

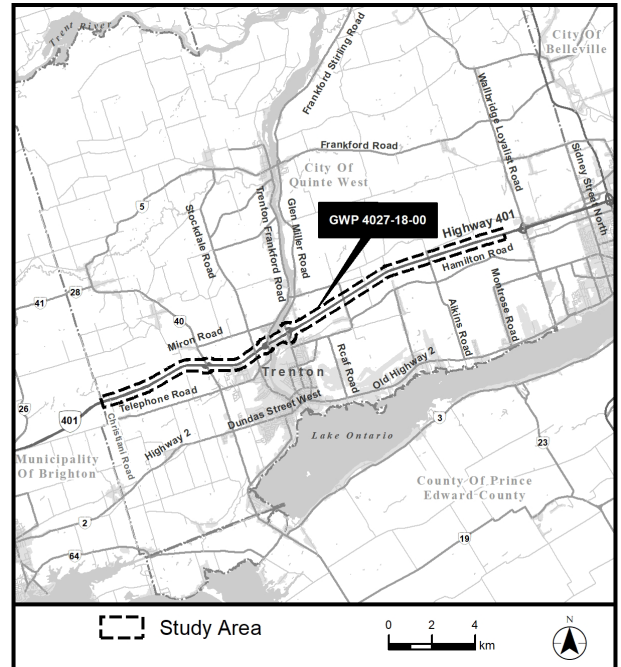


**NOTICE OF STUDY COMMENCEMENT
PRELIMINARY DESIGN AND CLASS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
Highway 401 Planning Study in Quinte West, GWP 4027-18-00**

The Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) has retained Stantec Consulting Ltd. to undertake a Planning, Preliminary Design, and Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) Study on Highway 401 for the replacement and rehabilitation of bridges and culverts, interchange modifications, and identifying the future Highway 401 footprint for an interim six lanes and ultimate eight lanes, from 0.4 km west of Christiani Road to 1 km west of Wallbridge Loyalist Road (approximately 20 km). The purpose of the study is to identify a Recommended Plan that addresses current and future transportation needs in the study area as part of the Ministry's ongoing review of safety and operational needs for the provincial highway network.

THE PROCESS

This study is a "Group B" project under the *Class Environmental Assessment (EA) for Provincial Transportation Facilities* (2000) and includes undertaking environmental and engineering field investigations and seeking input from Indigenous communities, the public, stakeholders, municipalities and government agencies. This study will include reviewing existing conditions, developing and evaluating alternatives, identifying appropriate improvements, and developing environmental protection / mitigation measures. A Recommended Plan will be confirmed and designated (protected) at the completion of the study. Two Public Information Centres (PICs) are planned, and notices of the PICs will be advertised in local newspapers and sent to the project mailing list.



Upon completion of preliminary design, a *Transportation Environmental Study Report* (TESR) will be prepared and made available for public comment. Notices will be published in local newspapers to advise the public of the TESR public comment period.

COMMENTS

You are encouraged to participate in the study and to provide comments in writing to the project team. If you wish to have your name added to the project mailing list or have questions about the study, please contact:

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You are encouraged to visit the project website, www.hwy401quintewest.ca, where project information including study notices, background information, PIC displays, and the TESR will be made available as the study progresses.

You can also submit comments to the project team on the project website. If you have any accessibility requirements to participate in this project, please contact one of the Project Team members listed above. Comments and information are being collected to assist the MTO in meeting the requirements of the *Ontario Environmental Assessment Act*. Information will be collected in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. All comments will be maintained on file for use during the study and, with the exception of personal information, may be included in study documentation and become part of the public record.