

Session: **Public Information Centre #3 Summary**Date: **December 1, 2009**Location: **Halton Hall, Holiday Inn, Burlington**Time: **4 p.m. to 8 p.m.**

Introduction

The third of three events for the third round of Public Information Centres (PICs) for the Niagara to GTA Corridor Planning and Environmental Assessment (EA) Study was held on Tuesday December 1st, 2009 in the Halton Hall at Holiday Inn in Burlington. The format of the PICs was an informal drop-in centre (open house) from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Representatives of the Ministry of Transportation (Roger Ward, Shelley Tapp, Terry Hilditch, Robin Ashdown, George Ivanoff, Frank Williams, Sam Di Felice, Joe Perrotta, Liza Tharratt, Patricia Boeckner, and Will Mackenzie), URS Canada Inc. (Patrick Puccini, Tyler Drygas, Leslie Leamen, and Joanne Wang), AECOM (Mike Deisey and Alan MacDougall), MRC (Michael Chiu and Jack Thompson), Ecoplans (Sandy Nairn), MKI (Jeff Lehman), GLPi (Glenn Pothier) and Lura (Liz Nield) staffed the PIC.

Purpose of the PIC

The purpose of the PIC was to present the transportation alternatives under consideration in the Niagara to GTA Corridor and obtain feedback from the public.

The information presented at the PIC was grouped under the following headings:

1. Welcome and Introduction
2. Background and Existing Conditions
3. Problems and Opportunities Overview
4. Transportation Alternatives
5. Next Steps
6. First Nations

Attendance and Comments

A total of 142 members of the public chose to sign the visitor's register for the PIC. Several additional members of the public attended the PIC but chose not to sign the register. In addition to verbal comments, the Project Team encouraged visitors to express, in writing, all suggestions, comments or concerns that they had regarding the information presented. Nine (9) written comments were received at the PIC.

Summary of What We Heard

Multi-Modal Alternatives

1. Attendees wanted to see an increase in public transit services in the study area as well as an increase in goods movement by rail.
2. Government should give more support to marine.

Road-Based Alternatives

3. Attendees wanted more details with regard to the location of the new corridor alternatives.
4. Most attendees acknowledged the need to go beyond Group 1 (Optimize Existing Infrastructure) and Group 2 (New/Improved Non-Road Infrastructure).

5. Concerns were raised regarding the ability of the existing highway system to accommodate additional lanes and potential impacts to adjacent lands under the Group 3 (Widen Roads) scenario.
6. Some attendees would prefer building a tunnel as an alternative to widening the Burlington Skyway bridges.
7. Several attendees noted support for Group 4 (New Road Infrastructure) as it would provide an alternative to the congestion on the QEW. Several attendees were also very concerned regarding the potential impacts created by New Transportation Corridor alternatives.

General Comments

8. Congestion on QEW now happens not only on weekends, but also weekdays.
9. Questions with regard to peak oil and how this issue will be addressed by the study team.
10. Attendees wanted to see a cost-benefit analysis for each group of alternatives.
11. Questions with regard to the estimated growth in 2031. Some attendees felt that the Growth Plan targets are too aggressive.
12. Questions with regard to the coordination between the Highway 24, GTA West, and NGTA Studies. Many attendees felt that GTA West and NGTA should be one study.

Methodology/Approach

13. Attendees liked the study process. Although slow, it is thorough, clear, and transparent.
14. Some attendees were overwhelmed by the amount of information presented at the PIC.
15. Provide directions (driving and public transit) to PIC venues on the project website.

Natural Environment

16. Attendees were concerned about the loss of green space/significant natural features in the study area if Group 4 alternatives are the preferred strategy.

Elected Officials

The following elected officials attended the PIC:

- Carol D'Amelio (City of Burlington Councilor)
- Cam Jackson (Mayor of Burlington)

Media

Burlington Post
Hamilton Spectator