with Preferred Route S3-4 may exacerbate the problems)
 - Preferred Routed S4-1 minimizes impacts to the natural environment (including agriculture) and residential properties but impacts the Mayfield West Phase 2 development





- Mixture of support and opposition for the Technically Preferred Route but majority of input was supportive:
 - Support for new extension of Highway 410 rather than using existing Highway 410 (minimizes impacts to Valleywood) in Section 5
 - Mixed feelings about proximity to Brampton-Caledon Airport. Concern regarding potential impacts to operations while others want the route moved closer to condense land uses
 - The interchange at Coleraine Drive in Section 6 conflicts with an approved development to the north
 - Extend Highway 427 to Highway 9 in Section 7
 - The emphasis on protecting Greenbelt lands and the Humber River in Sections 8 and 9 appropriately influenced route selection





- Support for the transitway
 - The transitway only makes sense if it connects to other mass transit systems
 - o Incorporate active transportation along the transitway
 - o Support for transition from BRT to LRT
 - o Consider both buses and trucks using the transitway
- Support for goods movement priority features
 - o Support for truck only lanes
- Support for the 2019 Focused Analysis Area
 - Appreciate that over 60% of the Route Planning Study Area is in the green area (area of reduced interest)
 - o Inquiries about when development restrictions will be lifted
- Other
 - Inquiries about land acquisition, permission to enter process, possibility of tolling, scope of separate electricity transmission study
 - Requests for digital mapping of Technically Preferred Route to understand impacts and coordinate works
 - The Project Team did a good job evaluating the route alternatives and explaining the rationale for their decisions





CONSULTATION & ENGAGEMENT

- Public Information Centres (3 rounds)
- Community workshops (4 rounds)

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- o 2 rounds focused on Community Value Plans
- Ongoing consultation with Indigenous Communities
- Stakeholder advisory groups, municipal working groups, meetings with landowners, and Council presentations
- Website, email, toll-free telephone, Twitter, Ontario Government Notices and brochures







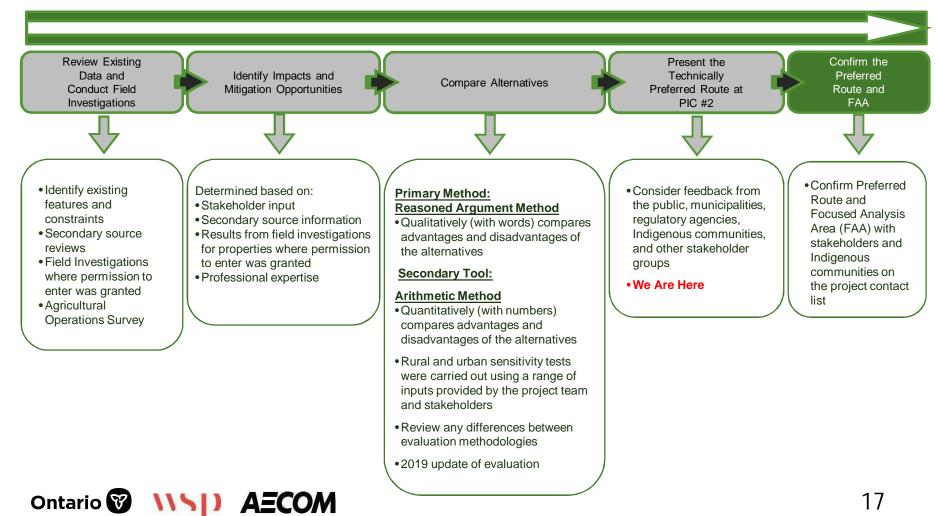
Session 1:

Overview of the evaluation of the short listed route and interchange location alternatives, Technically Preferred Route and 2019 Focused Analysis Area



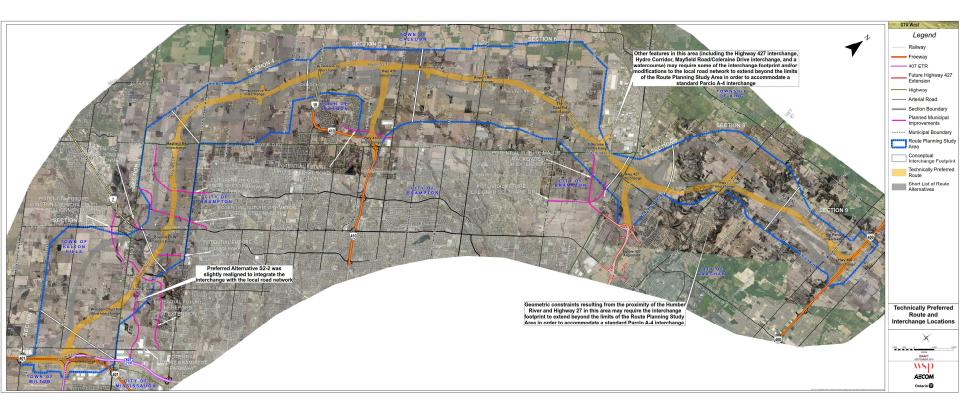


ROUTE EVALUATION PROCESS





TECHNICALLY PREFERRED ROUTE





SECTION 1 PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE: S1-2

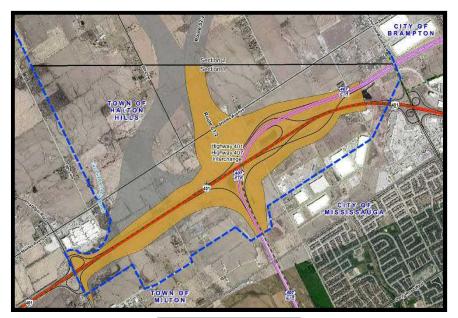
Preferred from Natural, Land Use / Socio-Economic and Transportation perspectives:

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- Significantly smaller footprint resulting in less impacts to the natural environment and other surrounding land uses
- Further from East Sixteen Mile Creek and the existing rural residences on 9th Line
- Shorter and more direct transportation link, resulting in smaller secondary effects
- Provides access between GTA West and Trafalgar Road, providing good access to the designated future employment lands, which is precluded with Alternative S1-1
- Supports the efficient movement of people and goods, and network connectivity
- Higher construction cost of Alternative S1-2 is offset by the anticipated increase in property cost associated with acquiring designated future employment area lands in Alternative S1-1





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SECTION 2 PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE: S2-2

Preferred from Natural, Land Use / Socio-Economic, Cultural and Transportation perspectives:

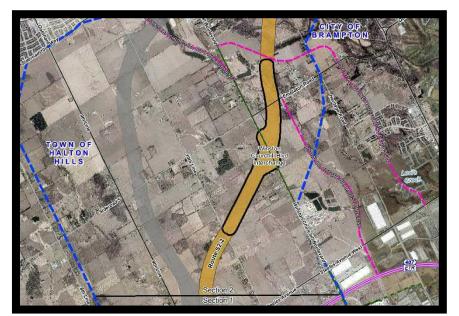
• Provides the best crossing of the Credit River

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- Lower impacts to fish and fish habitat
- Shorter and more direct transportation link, resulting in smaller secondary effects
- Impacts less agricultural lands and livestock / high investment operations
- Further east from the Village of Norval and avoids segregating that broader community
- Provides convenient and improved access to Brampton and Georgetown, does not preclude a future Norval Bypass or connection to the proposed BramWest Parkway, aligns more closely with municipal transportation strategies for Halton Hills and Brampton, and better supports proposed employment lands
- Most constructible and has the lowest construction cost and best traffic operations







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SECTION 3 PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE: S3-4

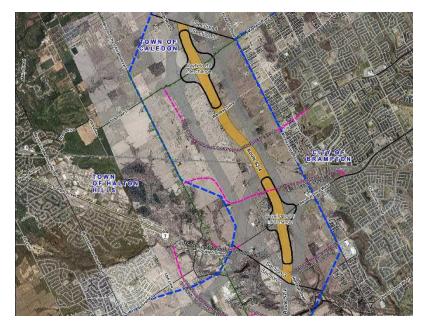
Preferred from a Transportation perspective:

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- Minimizes wildlife habitat, wetland, and woodland community removal
- Avoids impacts to designated natural areas, including Greenbelt lands
- Connects well to the preferred crossing of the Credit River in Section 2
- Minimizes significant impacts to existing institutional facilities.
- Opportunities to avoid/minimize impacts to proposed Catholic Cemetery may be possible through design refinements
- Generally aligns with future land uses
- Considered the most constructible
- Provides the best opportunity for an interchange at Bovaird Drive
- Supports traffic safety and operations







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SECTION 4 PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE: S4-1

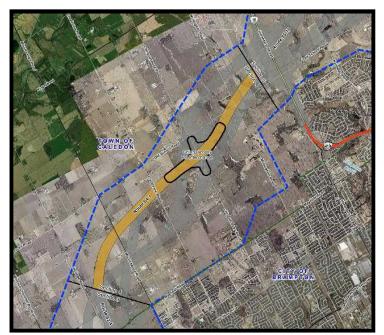
Preferred from Natural, Land Use / Socio-Economic, Cultural and Transportation perspectives:

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- Minimizes impacts to watersheds and subwatersheds, wetlands, woodlands and designated areas (e.g. Greenbelt)
- Has the fewest residential impacts (direct impacts and secondary noise impacts)
- Most preferred from an agricultural perspective as it has the lowest overall impacts
- Connects well with the preferred Section 3 alternative
- Has similar cost, traffic operations and level of constructability as the other well ranked alternatives







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SECTION 5 PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE: S5-10

A new Highway 410 alignment was preferred over the existing Highway 10/410,

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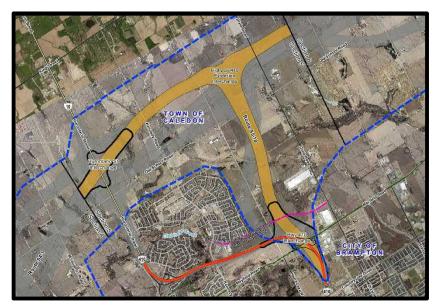
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A new alignment to the east was preferred over a new alignment to the west of Heart Lake Road,

Alternative S5-10 is preferred from Land Use / Socio-Economic and Transportation perspectives:

- Minimizes impacts to fish and fish habitat, and wetlands
- Avoids impacts to large volume wells
- Avoids existing residential subdivisions in Valleywood and minimizes direct residential impacts elsewhere
- Minimizes impacts to agricultural lands and operations
- Minimizes impacts to built heritage resources
- Avoids impacts to commercial and industrial properties
- Minimizes impacts to future urban development including the Mayfield West planned community and Mayfield West employment lands
- Less complex Highway 410/GTA West freeway-tofreeway interchange design (connections to Hurontario Street are provided by a separate interchange)
- Better ability to implement a transitway in the new Highway 410 corridor
- Supports network compatibility, lower relative cost





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SECTION 6 PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE: S6-1

Preferred from Natural, Land Use / Socio-Economic and Transportation perspectives:

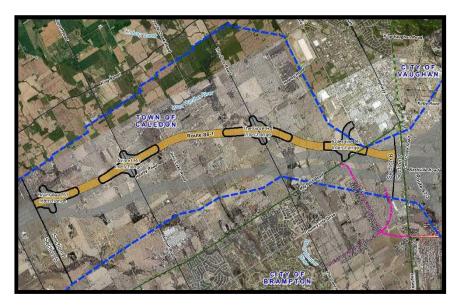
• Least impact to fish and fish habitat, minimizes impacts to wildlife and wildlife habitat, wetlands

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- Impacts the fewest residential properties and private wells
- Low impacts to commercial/industrial properties and future development
- Avoids impacts to high-investment farming operations
- Accommodates a full moves interchange in the area of Coleraine Drive (realignment likely required to achieve an acceptable separation distance to the Highway 427 extension)
- Has a moderate relative cost to the other well ranked transportation alternative (S6-4)
- Connects well to the preferred Section 5 alternative







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SECTION 7 PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE: S7-3

The Project Team identified the best route east and west of the hydro corridor and then compared them to select the overall preferred route for Section 7.

The preferred route west of the hydro corridor was Alternative S7-3. The preferred route east of the hydro corridor was Alternative S7-9. Alternative S7-3 is preferred overall versus S7-9:

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- Less impacts to groundwater sensitive ecosystems and wellhead protection areas
- Less noise impacts to existing and proposed residences to the east
- Moderate impacts to built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes
- Minor impacts to the hydro corridor, railway and TransCanada pipeline
- Accommodates a full moves interchange in the area of Coleraine Drive (realignment likely required to achieve an acceptable separation distance to the Highway 427 extension and optimize traffic operations to/from Coleraine Drive interchange)
- Constructability and connectivity were principle considerations in Section 7. S7-3 is considered the most constructible and it connects well to the Section 8 Humber River crossing, reducing overall environmental impacts







SECTION 8 PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE: S8-3

Preferred from Natural, Land Use / Socio-Economic and Transportation perspectives:

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- Lowest overall impacts to fish and fish habitat, wildlife and wildlife habitat, woodlands and vegetation, watersheds, and surface water
- Best location with most flexibility for the Humber River crossing due to its distance from the large meander
- Impacts the least amount of Greenbelt and agricultural lands and is preferred from a provincial land use policy perspective
- Impacts more residential properties but minimizes impacts to commercial properties, avoids impacts to high-investment farming operations, and has a higher probability of avoiding a waste disposal site
- Low construction cost and is considered the most constructible

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SECTION 9 PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE: S9-1

Preferred from Natural, Cultural and Transportation perspectives:

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- Minimizes impacts to fish and fish habitat, designated areas and ecosystem services, with relatively simple and perpendicular watercourse crossings
- Least impact on Greenbelt lands
- Minimizes impacts to employment and future urban area lands
- Low residential property impacts

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- Low potential for constructability issues
- Better angle of approach for the Highway 400 interchange



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EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR SELECTING PREFERRED INTERCHANGE LOCATIONS

- Potential interchange locations along each route alternative were selected based on:
 - Level of connectivity to the highway network

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- \circ Level of connectivity to the municipal road network and initiatives
- o Level of connectivity to transit
- o Traffic demand
- Spacing between interchanges
- Potential interchange locations on the short list of route alternatives were discussed with municipal staff prior to the 2015 evaluation of route alternatives
- Key trade-offs between potential interchange location alternatives were considered in the evaluation of route alternatives
- After selection of the Technically Preferred Route, the potential interchange locations along that route were reviewed again using the above criteria and the preferred interchange locations were selected

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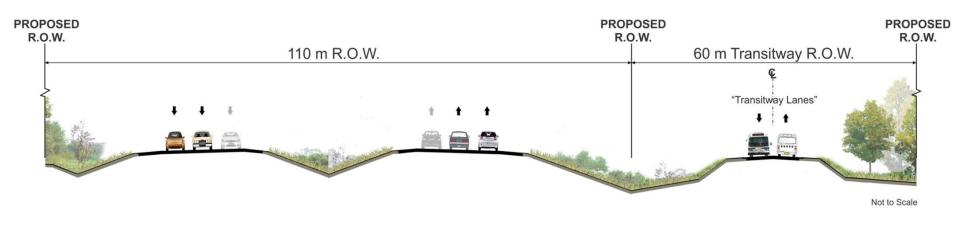


THE GTA WEST TRANSITWAY

- The GTA West transitway will run parallel to the GTA West highway and will:
 - o Allow buses (and potentially in the future, light rail vehicles) to operate on express schedules
 - Include stations at strategic locations and provide transit connections with buses onto major arterial roadways, Highway 401, 407ETR, Highway 427, Highway 410, and Highway 400
- The transitway will be further developed to confirm:
 - o Alignment, roadway crossing details, terminus configurations
 - o Opportunities to integrate with existing and future transit services
 - o Station locations and layouts

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o Opportunities to integrate with existing and future development





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GOODS MOVEMENT PRIORITY FEATURES

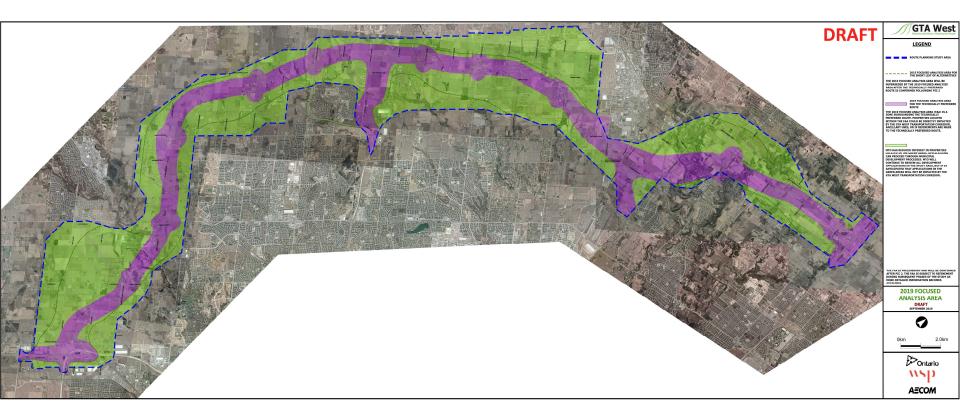
• Potential goods movement features have been screened:

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Feature		Screening
Truck only lanes		Carry forward for further consideration
Combined truck/transit lanes		 Do not carry forward Reduces level of service of the transitway by introducing additional traffic The transitway requires restricted access which prohibits use by other traffic
Truck use of potential HOV lanes during off-peak hours		 Do not carry forward No operational benefits in off-peak hours Introduces additional lane changes for trucks to access HOV Lanes
Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) features, such as variable message signs and real time traveler information		Carry forward for further consideration
Longer speed change lanes		Carry forward for further consideration
Enhanced design to accommodate Long Combination Vehicles		Carry forward for further consideration
Truck only interchange ramps, where warranted by truck volumes		 Do not carry forward Creates additional enforcement requirements Interchanges are provided for key freight trip generators, and there is insufficient space for additional ramps in these areas without compromising highway design guidelines
Truck parking facilities	\checkmark	Carry forward for further consideration
Enforcement features (weigh and inspection stations), including automated weigh stations	\checkmark	Carry forward for further consideration



2019 FOCUSED ANALYSIS AREA





TAX IN CASE AND ADDRESS OF TAXABLE PARTY.



Session 2:

Issues to inform the preliminary design of the Technically Preferred Route





What has changed or is changing that should inform the design of the Preferred Route?





What are the hot button topics the Project Team will need to address? What are you hearing from stakeholders?





What perspective or insight do you want to share about the Coleraine Drive Interchange?





What perspective or insight do you want to share about the GTA West/Highway 401/407 Interchange?





What perspective or insight do you want to share about the Highway 410 Extension and Interchange?





How do we integrate new highway infrastructure with existing and planned infrastructure?





NEXT STEPS

Fall 2019	 Project Team to review and respond to comments received at PIC #2 Meetings with Indigenous communities, Advisory Groups and Regional Municipal Councils
Spring 2020	 Confirm the Preferred Route and Focused Analysis Area Commence preliminary design of the Preferred Route, which includes: Additional field investigations where permission to enter is granted Consultation with property owners directly impacted by the Preferred Route
Fall 2020 / Spring 2021	Develop Community Value Plans (the focus of Community Workshops #3 and #4)
Spring / Summer 2021	Meetings with Indigenous communities, Advisory Groups and Regional Municipal Councils
Fall / Winter 2021	Present the preliminary design of the Preferred Route at PIC #3
Late 2022	Anticipated submission of Final Environmental Assessment Report to MECP

* Schedule is subject to change



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Open Forum / Questions?

