

Item 7.1  
PUBLIC WORKS  
COMMITTEE  
APRIL 7, 2014



Hamilton  
Public Works

**Public Works**  
**Corporate Assets and Strategic Planning**  
**Traffic Operations & Traffic Engineering**  
**Emergency Detour Routes (EDR)**  
April 7, 2014

*Providing services that bring our City to life !*

# What is an EDR and its purpose?

- An Emergency Detour Route is a designated and signed route that provides guidance and direction to motorists to bypass a closure as a result of an unscheduled incident/event and is designed to get off and back on to a roadway.
- The EDR is not a detour plan for construction and not intended to direct vehicles through the City.

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- Processes
- Finance



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## What do we have in Hamilton?

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- **City of Hamilton** - Lincoln Alexander Parkway – EDR signed in 2011.
- **City of Hamilton** - Red Hill Valley Parkway - Routes are currently being finalized and installations to begin shortly.
- **Ministry of Transportation Ontario (MTO)** - Highway 403 & QEW – currently being reviewed and discussed.

## Establishing Provincial Highway EDR's

- As a result of numerous incidents over the past 12 months, specifically on Highway 403, the need for an established EDR has become prevalent.
- Land, Roadway Geometrics and Escarpment constraints make EDR difficult within the west end of the city for Highway 403 compared to the QEW which has access to Service Roads on both the north and south sides of the Highway.
- A working committee was established which consists of staff from the MTO, Ontario Provincial Police, Hamilton Police Services and City Staff.

	<u>QEW</u>	<u>Hwy 403</u>
<i>Total number of closures</i>	41	51
<i>Both Directions</i>	7	7
<i>Toronto Bound</i>	20	25
<i>Niagara Bound</i>	14	19
<i>Total Hrs of Closures</i>	179 hours	244 hours
<i>Avg length of closure</i>	4.36 hours	4.78 hours
<i>Total closures exceeding Avg</i>	11	16
<i>Total closures exceeding 8 hrs</i>	6	9

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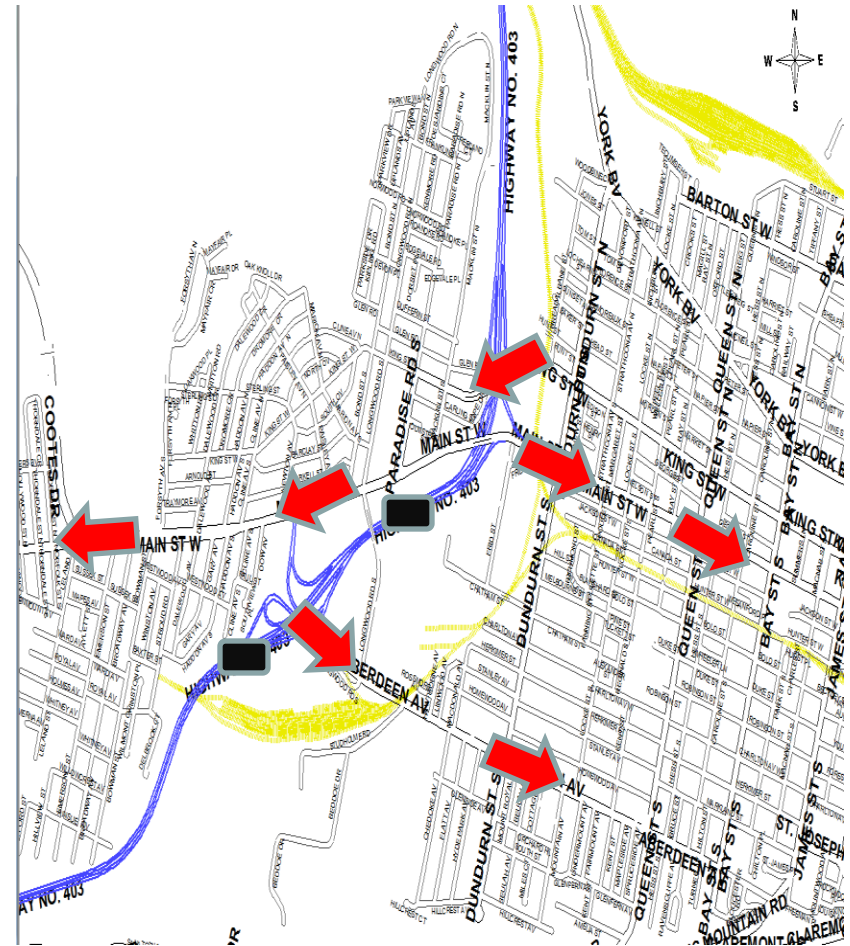
# What currently occurs during a closure?

- When incident occurs, OPP is dispatched to location
- Highway is closed at Interchange closest to incident
- Traffic filters onto and throughout city roadways
- Vehicles trying to access Mountain Accesses or back to Hwy, causing major congestion on all roadways, exceeding capacity
- Delays have been reported in excess of 6 hours for motorists, causing major frustration

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## What is under review?

- The working committee agree that there is a need for establishing EDR routes for Highway 403 and QEW.
- Preference from MTO is to establish detour routes that go from one interchange to the next.
- The Committee is currently reviewing short distance detours.
- The Committee has discussed the need for Longer more efficient detour routes that do not utilize the local municipal roadways.
- City staff has discussed with MTO staff to consider installing Variable Message Board Signage along Highway 403 at identified locations and include Highway 403 as part of COMPASS system.

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## What are the Proposed Routes?

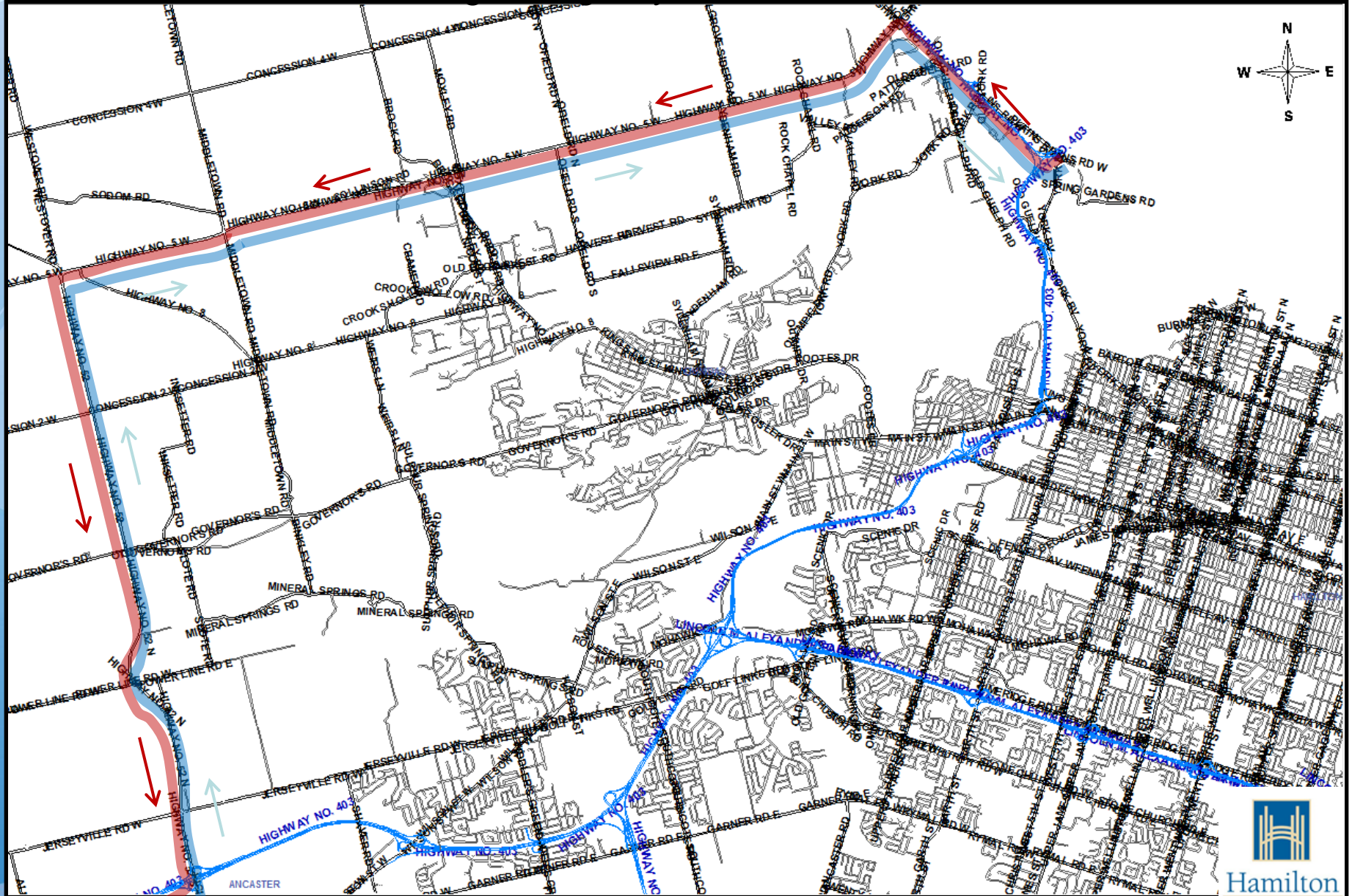
- Staff has prepared recommended short distance (interchange to interchange) EDR's.
- Two Long Distance EDR's for incidents on Highway 403
  - Highway 52 – Highway 5 – Highway 6, it is expected this would be utilized during peak hours with high volumes and a closure occurring between the LINC and Highway 6.
  - LINC and RHVP, staff recommend this detour route to address closures of Highway 403 between Highway 6 and QEW.
- For these routes to be efficient and effective, they would require the installation of Variable Message Board Signs controlled by the MTO.
  - MTO requires a Council approved recommendation supporting the Long Emergency Detour Routes
  - MTO requires a Council approved recommendation requesting installation of Variable Message Signage

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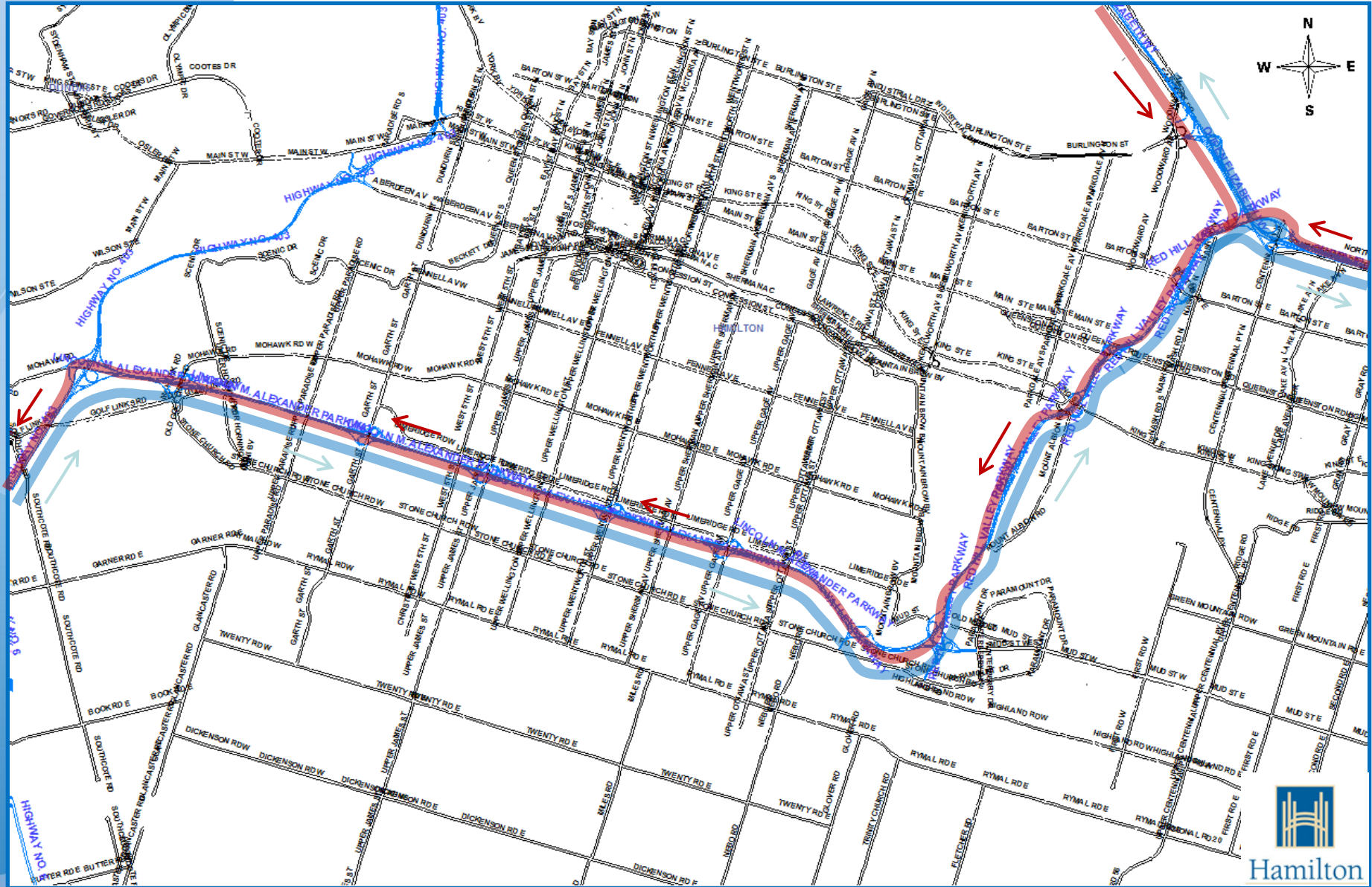
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# HIGHWAY 403 Long Emergency Detour Route





# HIGHWAY 403 Long Emergency Detour Route



# Impact of Routes & Goals?

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- Regardless of the EDR decided upon, it will not provide free flow opportunity for motorists.
- To identify the most efficient, effective and safe route to direct motorists off and back to the Highway during a incident.
- To establish a designated Long EDR and to eliminate traffic and operational impacts on the local road network.
- Detoured Traffic will likely cause significant congestion and delay on Hamilton's chosen Emergency Detour Routes and adjacent roadways.

## Next Steps

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- Staff will continue discussions and finalize routes with the MTO.
- Implementation of the Long Emergency Detour Routes is contingent upon agreement with the MTO to establish the Long Emergency Detour Routes and a suitable technical solution.
- Implementation would be expected within one year from Council approval and is subject to implementation of Variable Message Board Signs by MTO

## QUESTIONS

*David Ferguson, C.E.T.  
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City of Hamilton*