

Notice of Transition and Study Commencement

Preliminary Design, Detail Design, and Class Environmental Assessment Study Highway 7/8 and Road 111 Intersection Improvements, Township of Perth East, Perth County (GWP 3083-21-00)

THE PROJECT

The Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) has retained Egis (formerly McIntosh Perry) to undertake the Preliminary Design, Detail Design and Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) Study for the Highway 7/8 and Road 111 intersection improvements, located in the Township of Perth East, at the boundary of Perth East and the City of Stratford, Perth County.

THE PROCESS

This study was initiated as a Group 'B' project under the Class Environmental (Class EA) Assessment for Provincial Transportation Facilities (2000) but will be moving forward as a Group 'B' project under the *Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) for Provincial Transportation Facilities and Municipal Expressways (2024)*.

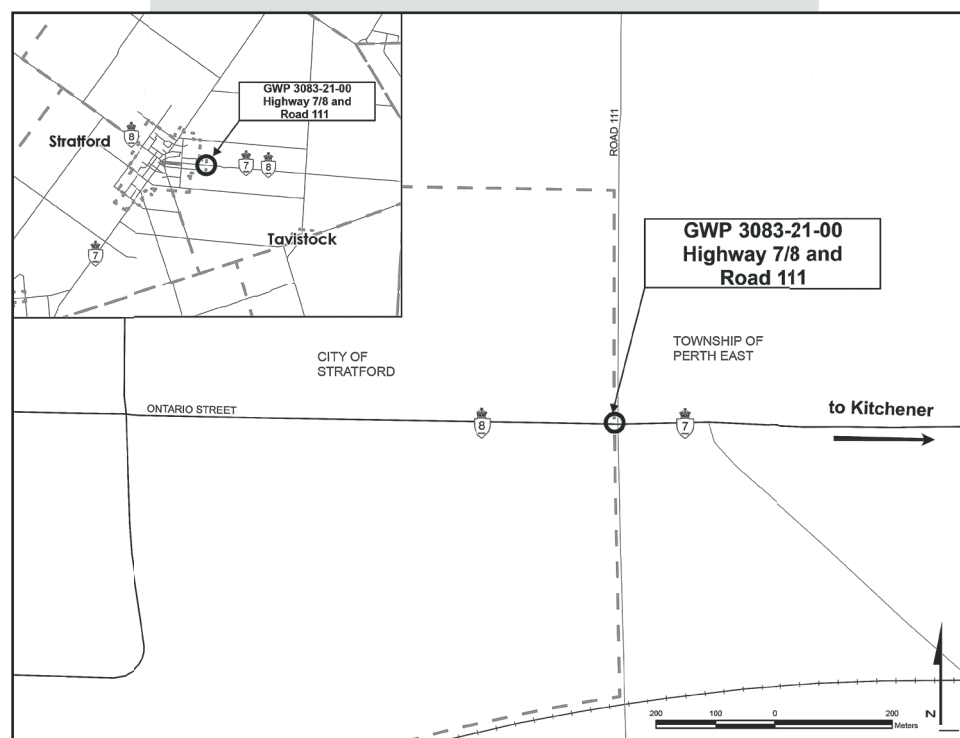
This notice is being issued to inform of study commencement, and to confirm that this project has transitioned to following the 2024 Class EA. Transitioning to the new Class EA process will improve the planning process of projects beyond the preliminary design stage, bringing MTO into alignment with best practices observed in other Class EA frameworks. Transitioning from the requirements of the 2000 Class EA to the 2024 Class EA reflects a commitment to optimizing the assessment process by removing redundancies and expediting project planning to facilitate a more streamlined implementation process. Commitments made during the preliminary design phase will be addressed as the project progresses through the design process. Design and construction information will continue to be published on the project website and opportunities for public consultation will be ongoing through preliminary design.

Please note that the transition to the 2024 Class EA is not anticipated to negatively impact project schedule or construction timelines.

Information on the project, including the process under the 2024 Class EA can be found at www.Highway7and8perthcountyyroad.com.

At the end of the study, the project team will prepare a *Transportation Environmental Study Report (TESR)* that describes how the requirements of the Class EA were met; how the project achieves the greatest overall transportation benefit while minimizing overall negative net environmental impacts; other key decisions; consultation with individuals, organizations, and Indigenous communities; and commitments for consultation and environmental protection.

The project team will issue a Notice of Completion at which point there will be a 30-day comment period allowing for an



opportunity to provide comments on the TESR. The project team will include comments received, responses to the comments and any supporting materials in a record of consultation.

COMMENTS

If you have any comments or questions about this notice, or have questions about the study, we respectfully request you contact one of the following Project Team members:

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You are encouraged to visit the project website, www.Highway7and8perthcountyyroad.com where project information including study notices, background information, etc. You can also submit comments or questions to the project team on the project website.

Information collected will be used in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. With the exception of personal information, all comments become part of the public record. If you have any accessibility requirements in order to participate in this project, please contact one of the Project Team members listed above.

THIS NOTICE ISSUED: OCTOBER 30TH, 2024