

## General Facts, Questions and Answers About the Highway 403 and Highway 6 Interchange Improvements, W.O. #16-20004 Study

### PIC # 1 (Online)

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#### **Project Limits / Purpose / Design Details**

##### **1. What is the Study Area?**

The project limits are located within the City of Hamilton and the City of Burlington (Halton Region) along Highway 403 from Grindstone Creek westerly to Old Guelph Road and Highway 6 between Highway 403 and the Bruce Trail.

##### **2. What is the purpose of this study?**

The Preliminary Design and Class Environmental Assessment study at Highway 403 and Highway 6 Interchange will examine short-term and long-term improvements to ensure the next round of infrastructure rehabilitation / renewal can accommodate future traffic needs of Highway 403 within the Study limits. Reasonable design alternatives for structural and operational improvements will be developed and evaluated leading to the selection of a preferred alternative(s).

The key objectives of the study include:

- Explore long-term improvements along the Highway 403 and Highway 6 Interchange with potential improvements including additional lanes.
- Develop a long-range plan for Highway 403 and Highway 6 Interchange so that an ultimate interchange design can be established and land protected.
- Evaluate the widening and/or replacement needs of all structures within the study area based on the preferred highway and interchange alternatives (14 bridges, 3 structural culverts, 15 retaining walls)
- Develop a preferred staging and contract sequencing strategy
- Obtain EA approval.

##### **3. Are HOV lanes being considered as part of the study?**

No, high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes are not being considered as part of this study as an alternative.

##### **4. Will the Bruce Trail be impacted by recommended Highway 6 improvements?**

The Project is in the early phases of Preliminary Design so it has not been determined at this point whether or not proposed works may impact the Bruce Trail that Highway 6 crosses. As the study progress, any impacts to the trail will be identified.

##### **5. How will the recommended improvements tie in with the future interchange at Highway 6 and Highway 5?**

The Highway 6 and Highway 5 interchange study is a separate MTO undertaking. The Project Team is aware of adjacent studies along Highway 403 and Highway 6.

## **Study Process**

### **6. How does the environmental assessment process work?**

This study will follow the approved planning process for a Group 'B' project under the *Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Transportation Facilities (2000)*, an approved process under the *Ontario Environmental Assessment Act*.

Alternatives will be generated and evaluated based on technical and environmental factors and in consultation with Indigenous communities, public stakeholders, municipalities and government agencies. Two Public Information Centres (PICs) will be held during this Study to provide interested parties with the opportunity to discuss the Study and provide input to the Project Team. At the end of the study, a Transportation Environmental Study Report (TESR) will be prepared and made available for a 30-day public and agency review period.

### **7. Will Municipal Staff be involved in the Project?**

The Project Team will be consulting with staff from the the City of Hamilton, City of Burlington, and the Halton Region throughout the Study, particularly before key milestones in the Project.

### **8. Will external agencies be contacted during the Preliminary Design Study?**

Yes, the Study Team will be reaching out to various external agencies such as Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP), Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF), Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries (MHSTCI), Niagara Escarpment Commission, Conservation Halton, Canadian Pacific (CP) Rail, and Canadian National (CN) Rail

### **9. What is the purpose of Public Information Centre (PIC) #1?**

The purpose of PIC #1 is to present the study process, existing conditions, findings of the traffic analysis, receive input on the Highway 403 and Highway 6 mainline and interchange alternative(s) under consideration, and the process for evaluating alternatives.

### **10. Can I view the PIC materials after the event on June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020?**

PIC materials will be posted to the project website ([www.Hwy403Hwy6PreliminaryDesignEA.ca](http://www.Hwy403Hwy6PreliminaryDesignEA.ca)) and PIC #1 Comment Forms may be submitted over a 45-day period (June 25<sup>th</sup> until August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020)

### **11. Are field investigations being carried out?**

We are conducting field investigations such as geotechnical, natural sciences (fisheries and terrestrial), archaeology, build heritage, drainage etc. to collect background information.

**12. What is the Study Timeline?**

TASKS	2019		2020												2021								2022									
	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr		
Notice of Study Commencement			★																													
Site Visits / Field Investigations																																
Generate Improvement Alternatives																																
Public Information Centre #1																																
Assess and Evaluate Improvement Alternatives																																
Identify and Develop Preferred Improvement Alternative																																
Public Information Centre #2																																
Further Develop Mitigation Strategies																																
Prepare TESR																																
30-Day Public Review																																

*Note: Schedule subject to change.*

**13. How will highway safety be addressed during the study?**

The Project Team will identify highway geometric and capacity improvements as part of this study.

**Construction and Operations**

**14. What is the timing of construction?**

Currently, we are unable to provide information in regard to the timing of construction. This project has not been identified on MTO’s 5-year capital plan for infrastructure improvements.

**15. What is the construction cost?**

The estimated construction cost must be kept confidential once they are determined to ensure that the Province receives the best competitive bids from contractors.

**16. How are the Highway 403 / Highway 6 improvements being funded?**

The Ontario government is responsible for providing a safe and reliable transportation system; therefore, the improvements recommended as part of this project will be funded by the province of Ontario.

**17. Will there be any traffic impacts or closures during construction?**

Highway 403 and Highway 6 mainline alternatives have been designed as to maintain traffic during construction. Construction staging will be further refined as the study progresses and during subsequent design phases.

**18. Will there be any property impacts?**

At this stage of the study, impacts to properties are not known. Potential impacts to properties will continue to be a significant part of the environmental evaluation process

as the study progresses, leading to the selection of the preferred alternatives (recommended plan). Property impacts will be determined at the completion of the Preliminary Design and Environmental Assessment Study.

### **Other Items**

#### **19. How can I get involved in this study?**

There are several ways to get involved with this study:

- Visit the project website at: [www.Hwy403Hwy6PreliminaryDesignEA.ca](http://www.Hwy403Hwy6PreliminaryDesignEA.ca) for study updates and utilize the 'Contact Us' page to be added to the study mailing list.
- Email the Project Team at: [ProjectTeam@Hwy403Hwy6PreliminaryDesignEA.ca](mailto:ProjectTeam@Hwy403Hwy6PreliminaryDesignEA.ca)
- Attend the Public Information Centres (PICs) and fill out the sign-in form to be added to the study mailing list. A Comment Form will be available as part of the PICs which can be completed and provided to the Study Team during the event or submitted afterwards via mail/fax/email from June 25<sup>th</sup> to August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

#### **20. Who do I contact for more information about the Project?**

For more information about the project, please contact the Study Team at:

[ProjectTeam@Hwy403Hwy6PreliminaryDesignEA.ca](mailto:ProjectTeam@Hwy403Hwy6PreliminaryDesignEA.ca)