

Notice of Study Commencement

Detail Design and Class Environmental Assessment (G.W.P. 2337-16-00) Highway 400/Essa Road Interchange

The Ontario **Ministry of Transportation (MTO)** retained **Stantec Consulting Ltd.** to complete the Detail Design and Class Environmental Assessment (EA) study for the reconstruction of the Highway 400/Essa Road interchange, including the replacement of the Highway 400 overpass structures at Essa Road. The study area is within the City of Barrie.

THE PROJECT

The Detail Design includes:

- Replacement of the Highway 400 bridges at Essa Road
- Reconstruction of the Highway 400/Essa Road interchange to accommodate the future ultimate widening of Highway 400
- Limited widening of Highway 400 to accommodate construction staging
- Replacement of traffic signals at the new ramp terminals
- Storm sewer replacement, stormwater management and median tall wall concrete barrier improvements
- Widening of Essa Road to 6 lanes for the City of Barrie, within the interchange

THE PROCESS

This study is following the approved planning process for Group 'B' projects under the MTO *Class EA for Provincial Transportation Facilities* (2000). This will include an assessment of potential impacts of the project works on the study area environment, and addressing the concerns raised during the consultation process. The Preliminary Design of the project was documented in the *Highway 400 Improvements from 1 km South of Highway 89 to the Junction of Highway 11 Transportation Environmental Study Report* (TESR), and TERS Addendum to update the study (W.O. 06-20016). The TERS received EA clearance in 2006 and the TERS Addendum received EA clearance in 2017.

A Design and Construction Report (DCR) documenting the project will be prepared describing the existing environmental conditions, design features, detours and construction staging, impacts, and mitigation measures. A project website will be maintained for the duration of this project. At the conclusion of the study, the DCR will be made available for a 30-day public review period with public notice advising of the start of the review period.

COMMENTS

If you wish to obtain additional information, provide comments, or have any accessibility requirements in order to participate in this project, please contact one of the project team members listed below:

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For up to date project information and to submit comments to the project team at any time during the study, please visit the project website: www.hwy400essaroad.ca. Information collected will be used in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record.

