

Memorandum

To: Committee of the Whole

From: Paul Jankowski, Commissioner of Transportation Services

Date: April 5, 2018

Re: **Provincial Announcement on Greater Toronto Area West
Transportation Corridor**

This memorandum provides an update on the recent Provincial announcement regarding the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) West Transportation Corridor Environmental Assessment (EA).

In December 2015, the Province suspended work on the Greater Toronto Area West Transportation Corridor Environmental Assessment

The Ministry of Transportation Ontario (MTO) started developing the Terms of Reference for the Individual EA in 2007. The Terms of Reference were approved by the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change in March 2008.

The first stage of the EA was completed in November 2012 with publication of a Transportation Development Strategy Report. The GTA West Transportation Corridor was identified as a vital new corridor to support the Growth Plan. A preliminary route planning study area, extending from Highway 401 in Halton Region to Highway 400 in the City of Vaughan, was also identified.

In late 2014, MTO presented preliminary EA findings to stakeholders and the public, including a short-list of corridor alignments and interchange locations.

In [December 2015](#), the Minister of Transportation announced the EA was being suspended pending Provincial review. The review was assisted by a GTA West Corridor Review Advisory Panel.

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In March 2016, Council requested that work resume on the Greater Toronto Area West Transportation Corridor Environmental Assessment

The Region's 2016 Transportation Master Plan assumed the GTA West Transportation Corridor would be in place by 2041. As such, in [March 2016](#) Council requested MTO to resume the EA and define the preferred GTA West Transportation Corridor alignment as soon as possible.

In February 2018, the Province announced they will not proceed with the Greater Toronto Area West Environmental Assessment

Based on recommendations from the Advisory Panel, in [February 2018](#) the Province announced the cancellation of the GTA West Transportation Corridor EA. The Review Panel Report can be found [here](#).

In their announcement to cancel the EA, the Province agreed to protect a narrower corridor, approximately one-third the size of the original GTA West Corridor.

MTO and the Independent Electricity System Operator, with support from the Ministry of Energy, are undertaking a joint Northwest GTA Corridor Identification Study to assess the long-term infrastructure needs in the Northwest GTA, including utility, transit and other transportation options. Details of the study can be found [here](#).

The transportation implications for the Region of cancelling the GTA West Transportation Corridor are not yet known

Staff will work through the Municipal Comprehensive Review process now underway to better understand the long-term planning and transportation impacts of the Province's decision to not proceed with the GTA West Transportation Corridor EA. This work will identify the implications to the Region's ability to meet growth projections without this major transportation corridor.

Staff will also work with MTO as they develop their comprehensive Greater Golden Horseshoe Transportation Plan, which will better identify the impacts across the GTA. This Plan is intended to identify the transportation system required for the area over the next 50 years and beyond.

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For more information, please contact Brian Titherington, Director of Transportation and Infrastructure Planning at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 75901.

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