

4. Summary of Consultation

An extensive consultation program was undertaken to support the generation and assessment of Area Transportation System Alternatives, including meetings with the following stakeholders:

- **Community Advisory Group (CAG);**

The CAG was established as a forum to provide ongoing advice to the study team. The CAG is comprised of members of the communities and organizations interested in or potentially affected by the project, including residents and ratepayers with representation throughout the municipalities of the NGTA study area, environmental and conservation NGO's, business and agricultural sectors, and others such as academia and unique groups concerned about the local and natural features.

- **Municipal Technical Advisory Group (MTAG);**

The MTAG was established as a means to consult with potentially affected government agencies. It provides input from the municipal and regional government perspective.

- **Regulatory Agency Advisory Group (RAAG);**

The RAAG was established as a means to consult with potentially affected provincial ministries, agencies, and federal departments. The RAAG was established as a means to consult with potentially affected provincial ministries, agencies, and federal departments.

- **Municipal Executive Advisory Group (MEAG);**

The MEAG was established to provide a forum for discussion of broad, strategic and inter-regional issues. Members include the Commissioners of Planning and Public Works from the Regions of Niagara and Halton, and the City of Hamilton. There is also representation from Metrolinx (including GO Transit).

- **Transportation Service Providers (TSP) / Business and Commercial Stakeholders (BCS);**

TSP stakeholders include municipal transit, inter-regional transit, freight rail service, marine service, air service, transportation associations / organizations, and trucking organizations. BCS stakeholders include large corporations / industries, business associations, logistics providers, shipping associations, and universities / colleges.

- **First Nations; and**

The early focus of consultation with First Nations groups has assisted with the collection of data on the location and understanding of treaty rights and traditional land use issues, as well as other items that may be of interest to the First Nations communities. Outreach and consultation has occurred and continues with the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation and the Six Nations of the Grand River Territory First Nation.

- **Members of the public** through Public Information Centres (PICs), website event notification and study progress, responses to comments sent via Canada Post, email, comment form, and fax.

Early and ongoing engagement with these stakeholder groups has provided the study team with a broad range of perspectives and viewpoints, as well as relevant information.

The study team will continue to engage these stakeholders; particularly at key stages throughout the remainder of this phase of the study.

Chapter 4 documents meetings held during the generation and assessment of transportation alternatives, as well as the third round of Public Information Centres (PICs) held in Welland, Ancaster, and Burlington to present the results of this phase of work.

4.1 MEETINGS HELD DURING GENERATION OF ALTERNATIVES

A number of meetings were held during the generation of transportation alternatives, as shown in **Table 4-1**:

Table 4-1: Meetings Held During Generation of Alternatives

DATE	EVENT	PURPOSE OF MEETING
May 25, 2009	Hamilton International Airport Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide a study update. To review the air-related transportation alternatives and seek input on the alternatives as well as the potential to supplement the study team's 'long list' of transportation alternatives.
May 29, 2009	Hamilton Port Authority Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide a study update. To review the marine-related transportation alternatives and seek input on the alternatives as well as the potential to supplement the study team's 'long list' of transportation alternatives.
Jun. 1, 2009	Canadian Pacific Railway Meeting Canadian National Railway Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide a study update. To review the freight rail-related transportation alternatives and seek input on the alternatives as well as the potential to supplement the study team's 'long list' of transportation alternatives.
Jun. 25, 2009	CAG Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide a study update. To present and seek feedback on the process framework for developing & assessing transportation alternatives. Brainstorming session for generation transportation alternatives to supplement the study team's 'long list' of transportation alternatives.
Aug. 21, 2009	Niagara Regional Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide a study update. To review the transportation alternatives and seek input as to the impact of these alternatives from a municipal perspective. To explore the potential to supplement the study team's 'long list' of transportation alternatives.
Aug. 25, 2009	Southern Ontario Gateway Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide a study update. To review the marine-related transportation alternatives and seek input on the alternatives

DATE	EVENT	PURPOSE OF MEETING
		as well as the potential to supplement the study team's 'long list' of transportation alternatives.
Sept. 15, 2009	City of Hamilton Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide a study update. To review the transportation alternatives and seek input as to the impact of these alternatives from a municipal perspective. To explore the potential to supplement the study team's 'long list' of transportation alternatives.
Sept. 25, 2009	Agency Workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attended by representatives from MTO, URS, MRC, Ecoplans, AECOM, GLPI, Metrolinx (including GO Transit), MEI, MMAH, and Lehman & Associates. The purpose of the workshop was to update agency members on the work completed for NGTA & GTA West and to engage agency members in a discussion to encourage the members to provide comments and / or potential policy issues with the preliminary alternatives.
Oct. 8, 2009	Region of Halton Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide a study update. To review the transportation alternatives and seek input as to the impact of these alternatives from a municipal perspective. To explore the potential to supplement the study team's 'long list' of transportation alternatives.
Oct. 14, 2009	Metrolinx (including GO Transit) Meeting (NGTA and GTA West)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide a study update. To present and seek feedback on the group alternatives that had been generated.
Oct. 28, 2009	First Nations, Mississaugas of New Credit Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide a study update. To present and seek feedback on the process framework for developing & assessing transportation alternatives. To present and seek feedback on the group alternatives that had been generated.

4.2 MEETINGS HELD DURING ASSESSMENT OF ALTERNATIVES

A number of meetings were held during the assessment of transportation alternatives, as described in **Table 4-2**:

Table 4-2: Meeting Held During Assessment of Alternatives

Date	Event	Purpose of Meeting
Jun. 19, 2009	RAAG Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide a study update. To present and seek feedback on the process framework for developing & assessing transportation alternatives.
Nov. 19, 2009	CAG Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To obtain feedback on the study team's assessment of the group alternatives as well as the material to be presented at the third round of PICs.
Nov. 20, 2009	MTAG / RAAG Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To obtain feedback on the study team's assessment of the group alternatives as well as the material to be presented at the third round of PICs.
January 18, 2010	MEAG Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To obtain feedback on the study team's assessment of the group alternatives as well as the material that was presented at the third round of PICs and the feedback obtained at PIC #3.

4.3 PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE (PIC) #3

The third round of Public Information Centres was held to present the generation and assessment of transportation alternatives for the Niagara to GTA Corridor Planning and EA Study – Phase 1. PIC #3 was held on the following dates and at the following locations:

Tuesday November 24th, 2009
 4:00p.m. to 8:00p.m.
Royal Canadian Legion
Upstairs Hall
 383 Morningstar Avenue, Welland

Thursday November 26th, 2009
 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Ancaster Fairgrounds
Marritt Hall
 630 Trinity Road, Ancaster

Tuesday December 1st, 2009
 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Holiday Inn
Halton Hall
 1120 Burloak Drive, Burlington

The PICs were informal, “open house” style events. Theme-based information boards were clustered throughout the meeting room, with assigned MTO and consultant staff available at each cluster to address questions and concerns. A CD of all of the PIC display boards was provided to each attendee, as well as a brochure (outlining the study's background, work completed to date, etc.). Attendees were also given a comment sheet.

The primary purpose of PIC #3 was to present and obtain feedback on the following four groups of alternatives under consideration in the Niagara to GTA Corridor:

1. Optimize Existing Networks;
2. New / Improved Non-Road Infrastructure;

3. Widening / Improve Existing Roads; and
4. New Transportation Corridors.

The information presented at the PIC was clustered under the following main headings:

- Welcome and Overview;
- Background and Existing Conditions;
- Transportation Problems and Opportunities Overview;
- Transportation Alternatives;
- What's Next; and
- First Nations.

Primary notification of the PIC was delivered by means of newspaper ads, mailings (regular and electronic) and the study website. A total of 334 members of the public chose to sign the visitor's register for the three PICs. Several additional members of the public attended, but declined to sign in. A total of 43 written comments were submitted at the PICs and 11 additional comments were received via e-mail and mail in the weeks following. A breakdown of attendance and comments by PIC date and venue is provided as follows:

Table 4-3: Breakdown of Attendance and Comments

DATE / VENUE	TOTAL ATTENDANCE	WRITTEN COMMENTS RECEIVED
November 24 th , 2009 / Welland – Royal Canadian Legion	99	19
November 26 th , 2009 / Ancaster – Ancaster Fairgrounds	93	15
March 3 rd , 2009 / Burlington – Holiday Inn	142	9
Total	334	43 (+11 via e-mail / mail) = 54

Some of the key comments received during this consultation event are summarized under the following five headings:

Multi-Modal Alternatives

- Need for an increase in public transit services in the NGTA study area; specifically, in Niagara Region and the Brantford area.
- Increase goods movement by rail; more opportunities to expand the rail system in the NGTA study areas exist than identified.
- Concern regarding the conflicting demand between freight and passenger rail.
- Important to educate the next generation about the importance of sustainable transportation practices (i.e., using transit, ride sharing, etc.).

Roadway Alternatives

- General support to go beyond the Group 1 (Optimize Existing Networks) and Group 2 (New / Improved Non-Road Infrastructure) alternatives.
- More details requested regarding the location of new highways under consideration.
- Concern regarding the potential impacts associated with widening existing highways in and around Hamilton; Hamilton bypass is a more desirable option.
- Acknowledgement of existing significant congestion and the need for improvements – sooner than later.
- Preference for building a tunnel to widening the Burlington Skyway bridges.

Environmental Considerations

- Concern regarding potential impacts resulting from highway expansions and / or new highway(s).
- The potential significant loss of green space / important natural features highlighted – if new highway is preferred.
- Important to protect agriculture and source water areas.
- Air quality impacts and affects on climate change identified as important concerns.

Consultation

- General appreciation for the amount and detail of information provided, and the comprehensive multi-modal review of alternatives.
- Common acknowledgement that the displays were clear; availability of CD appreciated.
- Suggestion to provide driving and public transit directions to PIC venues on the study website.

General Comments, Concerns & Suggestions

- Broad acceptance that a decision on a preferred alternative has not been made.
- Inquiry regarding timing of the implementation of the Transportation Development Strategy.
- Skepticism regarding the estimated growth in 2031; suggestion that *The Growth Plan* targets are too aggressive.
- In favour of a cost-benefit analysis for each group of alternatives.
- Questions regarding if / how the Highway 24, GTA-West, and N-GTA studies are being coordinated; common belief that the GTA-West and N-GTA studies should be combined.