

RAG MEETING SUMMARY NO. 1

Project: 407 East Individual Environmental Assessment
Meeting Date: April 20, 2005
Meeting Time: 1:30 p.m.
Report Date: April 22, 2005
 (Revised May 9, 2005)
Recorder: C. Goodchild
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Note: If any of the contents of this meeting report differ in any respect from your own recollection of the points discussed or decisions reached, please notify us immediately. In the meantime, we will proceed in accordance with the understanding described herein.

This summary report contains the questions, comments and responses that were put forth during the first meeting of the Regulatory Agencies Group (Individual Environmental Assessment phase). The questions asked, and comments made by attendees are noted in italics. The response is written below each question or comment. General comments are noted in bold.

LOCATION: Iroquois Park Sports Complex – Whitney Hall

PRESENT:

Rob Hersey	Central Lake Ontario Conservation (CLOCA)	Dan Remollino	MTO Project Manager – IEA
Barb Hodgins	Central Lake Ontario Conservation (CLOCA)	John Slobodzian	MTO Project Manager – EA ToR
Gemma Connolly	Ministry of Environment (MOE)	Linda Fischer	MTO Env. Planner
Cam McCauley	Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR)	Heide Garbot	MTO P.E. Co-ordinator
Laura DelGiudice	Toronto Region Conservation (TRCA)	Doug Allingham	Consultant Project Manager - TSH
Mike Kim	Ontario Growth Secretariat – MPIR	Colleen Goodchild	Consultant Project Co-ordinator - TSH
Michael Sone	GO Transit		Environmental Lead – EA
Jeff Edwards	OPP Whitby	Deborah Martin-Downs	Environmental - IEA
Jane Tymoshuk	Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO)	Ian Dobrindt	
Chris Strand	Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO)		
Dena Lewis	Toronto Region Conservation (TRCA)		
Terri Fancy	Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR)		

PURPOSE: Regulatory Agencies Group – IEA Kick-off Meeting

	Action By
1.0 Introductions	
D. Allingham welcomed the group and asked all meeting attendees to introduce themselves.	Info
Opening remarks regarding the project transition from MTO Head Office to MTO Central Region was provided by J. Slobodzian and D. Remollino respectively.	Info
2.0 Administrative Items	
D. Allingham went through a number of administrative items:	
Meeting Summaries – will be prepared and posted on the web site. Summaries will be reviewed as quickly as possible and posted within a reasonable timeframe. The turn around time is anticipated to be 2-3 business days to prepare the summary, 2-3 days for members to comment and up on the web site within 1-2 weeks of the meeting.	Project Team (PT)
Questions from the public directed to RAG members – Any questions regarding the 407 East project that RAG members are not comfortable answering can be directed to the Project Team. If members are comfortable addressing such questions, it would be appreciated if the Project Team could be forwarded a record of the correspondence for the project file.	MTAG/PT

	Action By
<p>Joint Advisory Group meetings – will be considered on an issue-specific basis.</p> <p>407 East project information on agency web sites and at offices – D. Allingham asked that the RAG members check to see if there is any information on their web site or available at the their offices to ensure it is current. If is it out-of-date, it would be appreciated if it can be removed. The www.407eastea.com web site will be updated regularly. All advisory group members will be emailed the updated web site information when changes are made to the web site. Advisory group members were encouraged to “hot link” to the project web site, if possible.</p> <p><i>It is difficult for Conservation Authorities to comment on the project when there is no sense of what the municipalities are commenting. How can this be improved? Can we have joint advisory group meetings?</i></p> <p>Meeting summaries of all advisory groups will be shared. This process is meant to be transparent. The reason for having a MTAG and a RAG is to provide a smaller forum to deal with specific issues of each group effectively. Joint advisory group meetings (MTAG, RAG and CAG) will be considered on an issue-specific basis. We will consider holding meetings with representation from all three groups at appropriate times during the Study. However, we are not planning on regular joint meetings of all 3 groups.</p> <p><i>It is important to have communication between MTAG and RAG. Municipal representatives and agency representatives should be around the same table so that all issues can be heard.</i></p> <p>Joint meetings or representation from each others group (MTAG and RAG) will be considered for key stages of the process. Requests to attend other meetings should be made through the project team.</p>	<p>Info</p> <p>MTAG/ PT</p>
<p>3.0 IEA Process/EA ToR Overview</p> <p>D. Allingham provided an overview of the EA ToR document and changes that were made prior to submitting the document for approval by the Minister of Environment (As amended November 29, 2004) (Presentation attached)</p>	<p>Info</p>
<p>4.0 Questions/Feedback</p> <p><i>Has the Pickering airport and the infrastructure requirements to connect to the Airport been included in this Study?</i></p> <p>The forecasted population and employment for the Pickering Airport and Seaton are included in the travel demand forecasting model that will be used for this project. The airport and Seaton are west of the Analysis Area proposed for this Study and any infrastructure, such as interchanges with Highway 407 will be associated with Highway 407 East Partial (west of Brock Road).</p> <p><i>It is important to understand the relationship between the Pickering Airport and General Motors and the relationship of this traffic to this project.</i></p> <p>Comment noted.</p>	

Action By

How does this project fit into the broader Provincial Transportation Master Plan? When will the Plan be released?

The 407 East Individual EA is consistent with the broader transportation policies of the Province. 407 East is identified in the Ministry of Public Infrastructure and Renewal's (MPIR) Growth Plan as an economic and transit corridor. The Province's transportation plan for Central Region is in its draft stages and there is not set date for release. The MPIR Growth Plan document will feed into this Study.

Info

A number of comments during the formal review of the EA Terms of Reference were regarding public participation in the decision-making process. The process enhancements proposed will help to address these comments.

Info

Any comments and submissions provided to the Ministry of Environment (MOE) on the 407 East Individual EA become part of the ministry's public record file. Submitters may request that personal information, and or submissions not be made available to the public. The ministry is required to make available upon request, any submissions contained in the public record file.

Info

It will be important to show the public the link between provincial initiatives and the ministries. The Project Team encourages other ministries/agencies to attend public information centres.

Info

It was suggested that MPIR could do a presentation regarding the Growth Plan to the Community Advisory Group. These types of presentations were well-received during the EA Terms of Reference. MPIR will consider this request for when the Growth Plan is finalized.

MPIR/
PT

Do you know if there are any federal lands that will be impacted or federal money involved in the 407 East project?

At this time this is not known.

Info

Is there an indication of what aspect of the project will trigger the federal EA process?

At this time, this is not known. It is expected that the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency will co-ordinate the federal process until there is a preferred alternative to the undertaking.

Info

The scope of project traditionally depends on which Responsible Authority triggers the process.

	Action By
<p>The Federal-Provincial EA Co-ordination process for MTO projects is being led by Terry Hilditch of MTO Head Office. The Project Team, with Terry Hilditch, will attempt to address CEAA requirements early in the Study. A meeting will be scheduled with Federal representatives to discuss CEAA requirements.</p>	Info
<p><i>The Project Team should take into consideration the York-Peel-Durham Groundwater Monitoring Study and source protection planning that the municipalities and Conservation Authorities are currently being undertaken.</i></p> <p>Comment noted. Municipalities and agencies will be asked to provide secondary source information within an EA Study Area once the Study Area is generated.</p>	RAG/ PT
<p><i>Is there anything available to comment on regarding the proposed cumulative impact assessment approach?</i></p> <p>The cumulative impact assessment approach will be developed once we have a preferred undertaking and will be built into all of the factor-specific work plans that will be developed.</p>	Info
<p>The regulatory agencies will be key players in providing input into the factor-specific work plans.</p>	RAG/ PT
<p><i>Under Section 3.0 [Potential Environmental Effects] the EA ToR speaks to minimizing impacts to the environment. The new standard should be to enhance or improve the environment.</i></p> <p>Comment noted. In Section 5.3, the EA ToR mentions enhancement opportunities associated with Concept Design. It will be the responsibility of RAG members to work with the Project Team to identify areas of consideration for enhancements, etc.</p>	RAG/ PT
<p><i>Is there a need for this project to be delayed until the Growth Plan is finalized?</i></p> <p>No. The Growth Plan policies regarding economic and transit corridors in Durham Region and beyond are included in the draft Growth Plan.</p>	Info
<p>Natural Heritage systems mapping is expected from Durham Region in June.</p>	Info
<p><i>First Nations require “meaningful” consultation. How do you propose to consult with First Nations?</i></p> <p>The Project Team has already involved First Nations groups in the consultation process. We will continue to work with potentially impacted First Nations groups to ensure their needs are being met by the consultation process. A plan will be developed in association with First Nations.</p>	Info

Action By

Presentations to Council should occur at key points during the Study process (ex. prior to PICs) and on an as-required basis. Info
Comment noted.

END OF MEETING REPORT.

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