

**THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK**  
**Transportation Improvements**  
**Markham Bypass Corridor (now the Donald Cousens Parkway)**  
**South of Highway 407**

**NOTICE OF COMMENCEMENT OF AN  
AMENDMENT TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

In 2002, York Region initiated an Individual Environmental Assessment for the Markham Bypass Corridor South of Highway 407 (hereafter to be referred to as the Donald Cousens Parkway to Morningside Avenue Link EA or the EA). The purpose of the EA was to address existing and future transportation needs between the southeastern area of the Town of Markham and the northeastern area of the City of Toronto. The EA Report was completed and submitted to the Ministry of the Environment for formal review in December 2005.

Since that time, York Region has been working with the City of Toronto to address outstanding boundary area transportation issues which have implications for the Donald Cousens Parkway to Morningside Avenue Link (the project). The Minister of the Environment agreed to permit the EA to be amended to address the remaining issues. York Region and the City of Toronto have agreed to re-examine the alternative road alignments that were considered in the EA to take into consideration issues raised by the City of Toronto and to better reflect the needs of each municipality. On this basis, York Region is proceeding with an Amendment to the EA.

The EA presented a clear rationale for nine road alignment alternatives that were developed and evaluated. The environmental factors set out in the EA will be used in the Amendment to the EA to revisit the evaluation of the alignment alternatives and update the evaluation based on a current assessment of these factors. If another alignment is selected as being preferred, the Amendment to the EA will provide a clear rationale for the selection.

During the Amendment to the EA process, York Region will update background data; update the comparative evaluation of the alignment alternatives; develop a preliminary design of the preferred alternative; assess potential environmental effects and consult with government agencies, First Nations, property owners within the study area, interest groups and the general public.

The public will also have an opportunity to participate through attendance at a Public Consultation Centre (PCC) that will be scheduled as the Amendment to the EA proceeds. A separate notice will be issued advising the date, time and location of the PCC.

For further information on this project, please visit our website at [www.DCPToMorningsideLink.ca](http://www.DCPToMorningsideLink.ca). If you have any questions, please contact:

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