

# ONTARIO GOVERNMENT NOTICE

## NOTICE OF STUDY COMMENCEMENT

### Niagara to GTA Corridor Planning and Environmental Assessment Study Phase 1

#### **THE STUDY:**

The Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) is initiating Phase 1 of the Planning and Environmental Assessment (EA) Study for the Niagara to GTA corridor, following approval of the EA Terms of Reference by the Minister of the Environment. The planning and EA study will support the transportation objectives of the provincial *Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe* by providing for the efficient movement of people and goods within the corridor.

The purpose of the Niagara to GTA Corridor Planning and EA study is to examine existing and future anticipated transportation capacity deficiencies (problems and opportunities) within the Niagara to GTA corridor and to provide additional capacity for a 30 year planning horizon and beyond.

#### **PROCESS:**

The Niagara to GTA Corridor Planning and EA will be undertaken in accordance with the *Ontario Environmental Assessment Act* (OEAA), the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (CEAA), and the *Niagara to GTA Corridor Environmental Assessment Terms of Reference* (ToR), which was approved by the Minister of the Environment in June 2006.

The ToR outlines a two-phased approach that will be utilized to conduct this study. Phase 1 includes the following key steps:

1. Develop a Study Plan
2. Identify transportation problems and opportunities and verify the need for transportation improvements
3. Identify and assess transportation planning alternatives (i.e. fundamentally different ways of addressing the problems and opportunities)
4. Select preferred transportation planning alternative(s) and recommend a Transportation Development Strategy
5. Make recommendations for future work in the Niagara to GTA corridor.

#### **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT:**

Consultation activities during Phase 1 of the study will focus on informing stakeholders of the EA process, developing a Study Plan and providing stakeholders with opportunities to review and provide input on transportation needs, transportation planning alternatives, criteria for assessing planning alternatives, the selection of preferred planning alternative(s), and recommendations for subsequent studies.

Four rounds of Public Information Centres (PICs) will be held for Phase 1 of this study. Each round of PICs will include individual events held in Niagara, Hamilton, and Halton and will be supplemented by follow-up activities (such as workshops) where appropriate. Notices advising of the time and location for each PIC will be published in local newspapers, sent to persons on the project mailing list, and posted on the project website: [www.niagara-gta.com](http://www.niagara-gta.com)

#### **COMMENTS:**

Comments and information regarding this project will be collected to assist the MTO in meeting the requirements of the OEAA. This material will be maintained on file for use during the project and may be included in project documentation. Information collected will be used in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and the *Access to Information Act*. With the exception of personal information (e.g., name and address), all comments will become part of the public record.

For further information, or to be added to the mailing list for this study, please visit the project website or contact:

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