

February 6, 2009

To whom it may concern,

**RE: Niagara to GTA Corridor Planning and Environmental Assessment Study – Phase 1
Notice of Public Information Centre #2**

Phase 1 of the Planning and Environmental Assessment (EA) Study for the Niagara to GTA Corridor, initiated by the Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO), will support the transportation objectives of the provincial *Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe* by providing for the efficient movement of people and goods within the corridor.

Phase 1 of this study includes the following key steps:

- Develop a Study Plan
- Identify transportation problems and opportunities
- Identify and assess transportation alternatives (i.e. fundamentally different ways of addressing the problems and opportunities)
- Select preferred transportation alternative(s) and recommend a multi-modal Transportation Development Strategy
- Make recommendations for future work in the Niagara to GTA corridor.

Since the last round of Public Information Centres (#1) in June 2007, the following has been completed:

- “Study Vision, Purpose, Goals and Objectives” discussion paper;
- Travel Demand modelling/forecasting approaches developed in consultation with stakeholders;
- “Factors Influencing Transportation Demand in the NGTA Corridor” discussion paper;
- Incorporated work from the recently released Metrolinx *Regional Transportation Plan for the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area* and more up-to-date land use information from municipalities; and
- Identification of specific inter-regional transportation problems and opportunities in the study area.

These are important steps that lay the foundation for the examination of alternative transportation system improvements.

The second round of Public Information Centres has been arranged (refer to enclosed “Notice of Public Information Centre #2”). The public is invited to attend these informal sessions to view maps and displays that illustrate the problems and opportunities within the NGTA corridor. Project Team members will be available to answer questions, receive comments and discuss the next steps in this study.

NGTA Project Team

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PIC #2 will be held on:

Tuesday, February 24th, 2009

4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

*Royal Canadian Legion
Upstairs Hall*

383 Morningstar Avenue,
Welland

Thursday, February 26th, 2009

4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

*Rockton World Fairground
812 Old Highway 8, Rockton*

Tuesday, March 3rd, 2009

4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

*Burlington Convention Centre
Emerald Hall*

1120 Burloak Drive, Burlington

The focus of this round of PICs is to present the approach to predicting future transportation conditions, the transportation problems identified through the forecasting exercise, and opportunities identified through the Goals and Objectives Discussion Paper. The Project Team is also seeking youth representatives to join the Community Advisory Group (CAG) that has been established for this study.

Information presented at the PIC will also be available on the project website starting February 19th, 2009. We encourage you to stay involved in this important study. Come out to the second round of Public Information Centres, view the work currently in progress and provide your input on the transportation problems and opportunities that have been identified by the Project Team.

The Niagara to GTA Corridor Planning and EA study will be undertaken in accordance with the *Ontario Environmental Assessment Act* (OEAA), the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (CEAA), and the *Niagara to GTA Corridor Environmental Assessment Terms of Reference* (ToR), which was approved by the Minister of the Environment in June 2006.

Comments and information regarding this project will be collected to assist the MTO in meeting the requirements of the OEAA. This material will be maintained on file for use during the project and may be included in project documentation. Information collected will be used in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and the *Access to Information Act*. With the exception of personal information (e.g. name and address), all comments will become part of the public record.

Please feel free to visit us at <http://www.niagara-gta.com> to obtain further information and updates regarding this study.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

Sincerely,



Mr. John Slobodzian
Project Coordinator
Provincial and Environmental Planning Office
Ontario Ministry of Transportation



Mr. Paul Hudspith, P. Eng.
Consultant Project Manager
URS Canada Inc.