

The **Fourth Community Advisory Group (CAG)** meeting regarding the Niagara to GTA Corridor Planning and Environmental Assessment Study was held on May 29, 2008 at the Casablanca Winery Inn from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

#### **Attendance:**

A total of 28 members of the CAG attended the meeting. Regrets were received from 12 members.

Representatives from the Project Team included the Ministry of Transportation (John Slobodzian, Terry Hilditch, Shelley Tapp, George Ivanoff), URS (Tyler Drygas), and Ecoplans (Sandy Nairn). A team of independent facilitators from Lura Consulting, Sally Leppard, Liz Nield, Barry Randall, Jean-Louis Gaudet, and Peter Seemann facilitated the meeting.

#### **Purpose:**

- (a) Review and confirm CAG Vision elements for a future NGTA Transportation System;
- (b) Briefing/discussion: Provincial Policy Context; and,
- (c) Review proposed Vision, Goals and Objectives Discussion Paper for a future NGTA Transportation System.

#### **Discussion Highlights**

Mr. Nairn provided an update on the Study Progress. Mr. Slobodzian provided a presentation on the Metrolinx Regional Transportation plan, a review of the CAG's vision and problems identification, the Project Team's proposed Vision, Goals and Objectives, and outlined the next steps of the study.

- One participant noted that the Goals and Objectives need a social category. Mr. Slobodzian noted that the Land Use category was intended to cover the social aspect, and reiterated that this is the type of feedback that the Project Team is hoping to receive as a result of CAG discussions this evening.

#### **Facilitated Round Tables**

CAG members formed five round tables to discuss the provincial policy context, and the proposed goals and objectives. The following discussion presents highlights of the discussion. Please consult the detailed CAG minutes for the full documentation.

### **Review of Provincial Policy Documents**

#### ***Are there any policy documents missing?***

A number of gaps were identified:

- Agricultural protection policy
- Absence of a strong Provincial Transportation Policy
- Federal/Provincial Fisheries policies
- Provincial Emergency Preparedness Plan
- Environmental protection/conservation policies

- Air quality, climate change, biodiversity policies
- Consideration of Municipal Planning policies
- Studies such as Metrolinx, GTA West

Generally, the CAG requested the Project Team to consider a more comprehensive set of policies than the current list. In addition, the descriptions of the policies need to be more complete.

### **Review of Goals and Objectives**

Generally, CAG members identified the need to ensure that the goals and objectives are organized around the triple bottom line themes of Social, Economics and Environment; with tourism, agriculture, Niagara Escarpment and other key attributes recognized.

#### **Goals and Objectives CAG members wish to add**

##### *Transportation:*

- New technologies/pilot projects
- Affordability of transportation choices
- Equal focus on the movement of people and goods

##### *Land Use:*

- Impact on industry, agriculture, cost of infrastructure development
- Impact on isolated and secluded communities

##### *Economic:*

- Impact on industry, agriculture, cost of infrastructure development
- Impact and definition of tourism

##### *Environment:*

- Clarification needed on objectives and terms used
- More emphasis on air quality
- Mitigation measures such as replanting
- Specifics on wild life

##### *Other:*

- Social or socio-economic heading
- Attitudinal and behavioural-change goals and objectives
- Growth and population changes
- Hierarchy of CAG vision elements
- Consider “world class branding” as a goal

#### **Comments on the way that the goals and objectives are organized**

- They are well organized
- Would like to see the goals and objectives prioritized

Mr. Slobodzian thanked the CAG members for their feedback, which he noted, would be incorporated in a second version of the discussion paper that would be prepared. He also clarified that the adopted Triple Bottom Line approach reflects a balance among

categories, rather than identify priorities between categories. Prioritization of evaluation factors will occur at the transportation system alternatives assessment stage.

### Feedback on Opportunities for Future Transportation System based on existing Policy Content

- Hovercraft transportation in Lake Ontario
- Extension of 406
- More carpooling lots
- Trucks on trains
- More urban growth centers, encourage live/work communities
- Segregating heavy/light traffic for safety – cars during the day/trucks during the night
- Tourist train stopping at wineries
- Increase tourism
- Double deck QEW
- Pilot project of high technology, e.g. Hydrogen train
- Adding ability to close off off-ramps to cut down congestion on highway/metering
- More integrated cyclist pathways from Niagara to Toronto
- Connecting Hamilton airport to system
- Building a bridge over Lake Ontario connecting Hamilton to Toronto (added after the meeting)

#### 4. Other Business, Next Meeting and Adjourn

##### *Media Relations Policy*

Ms. Leppard noted that the Media relations policy the CAG members adopted was fully supported by the MTO. CAG members are free to speak to media and express their individual views as long as it is clear that their opinion does not represent the group's opinion.

##### *Linkages to other initiatives*

*This will be addressed at the next meeting. Members were encouraged to visit the GTA-West website.*

- It was suggested that a summary be provided to the CAG members about the other initiatives taking place in the summer.

##### *CAG e-Forum*

Two members expressed interest in creating a CAG e-Forum, but the Project Team is willing to consider it if more interest is expressed later in the study process.

##### *Next meeting*

The next full meeting is expected to be held in Fall 2008. The focus of the next meeting will be on reviewing the Goals and Objectives Paper (revised) and the Factors Influencing Transportation Paper.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.