

Frequently Asked Questions – July 25, 2017

Project Overview and Benefits

1. What is the purpose of this current study?

The purpose of this current study is to move forward with plans to improve traffic flow on Highways 6 and 401, which will create jobs and reduce congestion. The study will include a review of the approved Preliminary Design, make appropriate refinements, and move forward to develop the design for construction.

2. Why are the proposed Highway 6 & 401 improvements required?

The provincial highway network plays a key role in linking communities and supporting economic prosperity by the safe and efficient movement of people and goods across Ontario. The Ministry of Transportation (MTO) has the mandate for implementing, upgrading, operating and maintaining provincial highway infrastructure.

A detailed analysis of the existing and forecasted conditions has found:

- Capacity deficiencies and low levels of traffic service on existing Highway 6 south of Highway 401 and on Wellington County Road 46 (Brock Road), north of Highway 401. The high proportion of turning movements in the absence of turning lanes on these two-lane roadways is a concern;
- Under-utilization of Highway 6 (Hanlon Expressway) on the west side of the City of Guelph;
- Capacity shortage and increased congestion on these major roadways, which affect the ability of municipalities to move forward with their development initiatives;
- Conflicts between high speed regional traffic and slower moving local traffic and pedestrians on existing Highway 6 south of Highway 401 suggest that a separation of predominantly through/commercial and local passenger traffic is desirable; and
- Traffic composition characteristics and capacity deficiency which contribute to higher collision potential.

The transportation improvements will provide long-term sustainability in the Highways 6 and 401 corridors which reduces road congestion, collision potential and associated costs, and supports municipal Official Plans.

3. What are the key elements of this project?

The approved Preliminary Design includes the following:

- A new controlled access four-lane alignment of Highway 6 west of the existing highway, from Highway 6 at Maddaugh Road northerly to Highway 401 (approximately 6 km);
- Improvements to the Highway 6 / Maddaugh Road intersection;

- Bridges to carry Calfass Road and Concession Road 1 over the new alignment of Highway 6, a bridge to carry the new Highway 6 over CP Rail and a structure to carry the new Highway 6 over Fielding Lane;
- A new two-lane connection road north of the community of Morriston (approximately 1km), linking the existing and new alignments of Highway 6;
- Reconfiguration of the Highway 401 interchanges at Highway 6 / Wellington Road 46 (Brock Road), and at Highway 6 (Hanlon Expressway);
- Widening of approximately 3 km of Highway 401 to 10 lanes between the two Highway 6 interchanges, with provision for future HOV lanes;
- Replacement of the Hanlon Expressway intersection at Wellington Road 34 with a bridge (no connection to the highway);
- Closure of the Hanlon Expressway intersection at Maltby Road / Concession Road 4;
- A new Hanlon Expressway interchange approximately mid-way between Wellington Road 34 and Maltby Road / Concession Road 4 linking Wellington Road 34 on the west side of the Hanlon Expressway to Concession Road 7 on the east side of the Hanlon Expressway;
- Reconstruction of the section Concession Road 7 between the new interchange and Wellington Road 34;
- Replacement of the Puslinch Concession Road 7 Bridge over Highway 401; and,
- Reconfiguration and expansion of the Wellington Road 46 (Brock Road) commuter parking lot.

A map that shows the above can be viewed on the project web site at:
<http://highways6and401hamilntoquelp.ca/maps-and-aerial-photographs/>

Environmental Assessment Process

1. What is the current status of the Environmental Assessment (EA) process for this project?

The preliminary design for the highway improvements were approved through the following:

Highway 6

- The Preliminary Design phase of this study was documented in the EA report for Highway 6 Freelon Northerly 16.9 km to Guelph (W.P. 65-76-05), September 1995, and in the 1997 Addendum. A Review under the EA Act was completed by the Ministry of Environment in June 2007. A Notice of Approval to Proceed with the Undertaking was granted by Order in Council on January 22, 2009.

Highway 401

- The Highway 401 widening was amended by a Transportation Environmental Study Report (TESR) in 2012 for the Preliminary Design and Class EA for

Highway 401 from west of Hespeler Road to the Wellington/Halton Boundary (G.W.P 8-00-00).

2. What reports will be available for public review?

A review of the 1995 EA, 1997 Addendum and 2012 Transportation Environmental Study Report (TESR) is being undertaken to identify:

- any significant changes to existing conditions that have occurred since release of the reports noted above; and
- the need for refinements to the approved Preliminary Design.

In the event that significant changes are identified, a TESR Addendum will be made available for public and agency review.

The Detailed Design phase will be documented in Design and Construction Report(s) (DCRs) that will be made available for public and agency review.

3. Is this route confirmed? What elements of the approved preliminary design are being reviewed as part of this study?

The Preliminary Design review is currently limited to the approved corridor and route. While the Project Team is considering minor refinements to the approved Preliminary Design as summarized below, major modifications to the alignment are not currently being considered as part of this study.

4. How is this study being coordinated with other studies in or adjacent to the study area?

The Project Team is actively consulting with staff from the Township of Puslinch, Wellington County, the City of Hamilton and the City of Guelph throughout the study to discuss the previously approved Preliminary Design, proposed refinements, and nearby approved / ongoing / future municipal studies and construction. Construction staging will be coordinated with the municipal projects and with other MTO projects to minimize traffic impacts as much as possible and minimize out of way travel.

Consultation and Engagement

1. What consultation and engagement is planned for this project?

Consultation and engagement will take place throughout the study with the public, Indigenous people, regulatory agencies, and municipalities.

A Public Information Centre (PIC) is planned to provide an opportunity for members of the public to discuss the study and any proposed refinements to the Preliminary Design within the approved corridor and route with the Project Team.

Further consultation will occur in association with the Detailed Design.

2. How will municipalities and agencies be involved?

The Project Team is actively consulting with the staff from the Township of Puslinch, Wellington County, the City of Guelph and the City of Hamilton, as well as emergency responders and regulatory agencies. Consultation will continue throughout design and into construction.

3. How can I get involved in this study?

There are several ways to get involved with this study:

- Visit the project website for updates at <http://highways6and401hamiltontoguelph.ca/>;
- Ask to be added to the Project Mailing List to be notified of all future public consultation activities by email or mail (please specify);
- Attend the Public Information Centre (PIC) to meet the Project Team, learn more about the study and provide your input;
- Submit a written comment through the “Contact Us” section of this website, by email, or by mail at any time; or,
- Call a Project Team member to discuss any comments or questions you might have at any time.

Project Schedule

1. What is the schedule for this study?

This study commenced in May 2017 and is anticipated to continue until late 2018. A Public Information Centre (PIC) is planned for late 2017. A more detailed study schedule will be provided at the PIC.

2. When will the project be built?

MTO has targeted 2019 to start construction. This project is a complex highway expansion initiative that is expected to take several years to construct. Details of specific construction activities and timing will be provided by the Ministry as the project moves towards the construction phase.

Environmental Issues and Concerns

1. How are environmental issues and concerns being considered in this study?

Environmental investigations are being completed as part of this study to determine potential environmental impacts and develop mitigation measures to avoid or minimize potential impacts as best as possible. The results of these investigations will be documented in applicable study reports.