

NOTICE OF STUDY COMMENCEMENT

Detailed Design and Class Environmental Assessment Study Highway 401 Reconstruction, Municipality of Chatham-Kent, County of Essex Project Reference: G.W.P. 3091-12-00

THE PROJECT

The Ontario **Ministry of Transportation (MTO)** is undertaking the Detailed Design and Class Environmental Assessment (EA) Study for the reconstruction of Highway 401 from Victoria Road to 5 km west of Kent Bridge Road and from 5 km east of Bloomfield Road to Essex Road 42, in the Municipality of Chatham-Kent and the County of Essex. The limits of reconstruction for the eastbound (EB) and westbound (WB) lanes are shown on the key plan.

Subject to the outcome of the study, the Ministry is proposing the following improvements

- Approximately 50 km of full depth pavement reconstruction requiring three years of construction;
- Drainage improvements;
- Replacement/rehabilitation of bridges and culverts; and
- Environmental protection and mitigation, where required.

A construction staging and traffic management plan will be developed and will address associated ramp closures and temporary impacts to the Tilbury Service Centres. One lane of traffic will be maintained in each direction on Highway 401 throughout construction.

This project will also require coordination with ongoing MTO projects that are within and adjacent to the proposed improvements, including the Highway 401 and Highway 40 interchange (Project Reference G.W.P. 3093-09-00) and Highway 401 bridge rehabilitations (Project Reference G.W.P. 3084-11-00).

THE PROCESS

This project is following the approved planning process for Group 'B' projects in accordance with the *Class Environmental Assessment (EA) for Provincial Transportation Facilities* (2000). MTO's Class EA allows a Group 'B' project to be 'stepped down' to a Group 'C' project if there are no significant adverse environmental effects. The MTO will decide if it is appropriate for the project to be 'stepped down' and a notice will be issued providing a 30-day public review period of MTO's decision to 'step-down' the project.

A Public Information Centre (PIC) is planned for late 2014 to present the proposed improvements as well as the proposed construction staging and traffic management plan. A Transportation Environmental Study Report (TESR) will be prepared and made available for a 30-day public review period at the end of the study. The date, time and location of the PIC and TESR public review will be advertised in this newspaper.

COMMENTS

Comments and information regarding this project are being collected to assist the MTO in meeting the requirements of the *Environmental Assessment Act*. This material will be maintained on file for use during the project and may be included in project documentation. Information collected will be used in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record. If you wish to comment on this project, have your name added to the project mailing list or have any questions about this project, please contact one of the individuals identified below:

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Additional information and updates and the opportunity to submit comments will be available through the project website: www.hw401reconstruction.ca.

If you have any accessibility requirements in order to participate in the project, please contact one of the Project Team members listed above.

Version française disponible en composant le (416) 598-7162, (Maya).

