



Government Relations Matters

**Committee of Council
February 24, 2021**

Regional Council

Thursday, February 25, 2021 9:30 AM | Council agenda is available [here](#).

*Staff from Public Affairs have reviewed the Council agenda and reached out to relevant departments.

7.1 Pauline Thornham, Co-Chair, Brampton Cycling Advisory Committee (Delegations)

Overview:

- Request a policy for notification and consultation of upcoming Regional road projects so that Active Transportation plans of Region of Peel and all three municipalities can be coordinated and implemented.

City of Brampton Staff Comments (Planning):

- The City provides input on Regional road projects , and staff update the Brampton Cycling Advisory Committee

16.1 Anjala Puvananathan, Director, Ontario Region, Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (Communications)

Overview:

- Environmental Defense has submitted a request to the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) that the provincial GTA West project be designated for a federal Environmental Assessment.
- Environmental Defense's submission identifies concerns about adverse environmental impacts that would result from the transportation corridor project and the companion transmission infrastructure project and concerns about the provincial EA process for the transportation corridor.
- The provincial project is not a designated project as described in the federal Impact Assessment Act. The Act, however, includes discretionary authority that allows the Minister of Environment and Climate Change to designate a proposed project that is not prescribed by the Act.
- The IAAC has invited the City to provide input on the request for designation. In general, they want to know whether MTO is addressing the interests and issues of importance to Brampton.
- The deadline for comments is March 3, 2021.
- It is expected that the Minister will respond to the request by May 4, 2021.

16.1 Anjala Puvananathan, Director, Ontario Region, Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (Continued)

GTA West Transportation Corridor EA:

- MTO initiated the EA study in January 2007. Stage 1 was completed in November 2012. Stage 2 was stopped in February 2018 but was subsequently resumed in June 2019.
- MTO released a revised Technically Preferred Route (TPR) in August 2020. The TPR does not reflect the City's request that the highway through Heritage Heights be converted to an urban boulevard.
- MTO anticipates holding a Public Information Centre on the preliminary design of the corridor in fall/winter 2021. Study completion is expected by the end of 2022.

North West GTA Transmission Corridor Identification Study:

- The Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines and the Independent Electricity System Operator are conducting a study to identify and protect a corridor of land for future electricity infrastructure in the Northwest GTA.
- The project's study area aligns with MTO's Focused Analysis Area. The expectation is that the transmission corridor would parallel the transportation corridor.
- The study will not recommend specific infrastructure investments. It seeks, rather, to keep a viable transmission infrastructure option open by ensuring land remains available in the future.

2020 Technically Preferred Route



Potential designation for a federal Environmental Assessment may have significant impacts on the GTA West corridor process.

22.1 Motion Requesting Endorsement of the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) Board of Director's Request to the Ministry of Transportation Regarding Service Level Agreements (Motion)

Overview:

- Motion seeking Regional endorsement for the TRCA Board request for the MTO to commit to receiving TRCA VPR signoff at the detailed design stage, to enter into a service level agreement with TRCA for the provision the VPR review services, and use the TRCA Guideline for Determining Ecosystem Compensation where avoidance and mitigation is not possible.

City of Brampton Staff Comments (Public Works and Engineering):

- The TRCA is currently exempt from reviewing the Provincial designs for the GTA West corridor.
- The motion may help address ecological issues associated with the project.

Ontario maintaining the Stay-at-Home Order and Shutdown measures for:

- North Bay Parry Sound District
- Peel Public Health
- Toronto Public Health



Ontario has now administered over
500,000
COVID-19 vaccine doses



Growing the Greenbelt



We want to hear from you!

1. Email:
greenbeltconsultation@ontario.ca

2. Environmental Registry of
Ontario

Comment by April 19, 2021.

February 19, 2021: Maintaining the shutdown, the *Stay-at-Home order* and all existing public health and workplace safety measures for an additional two weeks in the Toronto and Peel Public Health Regions, along with the North Bay-Parry Sound District – all measures will continue to apply until at least Monday, March 8, 2021.

February 17, 2021: Launched a 60-day consultation to grow the *Greenbelt* and help protect more of the province's natural environment — including farmlands, forests, wetlands and watersheds — from future development.

February 16, 2021: Expanded eligibility for *Main Street Relief Grant* - small businesses with 2 to 19 employees in all eligible sectors - expanded from 2-9 employees - including those in the arts, entertainment, and recreation sector, can now apply for up to \$1,000 in financial support.

February 19, 2021: Launched a new program to plant two billion trees The Growing Canada's Forests Program includes two initiatives:



- The *Future Participants* Request for Information - large-scale, single- or multi-year tree planting projects – potential contributor response forms due May 27, 2021.
- The *Early Start Projects* Expression of Interest will identify new, shovel-ready tree planting projects for the 2021 growing season - Expression of Interest due March 25, 2021.

February 19, 2021: Proposed increase to number of weeks for recovery benefits and EI regular benefits, including:

- Additional 12 weeks for CRB and CRCB extending the maximum duration of the benefits through regulation from 26 weeks to up to 38 weeks;
- Increase the current 2 weeks to 4 weeks for CRSB ; and
- Increase EI regular benefits to a maximum of 50 weeks through legislation, for claims made between September 27, 2020 and September 25, 2021.

February 17, 2021: Introduced new firearms legislation, including ability for municipalities to ban handguns through by-laws restricting storage and transportation of firearms in their jurisdictions.