



DATE: September 24, 2021

TO: Mayor and Members of Council

FROM: Vince Musacchio, Acting Deputy City Manager, Infrastructure Development

RE: **COMMUNICATION – Council September 27, 2021**

Item 37.2, Report 39 (Staff Communication SC3)
GTA West Transportation Corridor Route Planning and
Environmental Assessment Study – Update

Background

The purpose of this Communication is to provide the Mayor and Members of Council with information regarding the Invitation to Community Engagement Webinar 2 scheduled for September 29, 2021 for the GTA West Transportation Corridor Route Planning and Environmental Assessment (EA) Study, and the deputation from the GTA West Project Team to provide an update on the Federal Impact Assessment Act (IAA), for the November 30, 2021 COW (1) meeting.

On July 28, 2021, a GTA West Community Engagement Webinar took place

On July 28, 2021 the first GTA West Community Engagement Webinar was held on the Zoom platform from 6:00 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. Details regarding this webinar have also been included in the September 14, 2021 [Staff Communication](#) for the COW (1) meeting.

Invitation to Community Engagement Webinar 2 on September 29, 2021

City of Vaughan staff received letters via email from the GTA West Project Team dated September 13, 2021 which were invitations to Community Engagement Webinar 2 about the GTA West EA Study (Attachment 1).

To further meet the public's needs and address community questions, the GTA West Project Team is hosting a second Community Engagement Webinar where the public and stakeholders can understand more about the project and have their questions answered. The Community Engagement Webinar hosted by the GTA West Project Team will take place on **September 29, 2021 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

Similar to the first webinar on July 28, 2021, the GTA West Project Team will provide a brief overview of the project followed by a question & answer period. Expert panelists from a variety of disciplines (e.g., noise, air quality, fisheries, archaeology, etc.) will be in attendance to answer questions.

Given the current COVID-19 pandemic situation, the Webinar will be conducted as an online session hosted through the Zoom platform. Instructions on how to register for the webinar and send questions in advance are included in the attached letter or on the study website at www.gtawest.com/consultation-2 under the Upcoming Opportunities for Input section. A recording of the event will be posted on the project website afterwards. A recording of the July 28, 2021 webinar can be found at the link above under Previous Consultation.

Federal Impact Assessment Act (IAA) Update will be provided by the GTA West project team

The GTA West Project Team has requested to give a deputation, in a form of a presentation, to Committee during the November 30, 2021 COW (1) meeting to provide an update on the Federal Impact Assessment Act (IAA) and the GTA West EA Study. Further details regarding their presentation will be provided prior to the meeting.

Next Steps

City staff continue to work with the GTA West EA Project Team on the Preliminary Design for the Preferred Route. Staff will provide updates to Council as the study progresses.

For more information, please contact Selma Hubjer, Acting Director, Infrastructure Planning and Corporate Asset Management at extension 8674.

Attachments:

1. September 13, 2021 Invitation to Community Engagement Webinar 2 about the GTA West Highway and Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment Study

Respectfully submitted by



Vince Musacchio, Acting Deputy City Manager, Infrastructure Development



September 13, 2021

Invitation to Community Engagement Webinar #2 about the GTA West Highway and Transit Corridor Environmental Assessment Study

The Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) is in Stage 2 of the GTA West Transportation Corridor Route Planning and Environmental Assessment (EA) Study. After confirming the Preferred Route and 2020 Focused Analysis Area on August 7, 2020 (please refer to the enclosed key plan or view mapping at www.gta-west.com), the GTA West Project Team commenced developing the Preferred Route to a preliminary design level of detail.

The GTA West Study is being undertaken as an Individual EA in accordance with the Ontario EA Act and the GTA West Corridor EA Terms of Reference, which was approved by the Ontario Minister of the Environment on March 4, 2008. On May 3, 2021, the Federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change designated the GTA West Study under the Federal Impact Assessment Act.

To further meet the public's needs and address community questions, the GTA West Project Team hosted a Community Engagement Webinar in July 2021. **We are hosting a second Community Engagement Webinar on September 29, 2021 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The GTA West Project Team will provide the same overview of the project as was presented in July, followed by a question & answer period.** Expert panelists from a variety of disciplines (e.g. noise, air quality, fisheries, archaeology, etc.) will be in attendance to answer your questions.

Public and Project Team member health and safety is of utmost importance. Given the current COVID-19 pandemic, this Webinar will be conducted as an online session hosted through the Zoom platform. For the best experience, we encourage you to join the Webinar on Zoom through an electronic device. If you don't have access to an electronic device, you can listen to the Webinar through your telephone. If you join by telephone, please submit your questions in advance. A recording of the event will be posted on the project website.

To register for the Webinar, please visit the project website at www.gta-west.com/consultation-2 and click on the Zoom registration link under the *Upcoming Opportunities for Input* section. If you have accessibility requirements, please leave a message at the toll-free telephone line at 1-877-522-6916.

If you have questions that you would like to submit to the GTA West Project Team in advance of the Webinar, please e-mail them to project_team@gta-west.com, submit them through the contact form on the project website at www.gta-west.com/contactus/ or call the toll-free telephone line at 1-877-522-6916.

As always, comments and input regarding the study are encouraged. This material will be maintained on file for use during the project and may be included in project documentation to meet the requirements of the *Ontario EA Act*. Information collected will be used in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and the *Access to Information Act*. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record. If you have any accessibility requirements to participate in this project, please contact the Project Team at the e-mail address or telephone line listed above.

Study information is available on the project website: www.gta-west.com. Des renseignements sont disponibles en français en composant (289) 835-2484 (Yannick Garnier).

Sincerely,

Hossein Hosseini

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Cc: Chris Barber (MTO), Keith Cherneski (MTO), Mara Bullock (WSP)

Encl. GTA West Route Planning Study Area Map with the Preferred Route Overlay

GTA West Route Planning Study Area with the Preferred Route Overlay

