

A **Public Stakeholder Orientation Session** was held in Hamilton on Thursday April 26, 2007 at the Hamilton Convention Centre (1 Summers Lane) from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. This Session was the first of three, with future sessions to be held in Halton (May 1, 2007) and Welland (May 3, 2007).

An original invitation to RSVP for this event was distributed to all members of the public and interest groups (over 2,200 individuals) on March 19th, 2007. A follow-up notice (dated April 18th, 2007) was distributed to those that pre-registered for this event to provide additional meeting details. Thirty-one individuals attended this event.

Representatives from the Study Team included the Ministry of Transportation (John Slobodzian, Terry Hilditch, Frank Williams, Frank Pravitz, and Darlene Proudfoot), URS, and MRC, with independent facilitators from Lura Consulting and GLPi.

Purpose of the Public Stakeholder Orientation Session

The purpose of the Session was to provide an update on study progress since the approval of the Terms of Reference, outline the planning, technical and public consultation approaches being proposed by the Study Team, and to obtain feedback and advice from stakeholders.

The Public Stakeholder Orientation Session involved a presentation regarding:

- Project Team Organization
- Study Overview
- Existing Policy Context
- Process and Objectives
- Consultation and the Community Advisory Group (CAG)
- The Transportation Needs Assessment Process
- Consultation, Technical Work and Documentation

Questions on the presentation included:

- Why the CAG meetings and Public Information Centres are scheduled so far apart
- Why more people are not at the current meeting
- Is the Project Team aware of the previous work on this study
- Is a 'no transportation corridor' an option for the project
- Concern that the Study Team is not considering global warming or concerns expressed in the past about this study
- What is the impact of current changes to provincial environmental policies on this study
- Concern about the logic of building roads for anticipated development if Growth Plan projections are wrong

A breakout session on the Consultation and Outreach Program was held after the Q&A session.

Summary of Comments Reported

- ***Consultation and Outreach Program***
 - principles should include conflict resolution and the use of community knowledge/expertise
 - communications should include electronic methods (e.g. website, emails, webcast events, discussion boards)
 - the messages need to be clearer regarding the purpose of events
 - information needs to be accessible (post at libraries and municipal offices)
 - notices need to appear in many locations (e.g. newsletters, talk shows, newspapers & others)
 - information and notices should be provided well in advance of meetings
 - information should clearly state how people will be affected
 - meetings need to be interactive, accurately recorded and held in smaller communities
 - the Project Team needs to listen, provide answers, and give time for Q&A
 - conduct meetings at alternating times of the day (afternoons and evenings)
- ***Community Advisory Group***
 - the composition needs to reflect those impacted
 - meetings should be held more often (and during the technical phase)



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- nomination notices should be advertised in high-traffic areas, and sent to the study list
- examine selection models currently in use (e.g. Ontario Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform)
- appoint neutral public observers to oversee the selection process
- have names put forward by community leaders