

Existing Conditions, Mitigation & Commitments

(1 of 2)

The final design will include commitments to eliminate or reduce environmental impacts. These commitments will be incorporated into contract drawings and documents.

Noise

Noise generating operations will be restricted during construction by minimizing the idling of equipment and maintaining it in good working order. A Noise By-law Exemption may be required if night work is proposed. Future widening of Highway 401 will trigger the need for a noise assessment.

A noise comparison of the two pavement design options being carried forward (asphalt or concrete) indicates that the difference in sound levels would not be perceptible.

Air Quality

Construction dust will be controlled during construction through standard mitigation measures.

Groundwater

The proposed improvements will not result in impacts to private or municipal wells. Where required, a Permit-to-Take Water will be obtained.

Fish and Fish Habitat

Updated aquatic field investigations were completed in the summer of 2014. Work adjacent to aquatic resources (including municipal drains) that support fish habitat will be restricted to certain periods to avoid construction related impacts to fish species during their most sensitive or vulnerable life-cycles.

It is expected that work at watercourses with fish habitat and those with aquatic species-at-risk will be low risk, and standard mitigation measures will be implemented.



Wildlife and Vegetation

The land immediately surrounding Highway 401 includes significant woodlots. Conservation Areas within the study area include the CM Wilson Conservation Area and the Walter Deveraux Conservation Area. Since these are located outside of the MTO right-of-way, no impacts are anticipated. These features will be identified as Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs) and will be off-limits to construction operations.

Field investigations undertaken in the summer and fall of 2014 examined natural heritage features including vegetation communities and species, breeding birds, migratory bird nests and areas of potential significant wildlife habitat.

Impacts to Species at Risk (SAR) or endangered species habitat will be avoided or minimized.

