

A Regulatory Agencies Advisory Group (RAAG) Orientation Session was held regarding the Niagara to GTA Corridor Planning and EA Study on April 11, 2007 at the Ministry of Transportation, Central Region (1201 Wilson Avenue, Downsview) from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Representatives of the Ministry of Transportation (John Slobodzian, Terry Hilditch, Darlene Proudfoot, Sam DiFelice and Cindy Mitton-Wilkie), URS, TSH, and Ecoplans Ltd. staffed the RAAG Orientation Session. The Orientation Session was an invitation only meeting.

Purpose of the RAAG Orientation Session

The purpose of this RAAG Orientation Session was to present the following:

- Study Team Structure
- Study Overview
- Existing Policy Context
- Approved EA ToR
- Study Process and Objectives
- Study Plan
- Function of the Regulatory Agencies Advisory Group (RAAG)
- Stakeholder Consultation and Outreach
- Process for Generating and Evaluating Transportation System Alternatives

Question and answers were responded to throughout the session and after the presentation.

Attendance and Comments

A total of 13 members of the RAAG attended. Provincial Ministry representation included the Ministries of the Environment, Natural Resources, Tourism, Municipal Housing and Affairs, Public Infrastructure Renewal, Agriculture and Food, Culture, Citizenship and Immigration, Health Promotion, Sport and Recreation. Attendance also included representation from the Federal government including Environment Canada and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency. A representative from the Niagara Escarpment Commission was also in attendance (see attached list).

In addition to verbal comments, the Project Team encouraged RAAG members to express, in writing, any suggestions, comments or concerns that they had regarding the information presented.

Summary of Questions and Comments

The following summarizes the key questions and comments:

- Does the Study Area include all of the Niagara Peninsula?
- Will the Transportation Service Providers be integrated into the other stakeholder groups?
- Will the Transportation Service Providers be providing existing infrastructure information and information on future plans/expansion?
- Will the Greater Golden Horseshoe Transportation Model consider the goal of reducing urban sprawl?
- Is reducing the effects of climate change and objective of this study?
- Can the project team consider assessing environmental impacts of the long list of combination alternatives?

- How will the solution be implemented if it is under the jurisdiction of others?

RAAG Attendees

Mike Kim	Ministry of Public Infrastructure Renewal
Tracey Desjardins	Ministry of Tourism
Mike Eckersley (teleconference)	Ministry of Natural Resources
Marion Plaunt	Niagara Escarpment Commission
Michelle Moretti	Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Drew Crinklaw	Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food
Dave Bell	Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
Solange Desautels	Ministry of the Environment
Cora Sheppard	Ministry of the Environment
Barb Ryter	Ministry of the Environment
Denise Fell	Environment Canada
Liz Duval	Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration / Ministry of Culture / Ministry of Health Promotion, Sports and Recreation Branch
Lorraine Hogan	Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration / Ministry of Culture / Ministry of Health Promotion, Sports and Recreation Branch