

Ministry of Transportation

Bradford Bypass

York Region Council Meeting

March 18, 2021

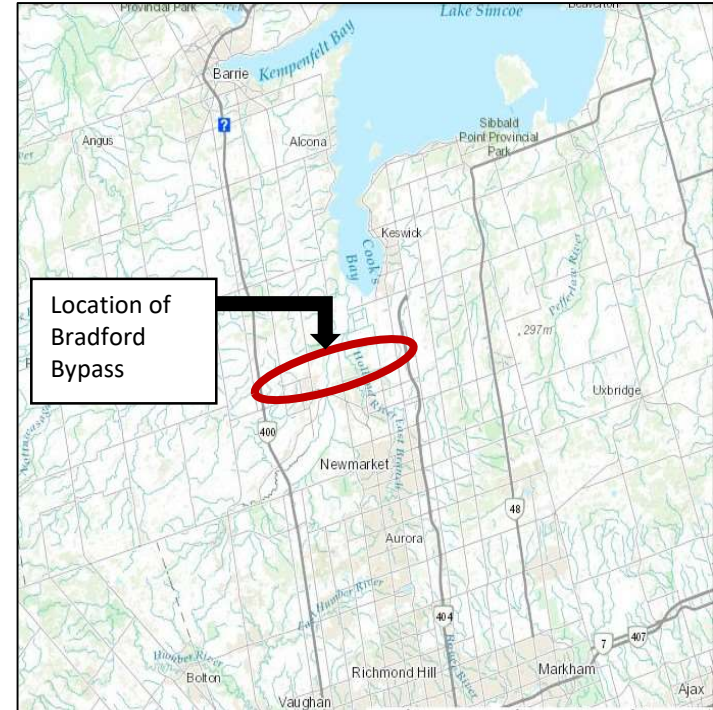


Purpose of Presentation

To provide an update on the status of the Bradford Bypass Preliminary Design and Environmental Assessment Update.

Project Rationale & Benefits

- Advancing the Bradford Bypass project will help address current and future transportation needs in Simcoe County and York Region.
- Even with the historic public transit expansion plan and significant investments in transit, road congestion will continue to increase across the GGH.
- The Regional Municipality of York is expected to grow to 1.79 million residents by 2041.
- Ontario needs new infrastructure to help move people and goods or the region will quickly become overwhelmed.
- Transportation-related construction is vital to Ontario's economic recovery especially in the years following the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Investment in highway infrastructure supports an estimated seven jobs per million dollars of spending, and \$0.71 of GDP per dollar spent.



The Bradford Bypass project will generate direct and indirect economic benefits through creation of jobs and markets.

Transportation Benefits

The Bradford Bypass, a new proposed freeway connecting Hwy 400 and Hwy 404 is a way to manage the expected population growth and travel demand in the area.

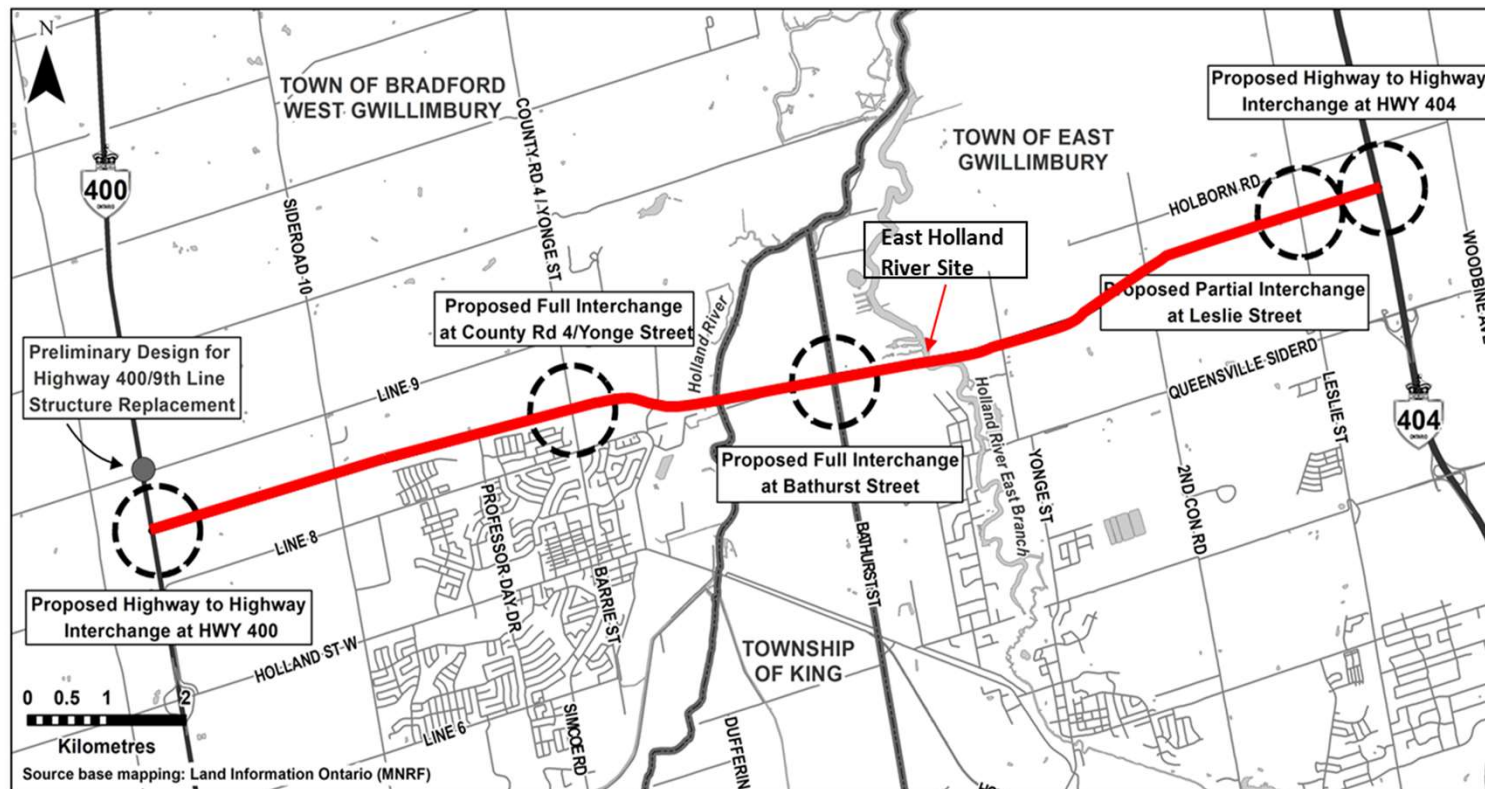
- It will:
 - relieve congestion on existing local roads between Highway 400 and Highway 404
 - address the expected travel demand and support goods movement in the area to help support urban development in York Region.
 - provide a northern freeway connection between Highway 400 and Highway 404 saving motorists and trucks approximately 66% savings in travel time as compared to existing routes



Travellers are expected to save up to 35 minutes a trip (an average travel time savings of 66 percent.)

Project Location / Background

- The Ministry of Transportation (MTO) is building on the approved 2002 Environmental Assessment (EA) that identified a new 16.2-km freeway connecting Hwy 400 and Hwy 404.
- MTO began a Preliminary Design EA Update Study to advance the Bradford Bypass project in September 2020.
- Interchanges are located at Hwy 400, County Road 4, Bathurst St, Leslie St & Hwy 404
- Crossings are at 10th Sideroad, Artesian Industrial Pkwy, CN Rail, Yonge St & 2nd Concession Rd.



EA Consultation

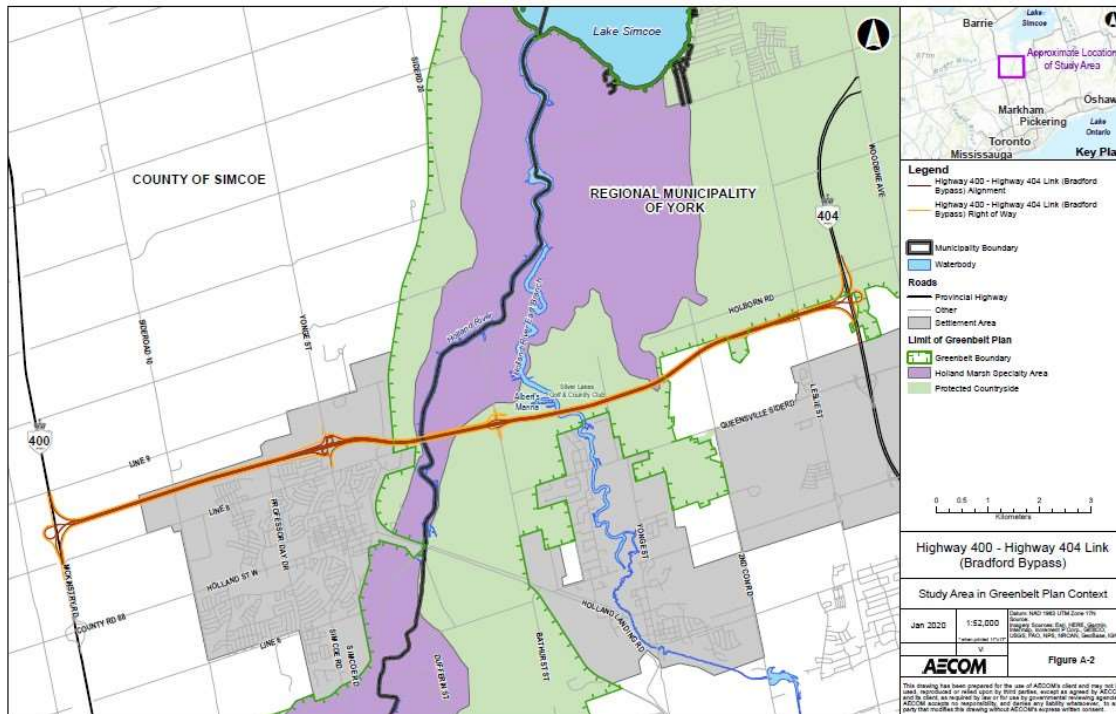
- MTO is committed to an open and transparent EA Study process.
- The Project Team will continue to engage with and obtain feedback from municipalities, Indigenous communities, environmental agencies and other concerned stakeholders throughout the study.
- The Project Team has developed a comprehensive consultation program that provides stakeholders with access to study information in a timely manner and allows them to provide input and participate in a meaningful way.
- Engagement and consultation will include:
 - Project Website (www.bradfordbypass.ca);
 - Project Telephone Line (1-877-247- 6036);
 - Inclusion on the Project Contact List to receive regular project updates;
 - Receive email communications and contact the Project Team through a dedicated Project email address (ProjectTeam@bradfordbypass.ca);
 - Receive project specific mailings and notifications (via physical mail or email);
 - Newspaper advertisements;
 - Two Public Information Centres throughout the study (in-person or virtual); and
 - Indigenous community information centres, and meetings and correspondence with Chiefs and Councils, or their delegates, as requested.

Environmental Impacts

- The Bradford Bypass Preliminary Design EA Update Study will include:
 - field investigations,
 - impact assessment/mitigation,
 - adherence to environmental commitments (including those identified in the 2002 Route Planning EA Approval.)
- A wide range of environmental studies related to natural, socio-economic, cultural, and technical disciplines will be carried out as part of this project.
- As part of the Preliminary Design, MTO will carefully consider all impacts to environmentally significant areas such as the Holland River Wetlands and the Greenbelt.
- MTO will continue to work with environmental agencies, municipalities and other concerned stakeholders to identify principles and recommendations for mitigating the impacts of placing new or expanded provincial highways within wetland areas or areas of the Greenbelt.
- The Preliminary Design will consider minimizing impacts to areas of the wetland or Greenbelt areas through engineering refinements.
- The Bradford Bypass Preliminary Design and Class EA will adhere to all relevant new and existing provincial and federal legislation, including, but not limited to, *Endangered Species Act (ESA, 2007)*, *Greenbelt Plan*, *Heritage Act*, *Fisheries Act*, *Species at Risk Act (SARA, 2002)*, *Lake Simcoe Protection Act*, etc.

Environmental Features Map

- The Bradford Bypass will cross the Holland Marsh Provincially Significant Wetlands (PSW), which lines the Holland River and Holland River East Branch.
 - The crossings of the Holland Marsh were chosen because they are consistent with the ministry's effort to minimize impacts to this sensitive wetland area and are among the narrowest portions of Holland Marsh.
- Any infrastructure proposed for the Greenbelt must meet certain environmental conditions that take into account the sensitive nature of Greenbelt lands.
 - The Bradford Bypass Preliminary Design will consider minimizing impacts to areas of the Greenbelt through engineering refinements.



The approximate combined length of the Holland Marsh PSW crossing is 1 km, consisting of an area of about 10.75 hectares, which amounts to only 0.35% of the entire PSW area.

Summary

- As project progresses, MTO will continue to consult with the Regional Municipality of York along with other municipalities, Indigenous Communities and stakeholders to keep an open dialogue regarding the goals and objectives of the project.
- Some upcoming project activities include:
 - Refinement of route alignment
 - Completion of Traffic Analysis
 - Identification of Interchange types and finalize their locations
 - Field Investigations
 - Preliminary Design
 - Final Reports
 - Ongoing Stakeholder Meetings
 - Public Information Meetings
- We welcome the Region of York's suggestions on how best to position the Bradford Bypass as this project advances.

Project Team Contact Information

Website: www.bradfordbypass.ca
Phone: 1-877-247-6036
Email: projectteam@bradfordbypass.ca

Your input is important to us.