

Notice of Public Information Centre #2

407 East Environmental Assessment (EA) Study – Route Planning Alternatives

THE STUDY

The Ministry of Transportation (MTO) in consultation with the Region of Durham, its constituents and surrounding municipalities, is undertaking an individual Environmental Assessment Study to address the long-term transportation needs in the Region of Durham and surrounding areas. The Study will examine regional transportation problems and opportunities for a 30-year planning horizon. The efficient and safe movement of people and goods within the Region of Durham, the Greater Toronto Area, and the surrounding areas is critical as population and employment levels in all of these areas continue to grow. Without improvements, the movement of people and goods will be adversely affected as congestion increases and becomes more frequent.

THE PROCESS

The 407 East Environmental Assessment (EA) Study consists of two stages: (1) the Environmental Assessment Terms of Reference (ToR) and (2) the Environmental Assessment. The ToR was approved by the Minister of Environment on January 17 2005. The approved ToR is available for review at local municipal offices, libraries and on the project website at www.407eastea.com. The Environmental Assessment study commenced in February 2005. The study will address the requirements of the *Ontario Environmental Assessment Act* and the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* in accordance with the approved process detailed in the ToR.

Public involvement is an important aspect of the EA Study in terms of identifying transportation problems and opportunities and assessing potential impacts and mitigation methods. Public input and feedback on the EA Study is encouraged and welcomed. In order to facilitate participation, an extensive public consultation process is underway that includes Public Information Centres (PICs) at key points throughout the Study. At any time during the Environmental Assessment Study, municipalities, stakeholders and the public can provide input and comments. At the conclusion of the EA Study, an Environmental Assessment Report will be submitted to the Minister of the Environment for review and approval. Further notices will be posted at that time.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The first set of PICs held in May and June of 2006, presented the "Transportation Problems and Opportunities" and the assessment and evaluation of the "Alternatives to the Undertaking", which are functionally different ways of addressing the transportation needs in the Analysis Area. A preferred transportation alternative was presented along with a preliminary Study Area. The preferred alternative to address long-term transportation needs included the following components:

- o A new east-west transportation corridor (highway/transitway) extending from Highway 407, at Brock Road in Pickering, to Highway 35/115;
- o Two north-south transportation corridors (links) connecting the proposed east-west corridor to Highway 401 in west and east Durham;
- o Enhancements to transit;
- o Improvements to existing roads (regional and provincial); and
- o Improvements to existing transportation operations through demand and systems management.

Comments received at the first set of PICs and the associated responses are posted on the project website.

The current route planning phase of the EA Study will identify possible route alternatives for the new east-west transportation corridor and the two north-south links. The short listed practical route alternatives will be studied and evaluated to determine a technically and environmentally preferred route alternative to extend a new transportation corridor easterly from Highway 407 to Highway 35/115 and the two highway / transitway links.

PIC #2 will present the route alternatives being considered as part of the route planning phase of the EA, the process for identifying a short list of route alternatives and a refined Study Area. The PICs will be conducted in an open house format, with no formal presentation provided. This format provides an opportunity for members of the public to discuss the project and relay comments directly to the study team. The dates, times and locations of the second set of PICs are:

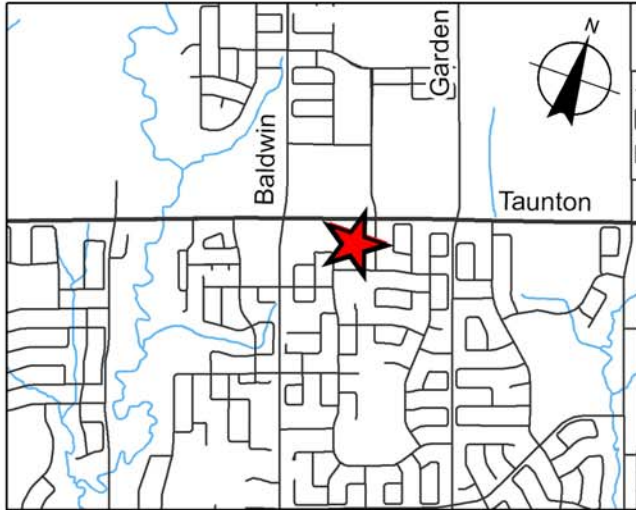
<u>Whitby Area</u>	<u>Pickering / Ajax Area</u>	<u>Clarington Area</u>	<u>Oshawa Area</u>	<u>Peterborough Area</u>
Wed. November 29th, 2006 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Faith Baptist Church 95 Taunton Road East Whitby	Thurs. November 30th, 2006 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Ajax Community Centre HMS Room 75 Centennial Road Ajax	Tues. December 5th, 2006 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Garnett B Rickard Recreation Complex 2440 Highway 2 Bowmanville	Wed. December 6th, 2006 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. General Sikorski's Polish Veterans Club 1551 Stevenson's Road N Oshawa	Mon. December 11th, 2006 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Peterborough Public Library 345 Aylmer Street North Peterborough

COMMENTS

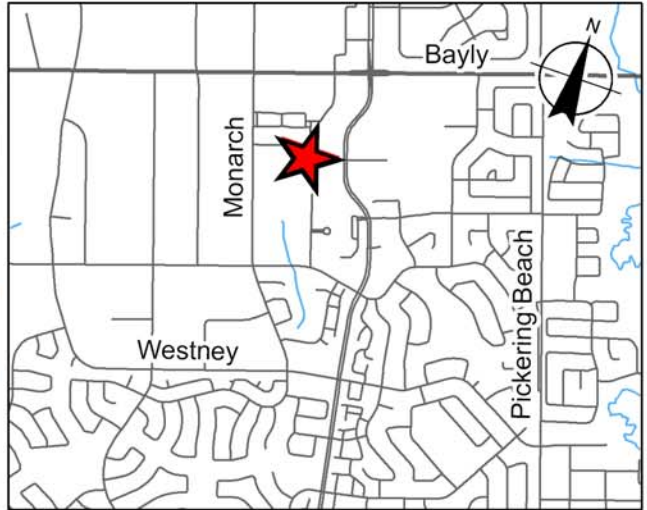
Interested persons may contact the project team regarding issues of concern at any time during the study. Comments and information regarding this project are continually being collected to better assist MTO in meeting the requirements of the *Ontario and Canadian Environmental Assessment Acts*. This material will be maintained on file for use during the project and may be included in project documentation. Information collected will be used in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. All comments received, with the exception of personal information, will become part of the public record. If you are unable to attend the PICs and wish to obtain further information, provide comments or participate in other consultation activities, please contact one of the individuals listed below. Alternatively, you can provide comments via our website at www.407eastea.com.

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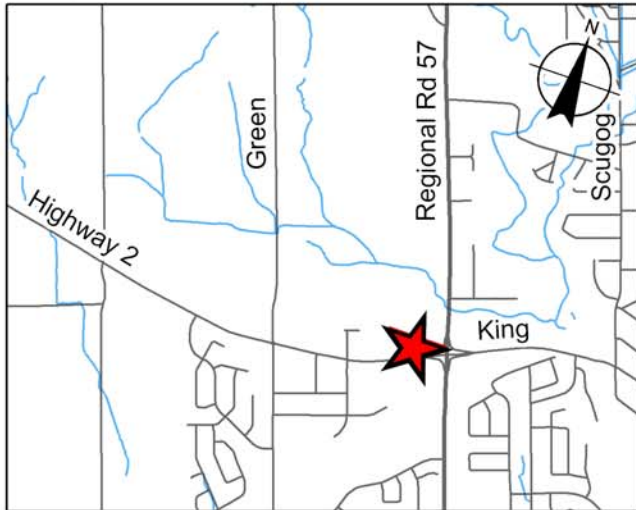
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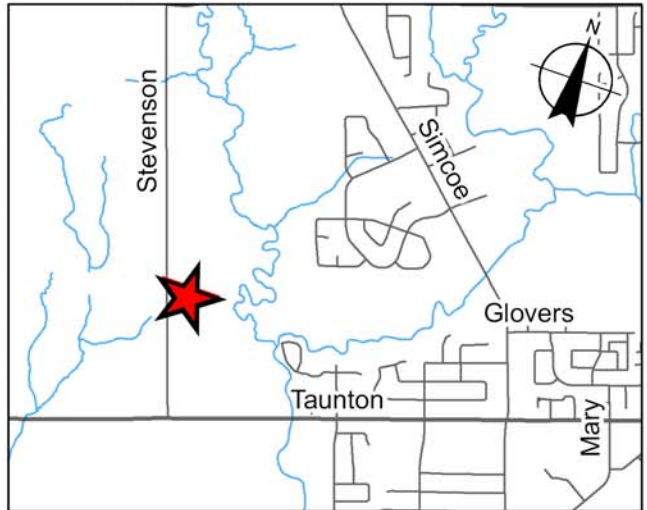
Faith Baptist Church - Wed Nov 29th, 2006



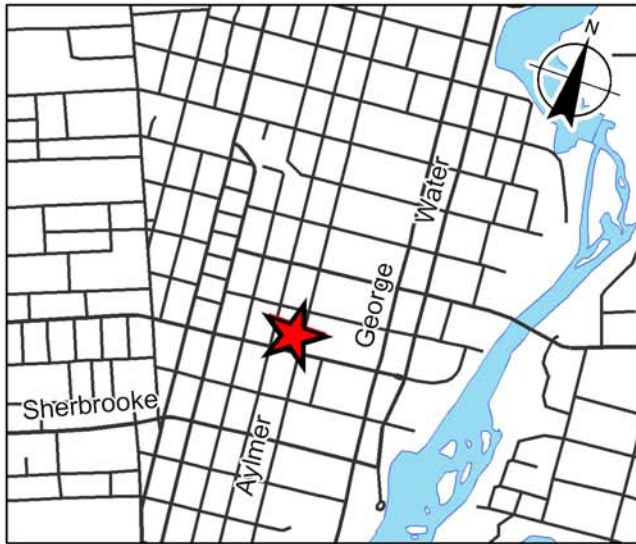
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