

# Highway 400 – Highway 404 Link (Bradford Bypass)

York Region Council Meeting

January 13, 2022

# Land Acknowledgement

- Due to the remote and virtual nature of this meeting, we would like to recognize we are all residing on land that represents different Treaties and Indigenous Peoples
- As we discuss the Bradford Bypass project, we would like to recognize and acknowledge the lands between Bradford West Gwillimbury and East Gwillimbury, Ontario were originally used and occupied by the Peoples of the Williams Treaties First Nations, Métis, and other Indigenous Peoples.
- We would also like to recognize the importance of honouring Indigenous history and culture, land and resources, and language, and are committed to moving forward in the spirit of reconciliation and respect with all Indigenous peoples

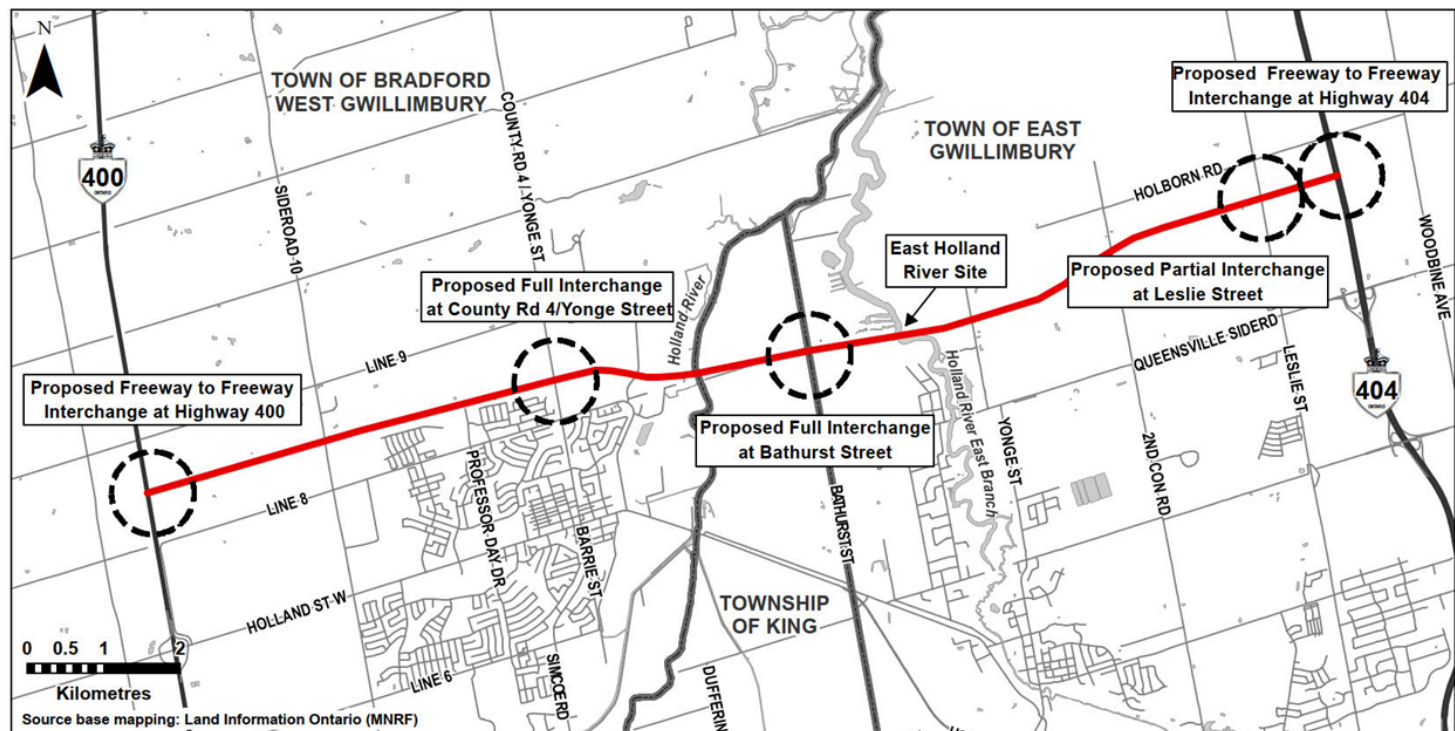
# Purpose of Presentation

1. Project Location/Background
2. Ontario Regulation 697/21
3. Project Current Status
4. Early Works
5. Next Steps



# 1. Project Location/Background

- MTO previously completed a Route planning Study for the Bradford Bypass and a subsequent Environmental Assessment, and the Recommended Plan were approved in 2002
- In 2019, The Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) began the engineering design and field work for the Bradford Bypass and has retained AECOM Canada Ltd. to undertake the undertake the Preliminary Design and project specific assessment of environmental impacts in accordance with Ontario Regulation 697/21



## 2. Ontario Regulation 697/21

- On October 7, 2021, the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) introduced Ontario Regulation (O. Reg.) 697/21 that allows the MTO to complete a streamlined assessment process to move the Bradford Bypass forward in an environmentally conscious way
- The regulation allows for a bridge and associated roadworks at County Road 4 to proceed in advance of the rest of the project provided that the MTO completes an Early Works assessment process
- The regulation requires the MTO to complete environmental studies and consultation during each phase of the project.
- The new regulation also eliminates the duplication of work completed as part of the previous Environmental Assessment processes while not compromising environmental protection.
- MTO is still required to complete all environmental requirements such as carrying out consultations as set out in the regulation and obtain all necessary federal and provincial permits and approvals for the project prior to construction.
- The project specific assessment of environmental impacts in accordance with O. Reg. 697/21 is currently underway and is expected to be completed in December 2022.

# 3. Project Current Status

## Transportation Principles

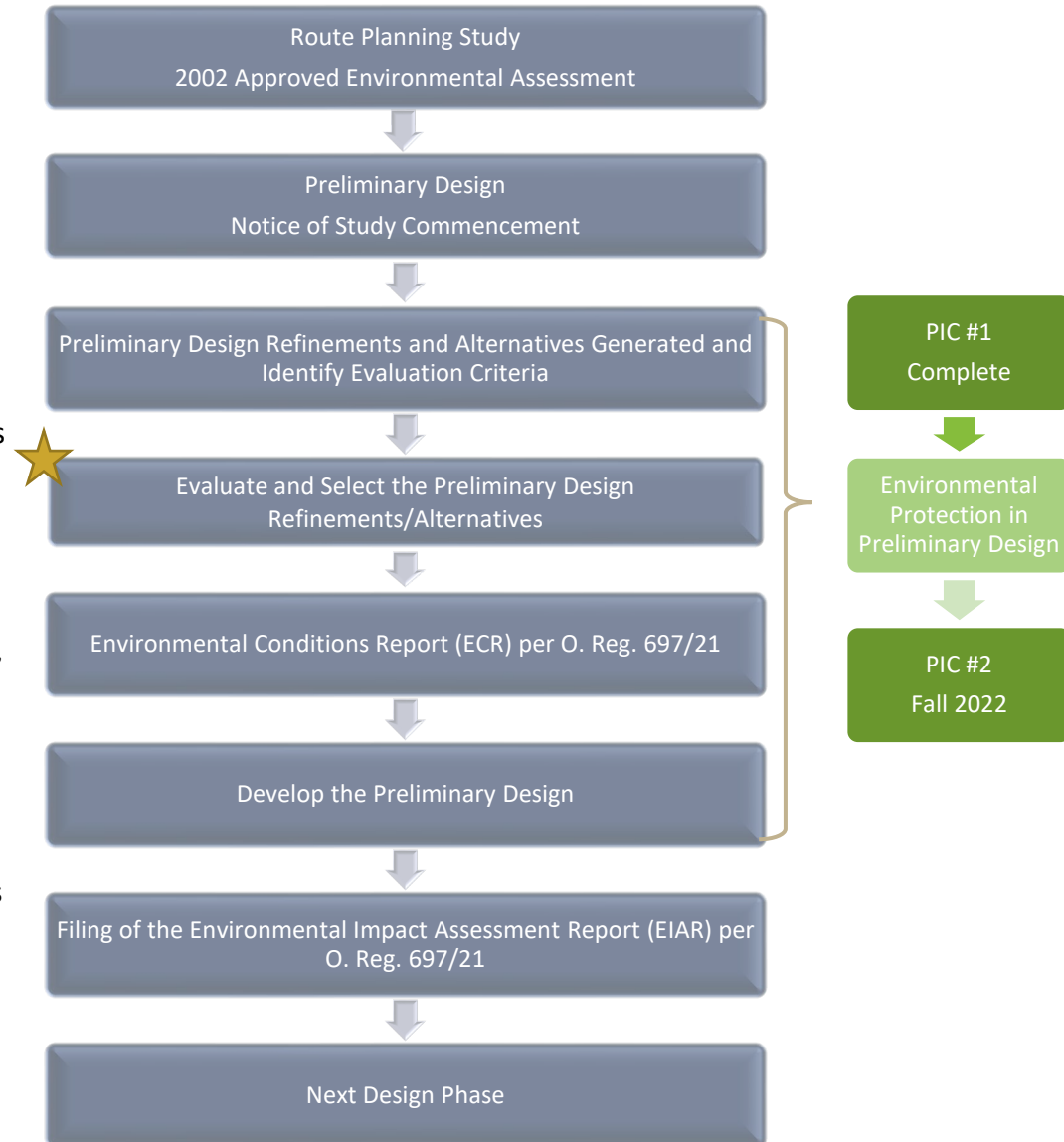
- Evaluate and Select Preferred Refinements/Alternatives
- Develop the Preliminary Design

## Consultation Principles

- Continued consultation to present the Preliminary Design and assessment of Environmental Impacts to engage the public, regulatory agencies, and Indigenous communities and solicit feedback
- Receive and respond to questions and feedback received from stakeholders
- Continued meetings with Indigenous communities, municipalities, regulatory agencies, impacted property owners and community groups.
- Hold future PIC #2 (anticipated for Fall 2022)

## Documentation Principles

- Prepare and file a draft Environmental Conditions Report (ECR) and a draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) to document the Preliminary Design and assessment of environmental impacts.





## 4. Early Works

- The 2021 Ontario Budget included the Bradford Bypass. This included Early Works, a grade separation at County Road 4 to accommodate the County of Simcoe's widening of County Road 4 between 8<sup>th</sup> Line and 9<sup>th</sup> Line
- Environmental investigations and reporting for the study are currently being undertaken
- The study will be documented in an Early Works Report
- On November 26, 2021, a Request for Proposals to design and build a bridge crossing for the future Bradford Bypass at County Road 4 was issued
- Anticipated Design Build contract award date: March 2022



## 5. Next Steps

- Field Investigations and Data Collection (on-going)
- Evaluation of Alternatives (early 2022)
- On-going consultation and meetings with Indigenous Communities, municipalities, federal and provincial agencies, as well as interested stakeholders. In addition, separate Advisory Group meetings have occurred and will continue as follows:
  - Municipal Advisory Group Meeting #1 (Anticipated Early 2022)
  - Federal/Provincial Advisory Group Meeting #1 (Anticipated Early 2022)
  - Environment, Community, and Agriculture Committee Meeting #2 (Anticipated late 2022)
- Draft Early Works Report (January 13, 2022)
- Early Works DB Contract Award (Anticipated spring 2022)
- Draft Environmental Conditions Report available for review in 2022
- Public Information Centre 2 (Anticipated fall 2022)
- Draft Environmental impact Assessment Report (EIAR) available for public review in late 2022 to early 2023
- Preliminary Design anticipated completion in early 2023



# Questions