

A Joint Municipal Technical Advisory Group (MTAG) / Regulatory Agencies Advisory Group (RAAG) Meeting was held regarding the Niagara to GTA Corridor Planning and EA Study on March 4, 2008 at the Casablanca Winery Inn, Reflections Room (4 Windward Drive, Grimsby, Ontario L3M 4E8) from 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Representatives of the Ministry of Transportation (John Slobodzian, Terry Hilditch), URS (Paul Hudspith, Patrick Puccini) and MRC (Jack Thompson, Michael Chiu) staffed the meeting. Glenn Pothier of GLPi facilitated the meeting. This meeting was by invitation only.

### **Purpose of the Modelling and Demand Forecasting Information Session**

The purpose of this meeting was to present and discuss the following:

- The process for identifying the existing and future transportation problems and opportunities in the Niagara to GTA Corridor;
- The principles of modelling and forecasting; and,
- The Greater Golden Horseshoe Model and the Strategic Demand Forecasting Approach.

Question and answers were responded to during scheduled breaks throughout and following the presentation.

### **Attendance and Comments**

A total of 24 members (3 RAAG and 21 MTAG representatives) attended the meeting. Provincial Ministry representation included the Ministries of the Environment (Environmental Assessment and Approvals Branch) and Public Infrastructure and Renewal. Representatives from the Niagara Escarpment Commission, Niagara Region, City of Niagara Falls, Halton Region, City of Welland, Haldimand County, City of Hamilton, Region of Waterloo, City of Burlington and the Greater Buffalo-Niagara Regional Transportation Council were also in attendance (see attached list).

Members were encouraged to ask questions and express comments or concerns regarding the information presented.

### **Summary of Questions and Comments**

The following summarizes the key questions and comments:

- Comment that the Study Area should include a possible connection from Niagara to Kitchener-Waterloo and/or Guelph.
- Questions regarding the approach for forecasting future freight trips.
- Questions regarding the approach for incorporating future tourism and economic trends into the modelling and forecasting work.
- Questions regarding the zone system that is being used by the GGH Model and whether the model has the flexibility to accommodate refinements in zone geometry.
- Questions regarding the scope of the TSP/BCS consultation, and whether a summary of the information obtained can be shared with members of the MTAG/RAAG.
- Questions regarding the scope and findings of the Niagara International Border Crossing O-D Surveys.
- More information requested with regard to the 3-stage model for forecasting future freight trips by trucks.

- Request for information related to the population and employment density by zone assumed in the GGH model.
- Questions regarding the status of the project in terms of the overall schedule.

**MTAG / RAAG Attendees**

**RAAG**

Solange Desautels	Ministry of Environment, Environmental Assessment Approvals Branch
Mike Kim	Ministry of Public Infrastructure Renewal, Ontario Growth Secretariat
Neil Hester	Niagara Escarpment Commission

**MTAG**

Steve Robichaud	Region of Halton
Andrew Head	Region of Halton
Mary K. Cichocki-Beaudry	Region of Halton
Rick Hein	Dillon Consulting
Christine Lee-Morrison	City of Hamilton
Ohio Ajayi	City of Hamilton
Jill Stephen	City of Hamilton
Karl J. Huyge	Haldimand County
Lloyd Rollinson	Haldimand County
Barbara Mugabe	Haldimand County
Matt Grabau	Greater Buffalo-Niagara Regional Transportation Council
Steve Szopinski	Greater Buffalo-Niagara Regional Transportation Council
Phil Bergen	Region of Niagara
Rich Miller	Region of Niagara
George Nicholson	Region of Niagara
Karl Dren	City of Niagara Falls
Marzenna Carrick	City of Niagara Falls
Tom Eichenbaum	City of Burlington
Ryan Grodecki	City of Burlington
Vi Bui	Region of Waterloo
David Ferguson	City of Welland