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Bulletin

GTA West Corridor Review

October 7, 2016 11:30 A.M. | [Ministry of Transportation](#)

In December 2015 the Ministry of Transportation suspended its work on the environmental assessment of the Greater Toronto Area West (GTA West) highway corridor to conduct an internal review of the work undertaken since 2007, and ensure that the project still aligns with current government policy and emerging technologies.

To assist with the review, an [advisory panel](#) made up of industry experts was appointed. The panel members are Gail Beggs as Chair, along with Rod Northey and Matthias Sweet.

Ontario's unprecedented investments in public transit and transportation infrastructure, the Climate Change Action Plan, changes to the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, as well as car sharing services and automated car technologies all support a more efficient use of existing highway infrastructure.

The advisory panel is preparing a strategic assessment of potential alternative approaches to meeting future transportation demand and infrastructure needs, to ensure the efficient movement of passengers and goods in the GTA West corridor. The panel has had the opportunity to review material dating back over a decade, and is now seeking public input through a call for submissions, an online questionnaire, and stakeholder consultations.

Municipalities, Indigenous communities, interested stakeholders and the general public are invited to provide feedback. An online questionnaire will be available at www.gtawestreview.com, and questions or comments may also be submitted by email to gtawestreview@ontario.ca.

Background Information

- [GTA West Advisory Panel](#)

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Quotes



“With new emerging technologies and the government’s commitment to help protect the environment and the Greenbelt, it is essential to have a forward looking plan when it comes to dealing with congestion and transportation needs.”

Steven Del Duca

Minister of Transportation

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Backgrounder

GTA West Advisory Panel

October 7, 2016 11:20 A.M. | [Ministry of Transportation](#)

Gail Beggs, Chair, is a former Deputy Minister with the Ontario Public Service, with extensive experience in environment and resource management public policy. Gail led the Ministry of the Environment from 2007 to 2013, the Ministry of Natural Resources from 2004 to 2007, and the Ontario Secretariat for Aboriginal Affairs from 2005 to 2007. Ms. Beggs is experienced in leading high profile public policy files, serving as the Assistant Deputy Minister responsible for coordinating the government response to SARS, as the Chair of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission and as President and CEO of the Ontario Clean Water Agency. Currently a member of the Board of the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation, Gail also serves on boards and committees of several not-for-profit agencies. A graduate of the University of Toronto, Gail holds Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees.

Rod Northey is an environmental lawyer and partner in the Toronto office of Gowling WLG. He is in his 27th year of private practice, focusing on project approvals tied to the environment. Rod is an adjunct faculty member at Osgoode Hall Law School's Municipal Law LLM program for its course on environmental protection and is also certified by the Law Society of Upper Canada as a specialist in environmental law. He has authored two books on federal environmental assessment including a 2015 guide, and published articles on infrastructure planning, federalism and environmental law. Throughout his career, Mr. Northey has been active in environmental law reform including Ontario's 2004 Greenbelt Task Force and its 2005 advisory committee to reform environmental assessment for green energy, transit and waste management. He is currently on the federal panel to review Canada's environmental assessment process. Rod is the former Chair of the Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation and the Greenbelt Fund.

Matthias Sweet is an Assistant Professor at Ryerson University, with research interests in transportation policy, land use planning and urban economics. His previous work includes investigating the role of transportation services in

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transportation-land use interactions, regional spatial structure and change and travel behaviour and services. Currently, he is exploring how big data analytics can be employed to better measure and manage road traffic congestion and how congestion influences economic and social outcomes. Mr. Sweet teaches courses in transportation planning, urban service planning and planning theory. He received his PhD in City and Regional Planning from the University of Pennsylvania in 2012, and holds an MA and BA in Geography from the University of Georgia and Appalachian State University, respectively.

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GTA West Review – Consultation Guide

Introduction:

In December 2015 the Ministry of Transportation suspended its work on the Environmental Assessment of the GTA West. This was done in order to review the work undertaken to date and to ensure the project still aligns with recent changes in government policy in the region (e.g. the commitment to Regional Express Rail) and recent emerging technologies (e.g. advances to automated vehicle technology).

In the Spring of 2016, an Advisory Panel was established and tasked with conducting a strategic assessment of potential alternative approaches to meeting future transportation demand and infrastructure needs for passenger and goods movement in the GTA West Corridor.

The Advisory Panel has significant expertise in the fields of urban, regional and transportation planning, environmental assessment and protection, and resource management within the Greater Golden Horseshoe.

GTA West Advisory Panel Role:

The Terms of Reference for the GTA West Advisory Panel directs the Panel to conduct a strategic assessment of the GTA West project. More specifically it sets out the following tasks:

- Assess the extent to which emerging technologies, trends and policy objectives may impact future travel demand for goods and passenger movement in the GTA West Corridor (2031 time horizon).
- Examine the potential alternative approaches to meeting future transportation demand and infrastructure needs in the corridor using specific emerging technologies and service solutions.
- For example, potentially enhancing/expanding existing infrastructure (both provincial and lower-tier) to address any localized network pressures, such as goods movement.
- Assess the extent to which existing technical studies completed can inform the future infrastructure needs of partner ministries in the corridor (e.g. rail, hydro and other purposes).
- Assess the need for protecting the GTA West Corridor for other transportation needs.
- Assess options for the existing Environmental Assessment process, as informed by the analyses above.

The Advisory Panel will report back to the government in the form of a Panel Report, which will outline the strategic assessment results, recommendations on next steps and advice on a path forward for the Environmental Assessment process.

GTA West Advisory Panel Members:

The GTA West Advisory Panel members are Ms. Gail Beggs, Mr. Rodney Northey and Dr. Matthias Sweet.

Gail Beggs is a former Deputy Minister with the Ontario Public Service, with extensive experience in environment and resource management public policy. Gail led the Ministry of the Environment from 2007 to 2013, the Ministry of Natural Resources from 2004 to 2007, and the Ontario Secretariat for Aboriginal Affairs from 2005 to 2007. Gail is experienced in leading high profile public policy files serving as the Assistant Deputy Minister responsible for coordinating the government response to SARS, as the Chair of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, and as President and CEO of the Ontario Clean Water Agency. Currently a member of the Board of the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation, Gail also serves on boards and committees of several not for profit agencies. A graduate of the University of Toronto, Gail holds Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees.

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Dr. Matthias Sweet is an Assistant Professor at Ryerson University, with research interests in transportation policy, land use planning and urban economics. His previous work includes investigating the role of transportation services in transportation-land use interactions, regional spatial structure and change, and travel behaviour and services. Currently, he is exploring how Big Data analytics can be employed to better measure and manage road traffic congestion and how congestion influences economic and social outcomes. Matthias teaches courses in transportation planning, and urban service planning, and planning theory. He received his PhD in City and Regional Planning from the University of Pennsylvania in 2012, and holds an MA and BA in Geography from the University of Georgia and Appalachian State University, respectively.

Opportunity for Input:

The GTA West Advisory Panel has reviewed the work to date on the GTA West Environmental Assessment process, including the consultation record.

The Panel welcomes submissions, and in particular is seeking feedback on the following questions based on the panel's Terms of Reference:

- How is your organization planning for the introduction and adoption of new technologies, such as autonomous vehicles and electric vehicles, and how do you think they may change travel and transit demand in the Greater Toronto Area?
- How does your organization foresee car sharing services, such as Uber, influencing travel and transit demand in the Greater Toronto Area?
- How do you foresee recent Provincial policy directions, such as Moving Ontario Forward, Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan, and the Coordinated Review of Provincial Plans, impacting the GTA West Corridor?
- Are there other infrastructure improvements that could be made to address goods movement in the Greater Toronto Area?
- Are there any other recent studies related to other infrastructure that are relevant to the GTA West Corridor?
- Should the GTA West Corridor be protected for other transportation needs?
- What are your views on the appropriate path forward for the Environmental Assessment?

Submission to the GTA West Advisory Panel can be made to the following email: gtawestreview@ontario.ca by November 11, 2016.

Notice Regarding Collection of Information

Any collection of personal information submitted to the GTA West Advisory Panel is in accordance with subsection 39(2) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Organizations and Businesses:

Comments or submissions made on behalf of an organization or business may be shared or disclosed. By submitting comments you are deemed to consent to the sharing of information contained in the comments and your business contact information. Business contact information is the name, title and contact information of anyone submitting comments in a business, professional or official capacity.

Individuals:

Personal contact information will be used only to contact you and will not be shared. Please be aware that any comments provided may be shared or disclosed once personal information is removed. Personal information includes your name, home address and personal e-mail address.