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November 10, 2008

RE: GTA West Corridor Environmental Assessment (EA) Study Progress Update

Dear Sir/Madam:

Given your previous interest in the GTA West Corridor EA we wanted to update you on the Study's progress and schedule.

Since the last round of Public Information Centres for the EA Terms of Reference, the Project Team has been:

- Developing project-specific goals and objectives in the context of government policies;
- Developing Travel Demand Forecasting approaches with two information sessions conducted in June 2008;
- Exploring existing and future transportation-related conditions with two draft working papers released in Summer 2008 – "Overview of Transportation & Economic Conditions", and "Overview of Environmental Conditions and Constraints"; and,
- Identifying specific inter-regional transportation problems and opportunities in the study area.

These are important steps that lay the foundation for later examination of the effectiveness of alternative transportation system improvements.

To ensure that the work described above is properly integrated with other important planning considerations, we have revised the overall study schedule. The release of an Area Transportation Problems and Opportunities Report and the next round of Public Information Centres that were previously scheduled for Fall 2008 have now been rescheduled to occur in early 2009. This revision will allow us to appropriately incorporate work from the recently released Metrolinx draft Regional Transportation Plan for the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area into the transportation model for the GTA West Study. This will strengthen our modeling work and ensure that the Project Team has the opportunity to review and analyze the Metrolinx recommendations. The change also gives the Team the opportunity to review more up-to-date information from municipalities within the study area that are identifying future population and employment areas. Accordingly, the completion date of the EA Stage 1 Study has been changed from the end of 2009 to mid-2010.

Thank you for your ongoing interest in the GTA West Corridor Environmental Assessment. We look forward to your continued involvement in the Study and hope you will visit the project website (www.gta-west.com) for additional information and to provide value-adding perspectives. We will notify you directly with further details of future formal consultation activities.

Sincerely,



Mr. Jin Wang
Project Coordinator
Provincial and Environmental Planning Office
Ontario Ministry of Transportation



Mr. Neil Ahmed, P. Eng.
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cc. H. Garbot - MTO
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