

Notice of Public Information Centre #2B

Highway 7 & 8 Transportation Corridor Planning and Class EA Study

G.W.P. 13-00-00

THE STUDY

The Ministry of Transportation (MTO) is undertaking the Highway 7 & 8 Transportation Corridor Planning and Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) Study, from Greater Stratford to the New Hamburg Area. The purpose of the study is to identify and address the long-term transportation needs for the Analysis Area and prepare a preliminary design for the provincial roadway components of the recommended plan.

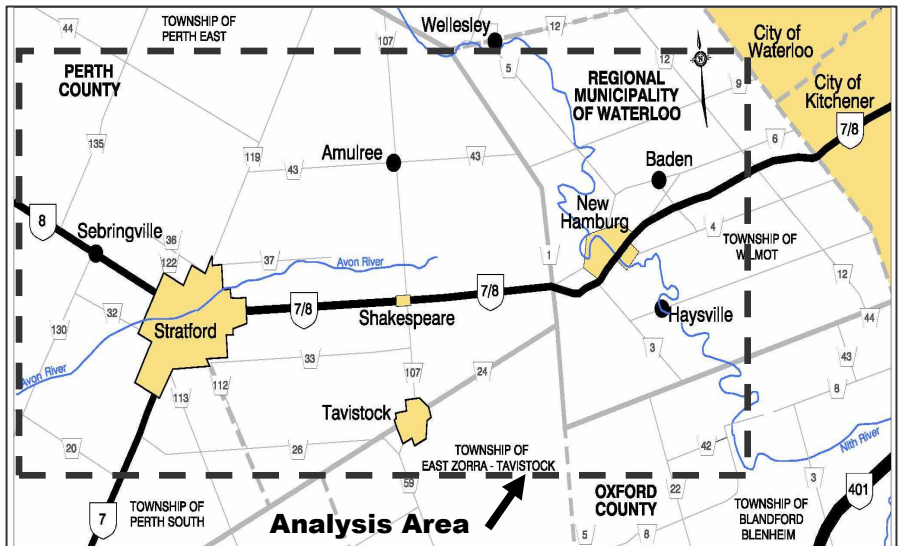
THE PROCESS

The study is subject to the *Ontario Environmental Assessment (EA) Act* and is being carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Class Environmental Assessment (EA) for Provincial Transportation Facilities (2000).

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Public involvement and consultation are important aspects of an EA study, with Public Information Centres (PICs) scheduled at key points throughout the EA process to provide opportunities for public and stakeholder input.

To date, two rounds of PICs have been held. At PIC #1 held in July and August 2007, the study process and existing conditions for the Analysis Area were presented. At PIC #2 held in June 2008, the transportation problems and opportunities were presented along with functionally different ways of addressing the transportation needs in the Analysis Area, including a range of corridor alternatives.



PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE (PIC) #2B

The stakeholder input received on information presented at PIC #2 has facilitated the development of a short list of corridor alternatives. An additional round of PICs has been added to the study process to present and obtain input on this short list before proceeding to the selection of a preferred corridor alternative. The dates, times and locations for PIC #2B are as follows:

Wednesday November 26, 2008
 Shakespeare and District Optimist Hall
 3976 Galt Street, **Shakespeare**
 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Thursday November 27, 2008
 New Hamburg Community Centre
 251 Jacob Street, **New Hamburg**
 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday December 9, 2008
 Festival Inn – Shakespeare Room
 1144 Ontario Street, **Stratford**
 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The PICs will be conducted in an open house (drop-in) format, with display material, mapping and study documentation available for review. Members of the study team will be in attendance to discuss the study and to respond to questions or concerns. We encourage you to attend the upcoming PICs to view the information, to ask questions, and to provide your comments.

The following information will be presented at PIC #2B:

- Revised Long List of Corridor Alternatives (includes new and/or expanded alternatives) ;
- Screening process and criteria used to generate the Short List of Corridor Alternatives;
- Short List of Corridor Alternatives; and
- Process and criteria to be used for the assessment and evaluation of short-listed alternatives and selection of the preferred corridor.

Copies of the above noted information, including a larger scale version of the Short-Listed Corridor Alternatives Plan, will also be available for review on the study website, at local municipal offices and at the local libraries in New Hamburg and Stratford, beginning on **November 26, 2008**.

COMMENTS

Your input and comments will assist us as we proceed with this Study. Your comments are requested by **February 6, 2009** so they can be considered as the study moves forward. Information is being collected in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. With the exception of personal information, all comments will be part of the public record.

If you are unable to attend the PICs and wish to obtain further information, provide comments, or be added to the study mailing list, please contact one of the individuals listed below or visit our website at www.7and8corridorstudy.ca.

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