

The preliminary meeting of the Community Advisory Group (CAG) commenced at 7:00 p.m., June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2007, in the Board Room at Liuna Station in Hamilton.

In attendance:

*Project Team:*

John Slobodzian, MTO  
Darlene Proudfood, MTO  
Terri Hilditch, MTO  
Sandy Nairn, Ecoplans  
Michael Chiu, MRC

Tyler Drygas, URS  
Margie Gonzalez, URS  
Sally Leppard, Lura Consulting (facilitator)  
Mark Knight, Lura Consulting

*Community Members:*

Beam, John  
Bryson, Neil  
Bullock, Jeanne  
Dikkeboom, Ben  
Elliott, Elizabeth Anne  
Griffiths, William  
Kingsmill, Brenda  
Mitchell, Jay  
Onufer, Tony  
Opsteen, Murray

Roung, Richard  
Ruicci, John  
Swierenga, Henry  
Tracz, Katherine  
Van De Lande, Robin  
Vandeyar, Kumbir  
Walker, Chris  
Zimmermann, Edith  
Zimmermann, Walter  
Zuzek, Peter

## 1. Introductions and agenda review

Sally Leppard thanked all community members for coming, overviewed her role as the independent facilitator, and highlighted the orientation/procedural nature of the meeting. The meeting agenda was reviewed, and community members agreed to the content.

The Project Team members were introduced, and the community members provided a brief introduction as to why they decided to apply for the CAG.

John Slobodzian, MTO project coordinator, welcomed participants and thanked them for attending. He noted that their participation will be a crucial component of the exercise and of learning what is important to the community.

## 2. Background to the study

Sally Leppard noted that an introduction to the study would be presented, which may be familiar to those who attended one of the Stakeholder Orientation Sessions.

Darlene Proudfoot gave a presentation on:

- Phase 1 – Study Objectives
- Transportation Needs Assessment Process
- Our Stakeholders
- Principles of Consultation
- Roles in Decision Making

Michael Chiu gave a presentation on:

- Overview of Work Completed (focusing on the EA Terms of Reference)
- Overview of Work Completed (describing the Stakeholder Orientation Sessions)
- Overview of Work Completed (describing the opportunities to provide input)

Sally Leppard gave a presentation on:

- Orientation Sessions – Key Messages: Principles
- Orientation Sessions – Key Messages: Engagement Mechanisms, Outreach Mechanisms
- Orientation Sessions – Key Messages: CAG

Sally Leppard asked if community members could identify with the summary of Orientation Session key messages, and there was general agreement. She noted that the Public Consultation and Outreach Plan (PC&O) would incorporate these ideas to the extent possible, and that the PC&O Plan will be completed after the upcoming Public Information Centres.

Community members provided the following questions/comments regarding the presentations:

Q: What is the role of the Mayors and Chairs group? I have seen in the past where a decision has already been made.

A: The Minister has made it clear that there is a commitment to systems planning, and she wants it done in consultation with all stakeholders. She uses the Mayors and Chairs Advisory Group as a sounding board, to find out what they are hearing from their constituents.

Q: How will you weigh the input from all of the advisory groups?

A: No groups are weighted more than others.

C: Suggested a coordinated session with the respective Mayors and Chairs Advisory Group.

R: This is an issue for our upcoming discussion. Can we talk about it then?

C: Some councilors are under the impression that if you build it they will come, so they are positive for the highway because they think jobs are coming. This skews the results, as they will say the public wants jobs – but they are not getting the true picture.

Q: There may be a need for another advisory group, to connect this project with the Toronto GTA study.

A: The need for linkages has been recognized, and is being considered and determined.

- Q: How is this study integrated to other initiatives, such as the GTA-West Planning Study, Highway 24, and expansion of the Peace Bridge?
- A: There are many ways they are linked, and common tools. The Growth Plan provides population and employment figures that are used as the basic justification – the projects all share that context. The Ministry is also developing a Greater Golden Horseshoe forecasting model. Once the study looks at actual alternatives there will be overlap, and we will have to make sure we are coordinating, and examine if there are benefits to coordination.

It was agreed that the 'linkage' opportunities, between this Study and others, will be discussed in more detail at the first CAG working meeting.

### 3. Review of CAG Draft Charter

Sally Leppard outlined the purpose and work plan for the CAG. She suggested community member's comments and insights were welcome, and that advice from the Stakeholder Orientation Sessions have been included in the draft charter. She noted that the charter will be finalized by the next CAG meeting.

#### *Sections 1 and 2: Public Consultation and Outreach; Mandate*

No questions/comments were noted by community members.

#### *Section 3: Work Plan*

It was noted that the number of meetings will be decided by the CAG members themselves, after they review the study plan and identify which issues they would like to explore as a group. It was also noted that the next meeting will occur in September, and that at each meeting notice will be given of the next meeting date.

#### *Sections 4 and 5: Membership; Term of Membership*

A community member's question regarding final membership numbers was deferred to later in the meeting.

#### *Section 6 and 7: Meetings and Attendance; Meeting Times*

No questions/comments were noted by community members.

#### *Section 8: Decision Making, Roles and Responsibilities*

It was suggested that members might want decision-making by consensus, or they might want voting. It was noted that some groups function by consensus, and use voting to break log jams, but that the CAG can always simply say they did not reach consensus.

Community members were also reminded to come to meetings prepared, so they do not miss the nuances of the discussions.

*Sections 9 and 10: Meeting Management, Agendas and Reporting; Advisors and Experts*

It was noted that Lura Consulting will document meetings, and provide members with a draft before it is posted on the public website. In addition, everything discussed is in the public record, and affects the environmental assessment process. Personal names are not part of the public consultation record.

**4. CAG Operational Questions**

Sally Leppard opened the floor to a discussion of any outstanding operational questions regarding the CAG. Community members provided the following questions/comments:

- C: We need to have representation, and have the right mix of people, and thus need facts about who we are.
- C: The CAG needs to be more reflective in terms of stage of life – young children, etc...
- C: The CAG should be aware of conflicts of pecuniary interests, if somebody is involved in a certain area; so if we use voting that person should not vote.
- R: There could be a statement about that issue in the Charter, if you would like. We have seen in other groups that it is difficult to know if someone has a conflict of interest, and thus it will be incumbent on CAG members to declare any such conflicts. This does not mean that person cannot participate – it simply means everybody around the table knows.
- C: Biographies can characterize and create preconceived notions. Also, trust the study team to ensure the CAG is representative.
- C: Do not think personal information is privy to the group.
- R: To summarize: no biography, but share name, occupation, area of residency, and interest areas. [general nodding of approval by community members]
- C: Regarding recruiting, we may run into a problem if people get volunteered, as they are unlikely to have the same level of commitment.
- R: We will be going to the upcoming Public Information Centres, where there will be a station area that describes the CAG and provides application forms. The process so far tapped into the existing database of 2500 contacts, and the Stakeholder Orientation Sessions, but it has not been broadly broadcast, and that needs to be done.
- C: Found out about the CAG through the website, so there has been ample opportunity.
- C: Serious concerns about turning the CAG into a lecture hall, versus a working group, so need to watch the numbers.
- R: The Terms of Reference states a minimum of 21 (7 from each Region). From experience, people drop off and new people want to come in.
- Q: You use the word 'gaps' – what are they?
- A: Certain ages, interests, and members from the Halton Region.

- C: You are not going to find many bigger tables, but you need to ensure the CAG has an appropriate mix. Favour leaving it to the Project Team, but favour not growing much more.
- C: Prior to the last election, information became apparent in the election. And people in Flamborough did not know (although those in Niagara did). Therefore it is auspicious to think that because you are aware you have greater merit.
- R: We are hearing to leave the CAG open, fill gaps, reflect interests, but not get too big, and do not assume that if you are unfamiliar with the project you cannot come. Also, there is a selection process, at which point representation gaps will be closed.
- C: Based on the comments here, assumes dedication is here with these people, and so thinks there are very few gaps to close. Believes there is total commitment at this table.
- R: Agree, and would not be here otherwise. However, people will come to the Public Information Centres who have the right to participate. That is why we are still providing people with the opportunity to participate. The process needs to allow for this – because many will be just as dedicated, and we do not want to be exclusionary.

Sally Leppard discussed the frequency of meetings, and rotating locations. She opened the floor to comments on including community members from outside the study area. It was noted that there are several adjacent communities, and all would be viewed as equal in the eyes of the Study Team.

- C: There are two issues: trying to keep the CAG a manageable size, and the logistics would be much more difficult.
- C: Rather than expanding as CAG members, could have people address the CAG with their suggestions and expertise.
- C: The problem is corridors are channels from one place to another; and therefore everybody would have a stake. So maybe we need specific stakeholder meetings with geographic sectors, economic sectors, etc... Maybe have a softer zone, which is not as formal.
- R: We are hearing that if we get applications from outside of the study area do not automatically exclude them, but keep an eye on creating a manageable committee.
- R: There are opportunities for members of the public to come and watch, rather than be actual members.

## **5. Presentation: Draft Study Documents**

Sandy Nairn gave a presentation on:

- Study Documentation: The Study Plan
- Study Documentation: Overview of Environmental Conditions and Constraints
  - Natural Heritage
  - Significant Wildlife Areas
- Study Documentation: Overview of Transportation and Socio-Economic Conditions
- Study Documentation: Availability

Community members were reminded to indicate on their comment forms in what format(s) they would like to receive the study documentation

It was noted that the dotted study area line on the map may appear to some as a corridor, so it should be made clear that the dotted line is not a corridor.

It was noted that the three draft study documents would be available in the upcoming weeks.

Community members provided the following questions/comments regarding the presentation:

- Q: Do you have any idea where the highway will go?  
A: There is no preconceived solution. We have a lot of work to do before we can come to a conclusion.
- C: The opinion out there is that there will be a highway.  
A: The Study Team is trying to reorient people, and inform that the process is open to any possible solution.
- Q: Has the Mayor's and Chairs Advisory Group received the studies?  
A: No.
- Q: Transportation methods include the need for companion infrastructure. Is this too cumbersome to study, or is it implied?  
A: The emphasis is more the movement of goods and services. The goal is to add capacity to the system in the area – but how the capacity is added is the point of this exercise. The idea is to come up with a recommendation, to make sure people and goods can move efficiently.
- C: In terms of credibility, if you are proposing rail you would need a high voltage corridor. And if you are trying to allay concerns about a highway people may ask about ancillary items. Therefore you would be in a better position if that companion infrastructure information would be available.

### 6. Presentation: Next Steps

Tyler Drygas provided a presentation on:

- Next Steps: Public Information Centres
- Next Steps: Advisory Groups, Next CAG Meeting
  - PICs: June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2007 (Rockton), June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007 (St. Catharines) and June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2007 (Burlington).
  - Participants to advise Lura if they do not want their e-mail address circulated to CAG members.
  - Participants to advise Lura if they do not wish to sit on the CAG.
  - Comments on the Draft documents would be appreciated by July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2007.
  - Next meeting: Third week in September.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

### Action Items

#### CAG Members

- Advise Lura if they do not want their email address circulated to CAG members;
- Advise Lura if they do not wish to sit on the CAG; and,
- Provide comments on the Draft documents by July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

#### Project Team

- Update the draft Charter: include a section relating to Declaring Pecuniary Interest;
- Circulate CAG membership list, including contact information, to CAG members;
- Finalize CAG membership after the three upcoming PICs;
- Circulate a web-link to the Growth Plan to CAG members ([http://www.pir.gov.on.ca/English/growth/ggh\\_plan.htm](http://www.pir.gov.on.ca/English/growth/ggh_plan.htm)); and,
- Begin creating a CD containing all project-related documents, to be distributed to CAG members.