

L.9 Agency Meetings



Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)
Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)

Highway 401 Planning Study from Cobourg to Colborne
Preliminary Design & Class Environmental Assessment
GWP 4060-11-00 and Nagle Road Interchange Study GWP 4059-17-00
Assignment Number 4015-E-0033, / Stantec File 165001090 & 165001106

Date/Time: November 12, 2019 / 10:30 AM

Place: Conference Call

Next Meeting: TBD

Attendees:	Muhammad Waseem	MTO Project Manager
	Erin Pipe	MTO Environmental Planner
	Elizabeth Spang	Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
	Catherine Warren	Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
	Colin Higgins	Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
	Monique Charette	Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks
	Gregg Cooke	Stantec Project Manager
	Nevena Gazibara	Stantec Environmental Team Lead
	Debra Giesbrecht	Stantec Terrestrial Ecologist

Distribution: Project Team

Item:	Action:
-------	---------

1. All attendees were introduced.
2. Gregg Cooke provided a presentation that included an overview of the study purpose and scope of projects and the environmental assessment processes being completed and consultation programs. A copy of the presentation is attached to the meeting notes.
3. The scope of the two current studies includes:
 - Rehabilitation and replacement of bridges and structural culverts
 - Interchange modifications at Lyle Street and Percy Street
 - Commuter parking lot expansions and relocations
 - Establishing footprints of Highway 401 for six and eight lanes
 - A new interchange near Nagle Road and rehabilitation or replacement of the existing Nagle Road bridge to accommodate the new interchange and future Highway 401 widening
4. Gregg Cooke provided an overview of the preliminary design alternatives that were presented at the first Public Information Centre. The first PIC was held on September 18, 2019.

November 12, 2019

Meeting with MNRF and MECP

Page 2 of 3

Item:

Action:

5. Nevena Gazibara provided an overview of the environmental investigations completed to-date, and in particular the terrestrial and aquatic existing conditions investigations, results, and reports.
 - a. It was noted that the existing conditions report were completed in 2018 and shared with the MNRF and MECP.
 - b. The terrestrial fieldwork program for the project and reports was completed in the summer of 2017, in advance of the formal commencement of the project. The field investigations included identifying significant wildlife habitats, completing ecological land classifications based on observations, observations of wildlife, birds and nests. The study area was determined to be 120 m from the ROW and fieldwork was conducted from the Highway 401 ROW.
 - c. The fisheries fieldwork program was completed in the spring and summer of 2017 and included fish habitat and ecological conditions identification and fish inventories for all watercourses within the study area.
 - d. The project team identified a Provincially Significant Wetland (Cranberry Lake) within the study area, phragmites within the ROW, individual Barn Swallows flying around the study area (but no nests), Eastern Pheobe nests at Shelter Valley Creek, possible turtle wintering areas and amphibian breeding habitats and animal movement corridors.
 - e. The fisheries investigations identified 17 watercourses with potential to provide fish habitat with most watercourses classified as permanent coldwater thermal regime watercourses with sensitive species present. One Species at Risk (American Eel) was recorded in background information in Shelter Valley Creek. As the study continues and a preferred plan is identified at Shelter Valley Creek the potential impacts to this SAR will be identified and the need for an ESA permit will be identified through consultation with the MECP.
6. Stantec noted that they have received MNRF's comments on the existing conditions reports and will update the items identified in the Impact Assessment reports, scheduled to be completed once preferred plans are selected. MECP noted that they will provide their comments on the reports within the next month.
7. MNRF and MECP asked why targeted species surveys were not completed as part of the fieldwork. Stantec noted that targeted species surveys were not included in this Planning and Preliminary Design stage and scope of work. These detailed surveys are typically completed during Detail Design, once the recommended plan is finalized and construction details are known.
8. MNRF noted that there is no information regarding deer wintering areas within the terrestrial existing conditions report. Stantec noted that at the time of field investigations and reporting in 2017 and 2018 they did not have formal permission to contact the MNRF and as a result they did not receive that input or information from

November 12, 2019

Meeting with MNRF and MECP

Page 3 of 3

Item:

Action:

MNRF. MNRF noted that they will provide that information to Stantec to include in the Impact Assessment Report.

9. MNRF noted that there are opportunities and potential for eco-passages at the Unnamed Creek crossing that is 1.4 km West of the Cranberry Lake PSW (21-469) and the Graft Creek culvert, near Craig Road, and possibly near Shelter Valley Creek.
10. Stantec discussed wildlife collision data provided by the MTO within the corridor and noted that there are not any significant patterns observed but that there are clusters of accidents near Lyle Street, Percy Street and Shelter Valley Road. MNRF and MECP requested that the wildlife collision data be shared with them. *Following the meeting, Stantec provided the wildlife collision data with MNRF and MECP.*
11. Stantec and MTO noted that within the study area there are six structural culverts that have been identified for rehabilitation or replacement as part of this study and design alternatives have been developed (as shown on the PIC displays). At this early design stage there may be opportunities to identify culverts that could be used as eco-passages for wildlife if wildlife habitat and movement corridors are identified and topographical conditions are suitable for eco-passages. Stantec noted that they have designed upsized culverts on other projects to create eco-passages but that the success of the eco-passage depends on the length of the culvert, light availability, and ability to create and install funnel fencing adjacent to the culvert.
12. As an example, there are two culverts at Shelter Valley Creek (one road culvert and one watercourse culverts. One of the alternatives that Stantec has developed and is shown on the PIC displays is a new bridge to replace the two existing culverts. This may provide an opportunity for an eco-passage, when compared to the other design alternatives at Shelter Valley Creek. MNRF noted that the new bridge alternative is probably a better option for wildlife- less restricted area. MNRF and MECP requested copies of the PIC displays. *Following the meeting, Stantec provided the PIC displays to MNRF and MECP.*
13. MNRF noted that they will review the wildlife collision data provided and share deer wintering areas that will assist Stantec with identifying potential opportunities to use the structural culverts included in this study as eco-passages.
14. A future meeting will be scheduled with the MNRF and MECP once preferred plans have been identified and to confirm if there are opportunities for culvert eco-passages within the study area.

MNRF

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 AM

The foregoing is considered to be a true and accurate record of all items discussed. If any discrepancies or inconsistencies are noted, please contact us immediately.



Highway 401 Planning Study
from Cobourg to Colborne
GWP 4060-00-00

Nagle Road Interchange Study
GWP 4059-17-00

Study Update
MNRF and MECP
November 12, 2019

Agenda

1 Study Areas, Study Process

2 Highway 401 Planning Study

3 Nagle Road Interchange Planning Study

4 Environmental Investigations & Studies

5 Schedule

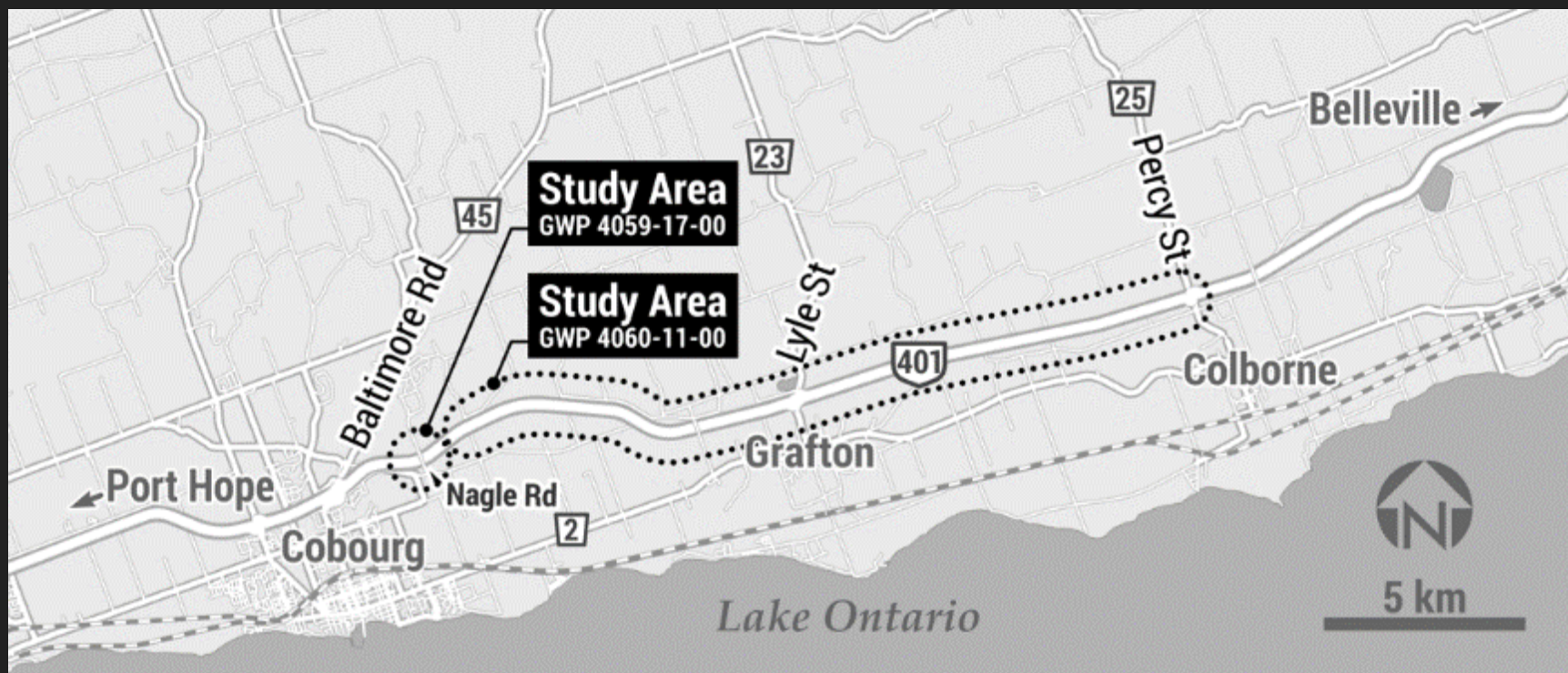
6 Questions

Study Areas, Study Process

Study Areas

- The Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) has retained Stantec Consulting Ltd. to undertake a Planning, Preliminary Design, and Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) Study for Highway 401 between Cobourg and Colborne
- The Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) and the Town of Cobourg have retained Stantec Consulting Ltd. to undertake a Planning, Preliminary Design, and Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) Study for a new Highway 401 interchange near Nagle Road in the Town of Cobourg and the Township of Hamilton, in Northumberland County

Study Areas



Environmental Assessment Process

- Both studies are being carried out under the requirements of the Class Environmental Assessment (EA) for Provincial Transportation Facilities (2000)
- The studies fall within the scope of a Group “B” project, which includes highway improvements that provide/cause a significant modification in traffic access
- Both of the studies will share the same Public Information Centres (PIC) and Municipal Advisory Committees (MAC), however a separate TESR will be published for each study

Highway 401 Planning Study

Study Purpose

The purpose of the Highway 401 Planning Study is to identify a Recommended Plan that addresses current and future transportation needs in the study area as part of the Ministry's ongoing review of safety and operational needs for the provincial highway network.

- Rehabilitation and replacement of bridges and structural culverts
- Interchange modifications at Lyle Street and Percy Street
- Commuter parking lot expansions or relocations
- Establish the footprint of future six and eight lanes on Highway 401 to ensure appropriate design of bridge replacements

PIC 1 Alternatives

1. Danforth Road Bridge Improvement Alternatives
2. Gully Road Bridge Improvement Alternatives
3. Lyle Street Interchange Alternatives
4. Shelter Valley Road & Creek Culvert Improvement Alternatives
5. Vernonville Road Bridge Improvement Alternatives
6. Boyce Road Bridge Improvement Alternatives
7. Percy Street Interchange Alternatives
8. Highway 401 Alternatives
9. Drainage Improvements

Nagle Road Interchange Study

Study Purpose

The purpose of the Nagle Road Interchange Study is to identify a Recommended Plan that addresses future transportation and planning needs in the study area.

- New interchange in the vicinity of Nagle Road to provide access to the Cobourg East Community
- Rehabilitation or replacement of the existing Nagle Road bridge to accommodate the new interchange
- The proposed interchange is the Town of Cobourg's initiative as identified in the Towns of Cobourg's Transportation Master Plan (TMP) and Official Plan
- The Town of Cobourg is bearing the full cost associated with this preliminary design study

PIC 1 Alternatives

1. New Interchange at Nagle Road
2. New Interchange East of Nagle Road

Environmental Investigations and Studies

Environmental Investigations & Studies

- Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment
- Cultural Heritage Studies
- Terrestrial Ecosystems Existing Conditions and Impact Assessments
- Fish and Fish Habitat Existing Conditions and Impact Assessments
- Noise Assessment
- Erosion and Sedimentation Overview Risk Assessment
- Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Assessment
- Contamination Overview Study
- Groundwater Overview Study

Natural Heritage- Existing Conditions

- 17 watercourses within study area with potential to provide fish habitat
- Most watercourses are permanent coldwater with sensitive species present
- American Eel – SAR records in Shelter Valley Creek
- Cranberry Lake Provincially Significant Wetland
- Turtle wintering areas observed adjacent to ROW
- Potential habitat for Snapping turtle and Blanding's Turtle in proximity to ROW
- Possible amphibian animal movement corridors present due to suitable breeding wetlands in close proximity of ROW

Schedule

Key Dates

Notice of Study Commencement	April-May 2018
Municipal Advisory Committee Meeting 1	May 16, 2019
Public Information Centre 1	September 18, 2019
Municipal Advisory Committee Meeting 2	March 2020 (tentative)
Public Information Centre 2	May 2020 (tentative)
Transportation Environmental Study Reports	August 2020 (tentative)

Nagle Road Interchange Study
Preliminary Design & Class Environmental Assessment
GWP 4059-17-00, Assignment Number 4015-E-0033 / Stantec File 165001106

Date/Time: May 4, 2023 / 1:00 PM
Place: Virtual Meeting/MS Teams
Next Meeting: TBD
Attendees: Muhammad Waseem Senior Project Engineer, MTO
Lori Brake Traffic Supervisor, MTO
Christina Ponniah Traffic Analyst, MTO
Peter Freure Area Manager, MTO
Alison Cuconato Regional Operations Officer, MTO
Terry Hoekstra Manager of Engineering, Town of Cobourg
Laurie Wills Director of Public Works, Town of Cobourg
Denise Marshall Director of Public Works, Northumberland County,
Cameron Harper Manager of Infrastructure, Northumberland County Consultant
Gregg Cooke Project Manager, Stantec
Distribution: All

Item:	Action:
1. The County summarized their letter dated April 18, 2023 and noted that the addition of the Nagle Road interchange will impact the County road network, and questioned if the study should be expanded.	Info
2. The Town noted that they have sent a letter to the Township of Hamilton stating that they cannot complete transportation studies within another municipality, and that the Township should complete their own planning studies given they are located adjacent to a growth area (Cobourg East Community). It was further noted that the comments related to the Emergency Detour Routes (EDR) is a new issue.	
3. The County questioned if the impacts at the County intersections have been considered. It was further noted that CR 23 is not a designated EDR; however, it is heavily used during a Highway 401 closure. The OPP does not seem to be aware that CR 23 is not an EDR and the gates at the CR 23 interchange are not being used.	
4. The County noted that Nagle Road is not suitable for an EDR, and that the Township will not have the funds to upgrade the road to accommodate EDR traffic.	
5. The Town asked if MTO provides funding for new EDRs. The MTO confirmed that it is the local municipality's responsibility to designate and maintain permanently signed detour routes to be used in the event of a closure on a major road or 400-series highway.	
6. The County noted that not having an EDR at each interchange creates challenges for the municipalities. The County will continue to inform OPP; however, this should not be entirely a County responsibility.	

May 4, 2023

Meeting with Northumberland County

Page 2 of 2

Item:

Action:

7. MTO noted that the Nagle Road interchange is not a provincial initiative. The MTO is working collaboratively with the Town to provide highway access to the planned Cobourg East Community.
8. The Town noted that the purpose of the study is to identify and protect the property footprint that will be required to construct the interchange. The timing of the development is not known, and the Town cannot control the pace of the development. The Township needs to plan for the long-term.
9. The County understands that the scope of the current study is to confirm the interchange configuration and footprint. However, there needs to be commitments to future studies to assess the impacts to Nagle Road.
10. The County noted additional concerns with the EDR south of Highway 401 at Brighton and Colborne. There are very tight turns on CR 2 at Colborne, and an offset intersection at Brighton that make it very difficult for trucks to navigate. The County is exploring new EDR alternatives north of Highway 401; however, the cost may be prohibitive.
11. The County asked if MTO could protect/designate property for a new EDR north of Highway 401; however, MTO responded that this is not possible.
12. The MTO is willing to have a separate meeting(s) to discuss ongoing EDR issues within the County.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 PM

The foregoing is considered to be a true and accurate record of all items discussed. If any discrepancies or inconsistencies are noted, please contact us immediately.