

**ONTARIO GOVERNMENT NOTICE  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION  
CENTRE #2**

**NIAGARA TO GTA CORRIDOR PLANNING  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT STUDY  
PHASE 1**

**THE STUDY:**

Phase 1 of the Planning and Environmental Assessment (EA) Study for the Niagara to GTA Corridor, initiated by the Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO), will support the transportation objectives of the provincial *Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe* by providing for the efficient movement of people and goods within the corridor.

Phase 1 of this study includes the following key steps:

- Develop a Study Plan;
- Identify transportation problems and opportunities;
- Identify and assess transportation alternatives (i.e. fundamentally different ways of addressing the problems and opportunities);
- Select preferred transportation alternative(s) and recommend a multi-modal Transportation Development Strategy; and
- Make recommendations for future work in the Niagara to GTA corridor.

Since the last round of Public Information Centres (#1), the following has been completed:

- "Study Vision, Purpose, Goals and Objectives" discussion paper;
- Travel Demand modelling/forecasting approaches developed in consultation with stakeholders;
- "Factors Influencing Transportation Demand in the NGTA Corridor" discussion paper;
- Incorporated work from the recently released Metrolinx *Regional Transportation Plan for the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area* and more up-to-date land use information from municipalities; and
- Identification of specific inter-regional transportation problems and opportunities in the study area.

**These are important steps that lay the foundation for the examination of alternative transportation system improvements.**

**PROCESS**

The Niagara to GTA Corridor Planning and EA study will be undertaken in accordance with the *Ontario Environmental Assessment Act* (OEAA), the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (CEAA), and the *Niagara to GTA Corridor Environmental Assessment Terms of Reference* (ToR), which was approved by the Minister of the Environment in June 2006.

**PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE**

The public is invited to attend these informal sessions to view maps and displays that illustrate the problems and opportunities within the NGTA corridor. Project Team members will be available to answer questions, receive comments and discuss the next steps in this study. PIC #2 will be held on:

<b>Tuesday, February 24, 2009</b> 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Royal Canadian Legion Upstairs Hall 383 Morningstar Avenue, Welland	<b>Thursday, February 26, 2009</b> 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Rockton World Fairground 612 Old Highway 8, Rockton	<b>Tuesday, March 3, 2009</b> 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Burlington Convention Centre Emerald Hall 1120 Burloak Drive, Burlington
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Information presented at the PIC will also be available on the project website starting February 19, 2009.

The focus of this round of PICs is to present how future transportation conditions are being predicted, the transportation problems identified through the forecasting exercise, and opportunities identified through the Goals and Objectives Discussion Paper. The Project Team is also seeking youth representatives to join the **Community Advisory Group** (CAG) that has been established for this study.

**COMMENTS**

Comments and information regarding this project will be collected to assist the MTO in meeting the requirements of the OEAA. 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* and the *Access to Information Act*. With the exception of personal information (e.g., name and address), all comments will become part of the public record.

For further information, or to be added to the mailing list for this study, please visit the project website or contact:

**Mr. John Slobodzian**  
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# MNR bounces back St Marys application

BY DON REDMOND

Flamborough Councillor Margaret McCarthy has confirmed that the Ministry of Natural Resources has bounced St Mary's quarry application, deeming it "incomplete."

City of Hamilton staff was told by the MNR on February 9 that the application had been returned to the aggregate giant but at this point, it's unclear exactly how "incomplete" it was.

"We don't know if (the application is) missing five things, 10 things or 50 things at this point. Staff is looking into it now," noted Rita D'Ortenzio, McCarthy's assistant, who was informed by staff of the application's rejection while her boss was in a committee meeting.

The area community was stunned when St. Marys decided to forgo further water recirculation tests and took their application directly to the MNR on January 22. The company is looking to create a quarry at the corner of 11th Concession Road east and Milborough Townline, sparking water and traffic concerns in both Flamborough and Campbellville.

However, McCarthy herself was hoping that the MNR might not be a 'quarry-friendly' as the community thought after contacting an MNR representative in Guelph on February 4.

Knowing that the Ministry of the Environment would be demanding an additional water recirculation tests, McCarthy approached Diane Schwier in the Guelph office and asked point-blank how 'complete' an application had to be.

Schwier responded that, "I have never reviewed an application and not found something that either required clarification or needed to be amended slightly. The checklist for the site plans alone has 79 items that must be addressed."

Despite that lengthy checklist and her own 'gut feeling' that St Marys' application wasn't even close to complete, McCarthy told the Compass: "I am working on the technical information to present a Notice of Motion for next weeks Council meeting that states the City of Hamilton's renders the St. Marys' quarry application to the Ministry of Natural Recourses as incomplete given all outstanding issues."

As well, she noted that the hydro-geologist hired by the City to review the application "will be providing his written results as to the latest Ministry of Environment's regulations and how he feels St. Marys can not possible prove their 'theory' on Water Recirculation."

That said, McCarthy still expressed some distrust that the MNR might be too easy on quarry applications so she had instructed City lawyers to gather information and see what the ministry deems incomplete.

Her inquiry to Schwier also revealed that no one in the MNR kept any sort of statistics on how many quarry applications have been refused by the ministry over the years.

"I am trying to determine what their track record is on approvals. I am (worried) they are all approved. If this is the case, I need the statistics to expose this."



McCarthy

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