

# NOTICE OF PROPOSED TRANSITION

## Highway 4 Widening and Proposed Talbotville Bypass (GWP 3042-22-00), Highway 3 Twinning (GWP 3041-22-00) Detail Design and Class Environmental Assessment Study

### THE STUDY

The Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) has retained Stantec Consulting Ltd. to complete the Preliminary Design, Detail Design and Class Environmental Assessment Study (Class EA) for improvements to Highway 3 from Highway 4 to Centennial Avenue (St. Thomas).

### THE PROCESS

The following has been undertaken as a Group 'A' project (GWP 3042-22-00):

- a new Highway 3 alignment bypassing Talbotville (also known as the Talbotville Bypass), connecting Highway 3 near Ron McNeil Line to Highway 4; and
- the widening of existing Highway 4 (from the new Talbotville Bypass to Clinton Line).

The following has been undertaken as a Group 'B' project (GWP 3041-22-00):

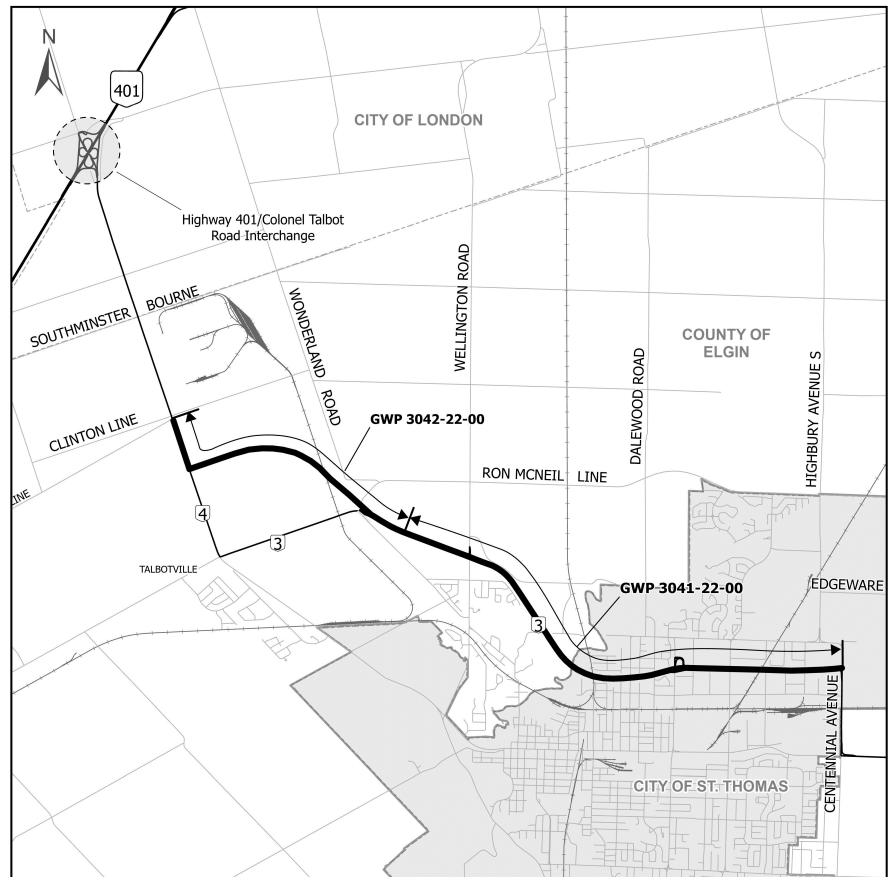
- the twinning of the existing Highway 3 through St. Thomas to the Township of Southwold (Ron McNeil Line to Centennial Avenue).

This project is currently being completed in accordance with the *Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) for Provincial Transportation Facilities (2000)*.

### PROPOSED TRANSITION

This notice is being issued to inform interested stakeholders, members of the public, and Indigenous communities of the intent to transition this project to the Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Transportation Facilities and Municipal Expressways (2024). Transitioning to the new Class EA process will improve the planning process of projects beyond preliminary design stage, bringing MTO into alignment with best practices observed in other Class EA frameworks. Transitioning from the requirements of the 2000 Class EA to the 2024 Class EA reflects a commitment to optimizing the assessment process by removing redundancies and expediting project planning to facilitate a more streamlined implementation process. Commitments made during the preliminary design phase will be addressed as the project progresses through the design process. Design and construction information will continue to be posted on the project websites and opportunities for public consultation are ongoing.

Information on the project, such as study notices, background information and additional design related information including the process under the 2024 Class EA can be found at [www.highway3elgin.ca](http://www.highway3elgin.ca).



The comment period associated with the proposed transition will be available for public comment between **Wednesday, May 29th and Friday, June 28, 2024.**

## COMMENTS

If you have any comments or questions about this notice, or have questions about the study, please contact one of the following project team members:

**Kevin Welker, P.Eng.**  
Project Manager  
Stantec Consulting Ltd.  
tel: (519) 675-6652  
email: [comments@highway3elgin.ca](mailto:comments@highway3elgin.ca)

**Deanna Pizycki, P.Eng.**  
Senior Project Engineer  
Ministry of Transportation  
tel: (519) 859-7492  
email: [comments@highway3elgin.ca](mailto:comments@highway3elgin.ca)

All media inquiries shall be directed to MTO's Communications Branch at (416) 327-1158 or [mto.media@ontario.ca](mailto:mto.media@ontario.ca).

*If you have any accessibility requirements in order to participate in this project, please contact one of the project team members listed above. Comments and information are being collected to assist the MTO in meeting the requirements of the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act. Information will be collected in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. All comments will be maintained on file for use during the study and, with the exception of personal information, may be included in study documentation and become part of the public record.*

## REQUESTS TO THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, CONSERVATION AND PARKS

In addition, a request may be made to the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks for an order requiring a higher level of study (i.e., requiring an individual/comprehensive EA approval before being able to proceed), or that conditions be imposed (e.g., require further studies), only on the grounds that the requested order may prevent, mitigate, or remedy adverse impacts on constitutionally protected Aboriginal and treaty rights. Requests on other grounds will not be considered. Requests should include the requester's contact information and full name.

Requests should specify what kind of order is being requested (request for additional conditions or a request for an individual/comprehensive environmental assessment), how an order may prevent, mitigate or remedy potential adverse impacts on Aboriginal and treaty rights, and any information in support of the statements in the request. This will ensure that the ministry is able to efficiently begin reviewing the request.

The request should be sent in writing or by email to the following as well as to the project contacts above:

**Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks**  
Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks  
777 Bay Street, 5th Floor  
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3  
[Minister.mecp@ontario.ca](mailto:Minister.mecp@ontario.ca)

**Director Environmental Assessment Branch**  
Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks  
135 St. Clair Ave. W, 1st Floor  
Toronto, ON M4V 1P5  
[EABDirector@ontario.ca](mailto:EABDirector@ontario.ca)