

5.2 Municipal Class Environmental Assessment

The Context Sensitive Solutions Decision Making Process must be integrated with the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment process

The Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) is an approved planning document that describes the process proponents must follow to meet the requirements of the *Environmental Assessment Act (EA Act)*.

This process requires the evaluation of the environmental effects of the proposed alternatives to a project, as well as alternative methods of carrying out a project and includes the mandatory requirements for public input.

Class EAs expedite the environmental assessment of smaller recurring projects. They are a method of dealing with projects that commonly re-occur, are similar in nature and present a limited scale of predictable ranges of environmental effects.

Common Class EA projects include:

- Operational and maintenance improvements for roads, watermains, sewers and related infrastructure
- Construction of new roads, watermains, sewers and related infrastructure
- Construction of stormwater management and related erosion and sediment control, flood control and water quality control facilities

Projects requiring Class EAs are categorized according to their environmental significance and impacts on the surrounding environment, as follows:

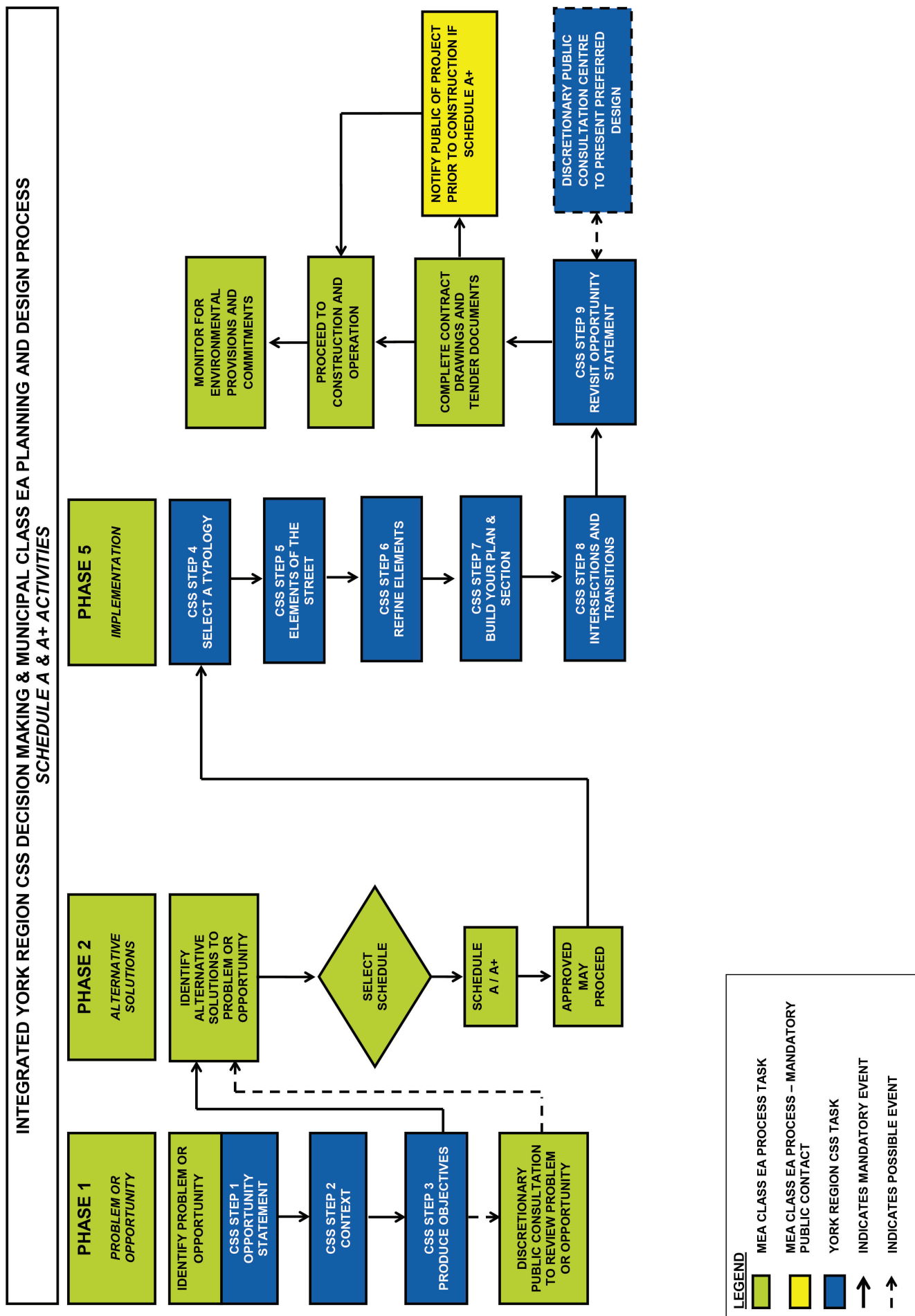
- Schedule A: Projects are limited in scale, have minimal adverse environmental effects and include municipal maintenance and operational activities

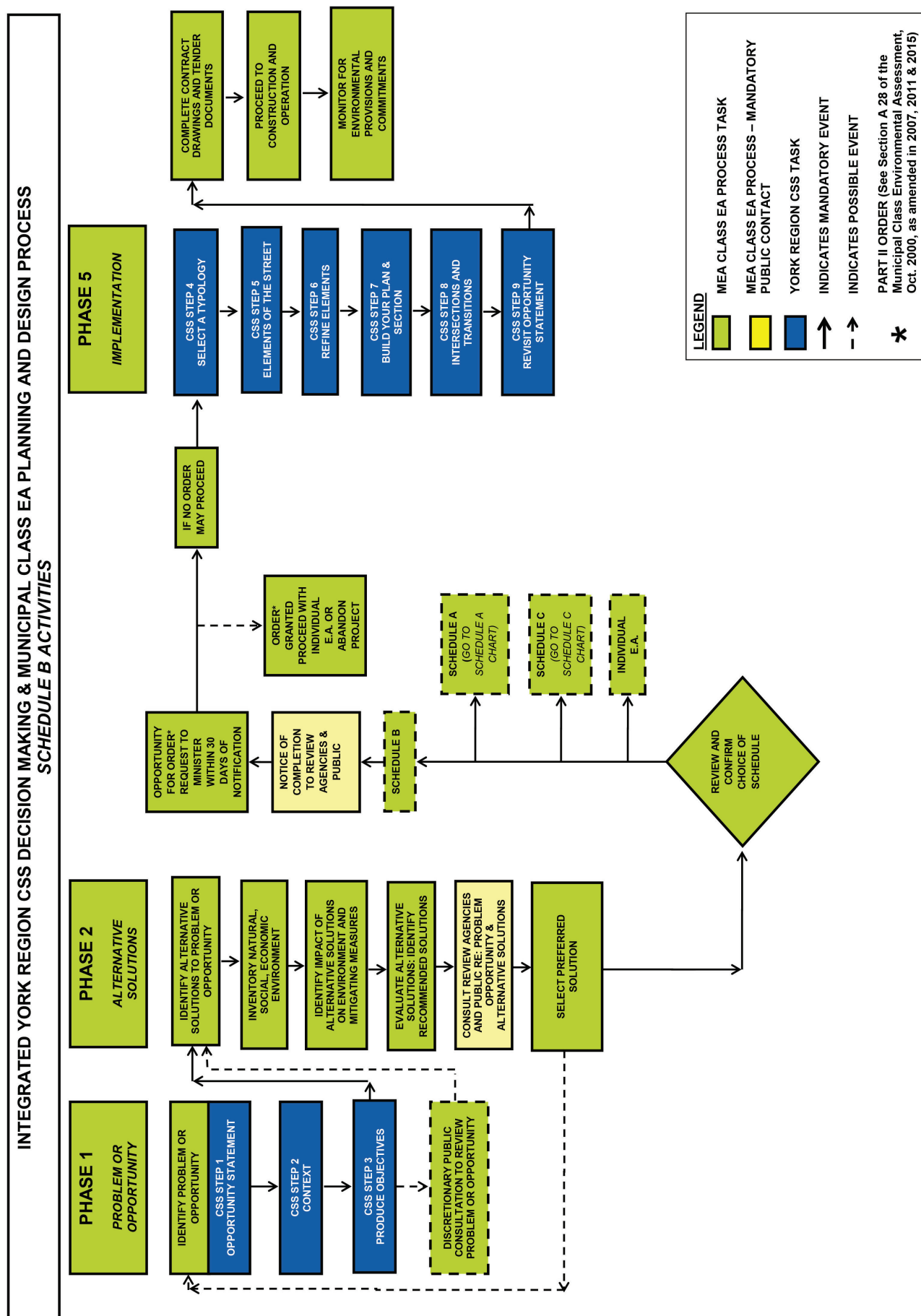
- Schedule A+: Projects are pre-approved under the Class EA, however it is deemed appropriate to inform the public of the project prior to its implementation
- Schedule B: Projects have the potential for some adverse environmental effects. The proponent is required to undertake a screening process, involving mandatory contact with the directly affected public and relevant government agencies to ensure they are aware of the project and their concerns are addressed
- Schedule C: Projects have the potential for significant environmental effects and must proceed under the full planning and documentation procedures specified in the Class EA process

The CSS Decision Making Process highlighted in the Executive Summary and detailed in Section 6.0 must be integrated with the Municipal Class EA planning and design process as shown in the following Schedule A, Schedule B and Schedule C flowcharts to ensure the CSS approach becomes rooted in environmental assessment projects.

Note that some details in the Municipal Class EA Planning and Design Process not related to the CSS Decision Making Process have been omitted for the sake of clarity. The following flow charts do not replace the Municipal Class EA Planning and Design Process.

Complex projects with less predictable or more significant environmental impacts may require an Individual Environmental Assessment. The CSS Decision Making Process also needs to be incorporated when carrying out Individual Environmental Assessments.





INTEGRATED YORK REGION CSS DECISION MAKING & MUNICIPAL CLASS EA PLANNING AND DESIGN PROCESS SCHEDULE C ACTIVITIES

