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**MUNICIPAL TECHNICAL ADVISORY
GROUP (MTAG) MEETING SUMMARY #4**

Project: Highway 407 East EA Terms of Reference

TSH No. 42-80227-23

Meeting Date: February 20, 2004

Meeting Time: 9:00 a.m.

Report Date: March 4, 2004

Recorder: C. O'Toole

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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.

LOCATION: Iroquois Sports Centre, Whitney Hall

PRESENT:	Janice Szwarc	Municipality of Clarington
	Kevin Heritage	Town of Ajax
	Larry Cavanagh	Town of Whitby – Planning
	Bill Watson	Town of Whitby – Works
	Bruno Bianco	Town of Whitby
	Evan Rodgers	City of Oshawa
	Nestor Chornobay	Region of Durham Planning Department
	Ramesh Jagannathan	Region of Durham Planning Department
	Gene Chartier	Region of Durham Works Department
	Libby Racansky	Region of Durham/DEAC
	John Slobodzian	MTO
	Theresa Olender	MTO
	Linda Fischer	MTO
	Doug Allingham	TSH
	Mike Delsey	TSH
	Colleen O'Toole	TSH

This summary report contains the questions, comments and responses that were put forth during the third meeting of the Municipal Technical Advisory Group. 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.

PURPOSE: To discuss the Project Status and Next Steps

Action By

1.0 Introductions

Attendees introduced themselves and their affiliation. D. Allingham gave a presentation regarding the Project Status and Next Steps (attached). Following the presentation, MTAG members were encouraged to ask questions.

2.0 Question and Answer Period

Is the Terms of Reference the only document being submitted in September of 2004?

J. Slobodzian replied that the Terms of Reference will be submitted to MOE in September. Following approval, the Project Team will begin work on the Individual Environmental Assessment (IEA).

Action By

How will the Richmond Landfill appeal impact the Highway 407 East Completion project, in addition to MOE policy decisions?

D. Allingham replied that this particular project (Highway 407) would be very advanced into the project when the appeal is to be ruled on. The TOR will be submitted under a different "subsection" of EA legislation and the IEA will be started, most likely by the time the decision is given. J. Slobodzian added that MOE has made no policy decision regarding the use of a focused or scoped EA. He noted that the Attorney General of Ontario has claimed "intervenor" status, which could be compared to a peer review of the judicial process being undertaken for this appeal. The Attorney General is closely watching the appeal process on behalf of the provincial government.

If the TOR is to be "simplified", it is not understood why the document has not been submitted yet.

J. Slobodzian replied the Project Team has been working on a generic Table of Contents that will be applicable to a number of MTO projects. The Project Team has also been working with MOE on how to structure the TOR to expedite approval. The process was also delayed by the provincial election.

Does this delay in submitting the TOR mean a year delay for the following IEA process?

D. Allingham stated it is anticipated that the schedule will be impacted by approximately one year. The Project Team is still working on a schedule for the IEA.

Does the Project Team anticipate that more work will need to be done on the Transportation Planning/Need Report when the IEA is initiated?

J. Slobodzian replied that the core of the document will be retained, however, some additional work will have to be done to update/re-package, etc. J. Slobodzian also noted that the next 2 sets of public meetings are going to be awkward and repetitive as we have already presented the need and study areas during the draft TOR phase.

Is this study going to be finished prior to the next provincial election?

J. Slobodzian replied that the Project Team would like to have the EA filed prior the next round of provincial and municipal elections.

Finding route alternatives through Durham Region, and Whitby/Ajax in particular, (with respect to a 401-407 link) will be difficult because of development and growth. If this process is delayed further, there may not be sufficient alternatives to evaluate.

J. Slobodzian responded that the Project Team is making every attempt to expedite the process in order to address the noted concern.

At the last Durham Region Planning Committee meeting, there appeared to be some misunderstanding by the political representatives regarding the Study Areas being carried forward in the EA TOR.

Action By

Regional staff, along with John Slobodzian confirmed that the Study Areas will have to be re-examined during the IEA and would not appear in the TOR. The Regional Official Plan includes the Previously Recommended Route of Highway 407 and the 401 to 407 links. The Region is attempting to protect route alternatives through development review to the best of its ability, yet, without a designated route or study area it is very difficult to "freeze" development.

Will the Planning Alternatives ("Alternatives To" the undertaking) be listed in the TOR?

J. Slobodzian responded that there will be no "alternatives to" listed in the TOR. They will be developed in consultation with agencies and the public in the IEA. J. Slobodzian added that due to the confusion surrounding the differences between the draft TOR (2003) and the final TOR (2004), a Preamble/Executive Summary will be provided during consultation to help the public and agencies better understand the differences between the two documents.

How are the Highway 401 improvements going to impact Highway 407?

The transportation capacity gap in Durham Region takes into account both Highway 401 and Regional Road improvements.

The Lake Ridge Road interchange with Highway 401 has been delayed because of Highway 407. It was supposed to be constructed by 2004.

J. Slobodzian stated that MTO is co-ordinating the two projects and noted the difficulty in establishing a schedule for construction of Highway 407 at this time

Do the revisions to the TOR impact the proposed federal/provincial co-ordinated process?

J. Slobodzian replied that the revised TOR will impact the triggering of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act. CEAA is anticipated to be triggered following the identification of a preferred alternative to the undertaking during the IEA. J. Slobodzian also noted that there are a number of triggers for CEAA. One trigger relates to the provision of federal funding for a project. At this time no federal funding is anticipated for Highway 407 East Completion.

END OF MEETING REPORT.

-CO