

The Niagara to GTA Corridor Municipal Executive Advisory Group (MEAG) met on April 10, 2008 at the Casablanca Winery Inn (Vintages Room) from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The following individuals attended the meeting:

Peter Crockett	Commissioner –	Planning and Public Works, Regional Municipality of Halton
Andrew Head	Manager –	Planning and Transportation Services, Regional Municipality of Halton
Christine Lee-Morrison	Manager –	Environmental Planning, City of Hamilton
Kenneth Brothers	Commissioner –	Public Works, Regional Municipality of Niagara
David Farley	Director –	Planning Services, Regional Municipality of Niagara
Leslie Woo	General Manager –	Policy and Planning, Metrolinx
Patricia Boeckner	Director –	MTO Transportation Planning Branch
John Slobodzian	NGTA PM Board –	MTO Provincial and Environmental Planning Office
Terry Hilditch	NGTA PM Board –	MTO Provincial and Environmental Planning Office
Paul Hudspith	NGTA PM Board –	URS Canada
Patrick Puccini	NGTA PM Board –	URS Canada

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss:

- The study process and schedule;
- The approach to be used for incorporating future municipal land use allocations into the transportation modelling and demand forecasting process;
- The project goals and objectives;
- The transportation modelling and demand forecasting approach that is being used to identify future transportation problems and opportunities; and,
- The Project Team's consultation with the Transportation Service Providers (TSPs) and Business and Commercial Stakeholders groups.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS:

The following summarizes the key issues and actions:

QUESTION/COMMENT	RESPONSE/RESOLUTION	ACTION
<u>Study Process and Schedule</u>		
<p>The City of Hamilton inquired as to whether the <i>Area Transportation System Problems and Opportunities Report</i> could be provided to municipalities for review in advance of the second round of consultation?</p>	<p>The Project Team will meet with the MTAG and MEAG prior to the second round of consultation to present the key findings of the report. The report will be issued as <i>"Draft for Consultation"</i> and all stakeholders will have an opportunity to review the report before it is finalized.</p>	<p>Project Team</p>
<u>Future Land Use Allocation</u>		
<p>The Regional Municipality of Niagara inquired as to whether the Fall 2009 schedule for study completion corresponds to the deadline for the Growth Plan conformity exercise for municipalities?</p>	<p>The schedule for this study is not related to the schedule for the Growth Plan conformity exercise.</p> <p>The Project Team has a mandate to continue with Phase 1 of this Planning and EA study with project completion scheduled for the end of 2009.</p> <p>The Project Team will work with municipalities to explore reasonable future land use scenarios.</p> <p>The Project Team is also committed to re-evaluating the Transportation Development Strategy that results from this study on the basis of the final municipal land use allocations when available.</p>	<p>Project Team</p>
<p>The Halton Region also noted that they will be releasing alternative future land use allocation scenarios in mid-May for public review, which could be used by the Project Team as part of a sensitivity analysis.</p>	<p>The Project Team will consider Halton's land use alternatives as they become available.</p>	<p>Halton Region and Project Team</p>

<p>Niagara noted that they would be willing to provide general direction with regard to future land use assumptions, but this direction would not constitute final approval of a future land use allocation.</p>	<p>It was agreed that the Project Team will meet with each municipality separately to discuss the assumptions to be made with regard to future land use. Land use allocations utilized for the purposes of modeling and forecasting will not be presented as final or approved.</p> <p>Further to this, the Project Team will consider undertaking a sensitivity analysis based on considering various future land use scenarios.</p> <p>The Project Team will need to discuss this approach with its transportation modelling team and MPIR to confirm feasibility.</p>	<p>Project Team and Municipalities</p>
<p>Metrolinx noted that the timing for their final Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) is September 2008. It will be important to coordinate the two studies.</p>	<p>MTO noted that the NGTA Project Team will review the RTP for implications to this study.</p>	<p>Project Team and Metrolinx</p>
<p>Niagara noted that they will be commencing an economic gateway study to develop a strategy with regard to the Niagara economic gateway.</p>	<p>The Project Team requested any information that could be provided by the Region and offered to meet with the Region and their consultants if appropriate.</p>	<p>The Region of Niagara and the Project Team</p>
<p>MTO noted that it will be important for the Region's consultants to understand that the intent of the NGTA study is to develop a multi-modal Transportation Development Strategy, which may or may not involve a new highway.</p>	<p>Comment noted.</p>	<p>Niagara</p>

<u>Transportation Goals and Objectives</u>		
The City of Hamilton noted that municipal studies such as goods movement studies and Transportation Master Plans should be considered in developing the goals and objectives, as these studies have received Council approval.	Agreed.	Project Team
Halton suggested that the provincial HOV strategy should also be considered in developing the transportation goals and objectives.	Agreed.	Project Team
The attendees suggested the addition of air quality and cultural heritage considerations.	Agreed. These items are included in the long-list of factors. The slides presented include a representative sample only and air quality/cultural heritage are important considerations.	Project Team
<u>Transportation Modelling and Demand Forecasting</u>		
Niagara inquired whether the proposed modelling and demand forecasting approach can respond to “what if” scenarios such as rising fuel prices.	The Project Team can undertake sensitivity analysis to test different scenarios corresponding to external market forces such as fuel price, the changing currency values, etc.	N/A
Metrolinx inquired whether the transportation modelling and demand forecasting approach will address road pricing? Metrolinx is considering this issue in developing their RTP.	The modelling and demand forecasting approach has the flexibility to address this issue. The Project Team will reflect policy directions and context on this as it emerges during the Metrolinx planning process, and/or from any government policy development.	N/A

Metrolinx noted that the Southern Ontario Gateway Council is undertaking a goods movement study.	The Project Team has a contact on the SOGC and will seek to obtain data with respect to this study.	Project Team
Consultation with Transportation Service Providers and Business and Commercial Stakeholders and Next Steps		
Niagara noted that they are commencing a port study related to existing airports within the Region and are considering expanding this to include marine ports as well.	The Project Team would appreciate further information on this study.	Niagara
Halton noted that the Hamilton Port Authority undertook an economic study. The approach used by this study may be of benefit to this study.	The Project Team will contact the Hamilton Port Authority to inquire about obtaining this study.	Project Team
Hamilton inquired whether the Project Team will be updating the project schedule on the project website.	The Project Team will be updating this schedule and has designed a consultation strategy for Spring 2008 aimed at maintaining the profile of the project leading to the second round of consultation in the Fall. This strategy includes the circulation of a notice of schedule change and project newsletter, meetings with each of the stakeholder groups, and updates to the project website.	Project Team
The attendees discussed the options for presenting the NGTA project to Upper Tier Municipal Councils.	The Project Team is available to make council presentations at milestones throughout this project. It was agreed that municipal staff should request/arrange these presentations as required.	All