

Ministry of  
Transportation

Office of the Minister

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Ministère des  
Transports

Bureau de la ministre

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**MAR 06 2018**

M2018-926

Mr. Wayne Emmerson  
Chairman and CEO  
York Region  
17250 Yonge Street  
Newmarket ON L3Y 6Z1

Dear Mr. Emmerson:

As you are aware, on November 27, 2017, the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) committed to providing an update about the future of the GTA West Environmental Assessment (EA) Study within 60 days.

In 2016, a panel was appointed to review the GTA West EA Study. The panel was asked to conduct a strategic assessment of potential alternative approaches to meet future needs for moving people and goods throughout the GTA West corridor, including how recent policy changes and new transportation technologies could impact the project going forward.

On February 9, 2018, I announced that MTO will not proceed with an EA for a proposed highway in the GTA West corridor. We have consistently invested in highway infrastructure where it makes sense, but we now know that for the GTA West corridor, a highway is not the best option.

The government recognizes the importance of continuing to protect a corridor in this rapidly growing part of the region to explore other infrastructure needs, including utility, rail, and other transit options. On December 6, 2017, MTO and the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) initiated a joint planning study to identify lands for a multipurpose linear infrastructure corridor. Based on the expected growth and infrastructure need in the area, the continued protection of a corridor remains essential to ensure that the ongoing urbanization of the northwest GTA does not preclude future infrastructure, such as utilities, transit or other transportation modes.

The study area for the new joint planning study as identified in the enclosed map is almost entirely within the Focused Analysis Area of the previous GTA West EA Study. The discontinuation of the EA and initiation of the new joint planning study will release approximately 68 per cent of the lands previously protected under the EA. A letter has been sent to your city clerk to advise them of the municipality's responsibility to provide notice of Planning Act applications within or adjacent to the boundary of the NW GTA Corridor Identification Study Area.

Given MTO's cancellation of the GTA West EA Study, notice is no longer required for Planning Act applications related to lands within the previous GTA West EA study area.

All municipalities that were engaged during the GTA West EA study will continue to be engaged as part of this new study. Any questions regarding the new study can be directed to Tija Dirks, Director, Transportation Planning Branch, at [tija.dirks@ontario.ca](mailto:tija.dirks@ontario.ca) or (416) 585-7238.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kathryn McGarry". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kathryn McGarry  
Minister

Enclosure

- c. The Honourable Bill Mauro, Minister of Municipal Affairs  
Laurie LeBlanc, Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs  
Serge Imbrogno, Deputy Minister of Energy  
Terry Young, Vice President of Policy, Engagement and Innovation, IESO  
Stephen Rhodes, Deputy Minister of Transportation  
John Lieou, Assistant Deputy Minister, Policy and Planning Division, Ministry of Transportation

Figure 1 - Northwest GTA Corridor Identification Study Area

