

Ministry of
Transportation

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107-2019-4823

Mr. Michael Chong, MP
Wellington-Halton Hills
205-16 Mountainview Road South
Georgetown ON L7G 4K1

Dear Mr. Chong:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) West Transportation Corridor Route Planning and Environmental Assessment (EA) Study. I appreciate the opportunity to respond.

This government is committed to resuming the GTA West EA to address future transportation demands. The Greater Golden Horseshoe (GGH) is an economic driver for the province, and addressing transportation needs in the GGH is essential to our economy's competitiveness, especially given the population and employment growth forecasts for this area by 2041. Protecting a multimodal transportation corridor supports growing communities—and undertaking long-range planning for areas under development pressure is good practice.

In Stage 1 of the EA, the ministry considered a range of potential multimodal transportation solutions to address problems and opportunities identified in the western GTA. The process premised on first exploring alternatives that would optimize the existing transportation network, non-roadway infrastructure improvements, such as transit and rail, and expanding the existing highway network. A new highway corridor was only considered after the potential for these alternatives was considered. This process ultimately indicated that a new multimodal transportation corridor extending from Highway 400 to the vicinity of the Highway 401/407 ETR interchange was still required to address future transportation demands.

I recognize that large-scale infrastructure projects have an impact on the surrounding areas, including local communities and agricultural lands. The ministry will work with the local community and local farmers to develop mitigation, environmental compensation and enhancement measures for the technically preferred route as the preliminary design phase of the study proceeds.

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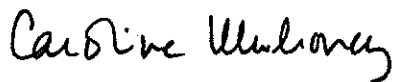
As Stage 2 of the study progresses, specific studies are being undertaken to assess the project's potential air quality effects. Following the studies, if deemed necessary according to the MTO Environmental Guide for Assessing and Mitigating the Air Quality Impacts, the ministry will identify measures to reduce the effects of any impacts to air quality. These findings will be available to the public at a later stage in the study.

The study is a priority to ensure that community planning can move ahead with certainty. As such, the ministry will continue to refine the Focused Analysis Area (FAA) at key stages of the study to minimize hardships to stakeholders and provide clarity on areas that may be impacted by the multimodal transportation corridor and ancillary uses. The ministry aims to confirm the FAA in spring 2020 and will further reduce the FAA when the preliminary design of the preferred route is presented at Public Information Centre #3. Each reduction in the FAA will allow for the release of more lands.

The GTA West multimodal transportation corridor is only one part of the ministry's overall strategy to support future growth. We are working to develop an integrated multimodal transportation plan for the GGH to provide a long-term vision for the movement of people and goods.

Thank you again for your letter. I have forwarded your comments to the GTA West Project Team. You can contact the project team for more information on this study at project_team@gta-west.com.

Sincerely,



Caroline Mulroney
Minister of Transportation

- c. The Honourable Ted Arnott, MPP, Wellington-Halton Hills
His Worship Rick Bonnette, Mayor, Town of Halton Hills
Brent Marshall, CAO, Town of Halton Hills