

Ministry of Transportation

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March 3, 2021

Anjala Puvananathan
Director, Ontario Region
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada

Dear Anjala Puvananathan:

Re: Ministry of Transportation Response to the Notification Regarding Potential Designation of the Bradford Bypass as a Designated Project under the *Impact Assessment Act*

The Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) has reviewed the Impact Assessment Agency's letter dated February 11, 2021 notifying of the Minister of Environment and Climate Change's receipt of a request to designate the proposed Bradford Bypass Project under subsection 9(1) of the *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA) and has prepared a detailed response with the requested information for Request #3. The MTO provided a response to Requests #1 and #2 on February 17, 2021.

MTO is working to provide for the efficient movement of people and goods within the context of the province's *Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe*. To support the policy directions in the *Growth Plan*, MTO has commenced the preliminary design and environmental assessment (EA) process for the Bradford Bypass. The purpose of this study is to build upon the Route Planning EA Study approved in 2002, with a vision of updating the highway's design to meet current highway design standards and to consider recent changes in environmental policies, practices and legislation. Although traffic modelling will be updated as part of the current EA Study to evaluate interchange design requirements and conduct environmental impact assessments (e.g. noise assessment, Air Quality Assessment), it is not MTO's intention to revisit the need or justification for the proposed highway or explore alternate routes to the EA-approved corridor, as the Ministry's recommended plan was subject to extensive review and engagement and consultation by Indigenous communities, the public and other stakeholders prior to receiving EA approval.

The study for the Bradford Bypass is following the approved planning process for a Group 'A' project under the MTO *Class EA for Provincial Transportation Facilities* (2000) to satisfy the *Ontario Environmental Assessment Act*. Refinements to the design within the study area (as defined in the 1997 EA document) will be generated and evaluated based on technical

and environmental factors and in consultation with Indigenous communities, public stakeholders, municipalities and government agencies. Environmental assessment of anticipated impacts and recommended mitigations associated with the proposed project is currently underway. The Transportation Environmental Study Report (TESR) documenting this preliminary design and environmental assessment process is anticipated to be released for public and Indigenous community review and comment at the end of 2022. The TESR will document issues raised by interested persons and Indigenous communities, how the Project Team constructively addressed input received during the consultation process and outline how these comments influenced the project.

The table below includes a summary response to the requested information for Request #3, as well as the location of more detailed responses within the attached document.

Yours truly,

<Original signed by>

Steven McInnis, P. Eng.
Director, Design and Engineering Branch

Enclosure: Response to Requested Information

c:

Cameron Bevers
Jason White