



Hamilton

GENERAL ISSUES COMMITTEE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE MUNICIPAL CLASS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS

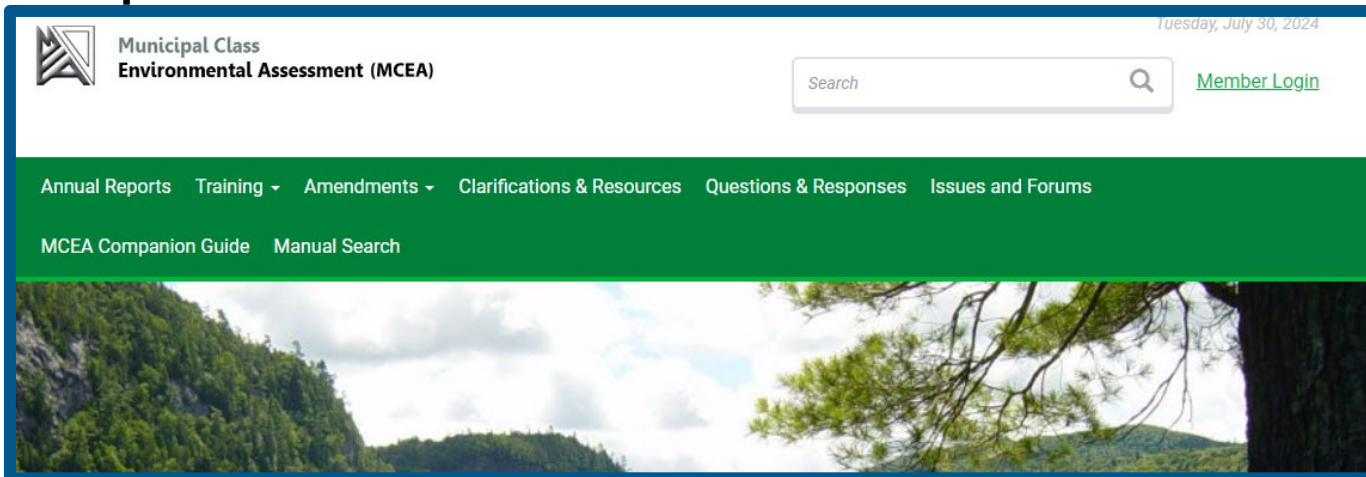
September 4, 2024

**Planning and Economic Development
Growth Management**

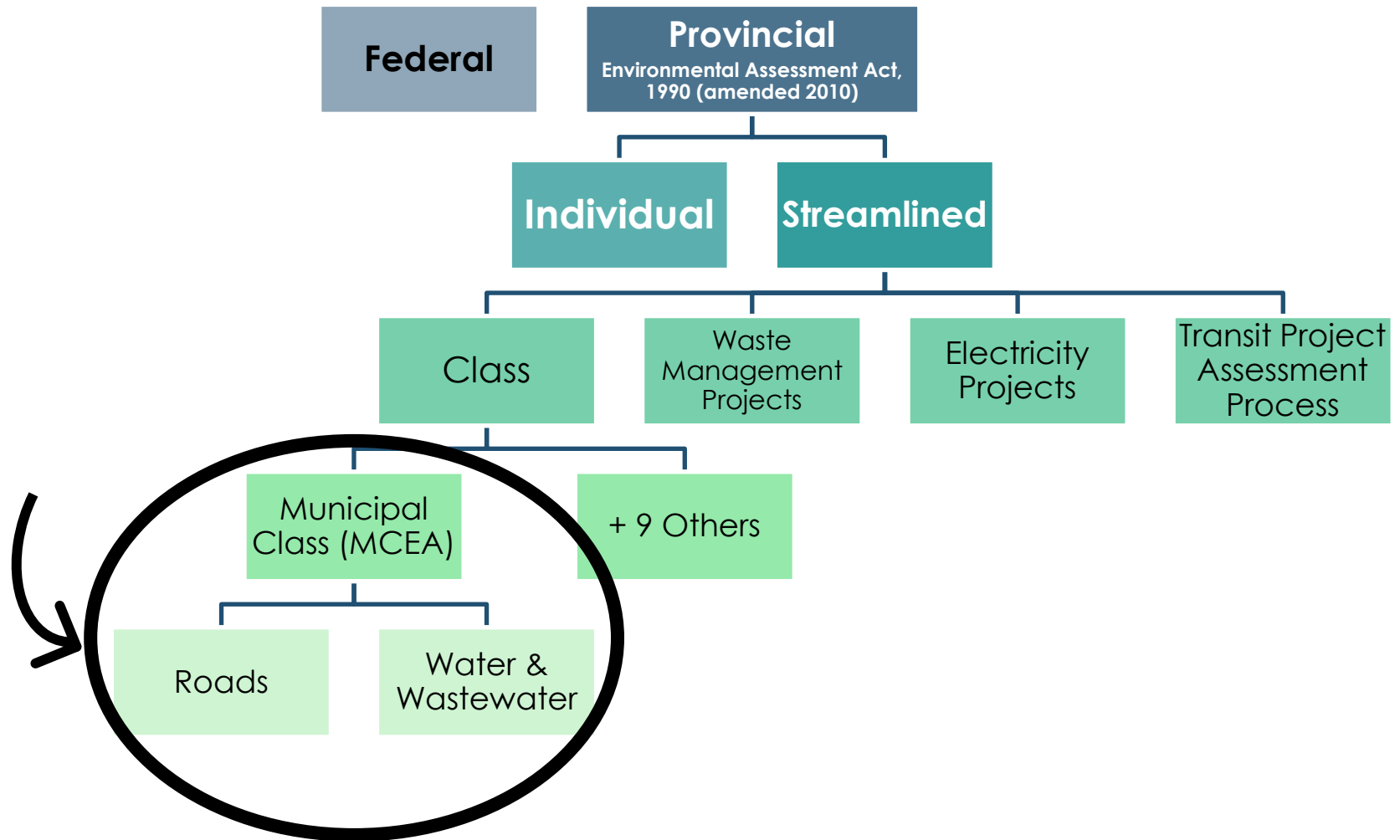
**Public Works
Engineering Services**

Overview

1. Why are we here?
2. Introduction
3. 2024 Environmental Registry Ontario Posting
4. Environmental Assessment Staff Working Group Comments to Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks
5. Summary
6. Recommendations to Council
7. Next Steps



1. Introduction



1. Introduction

01

Cultural Environment

Archaeological resources, area of archaeological potential, built cultural heritage landscape

02

Social Environment

Active transportation, noise and air quality, residential property, facilities and access

03

Property

Access, Parking and building

04

Others/Engineering

Nature and location of proposed Infrastructure system, feasibility and phasing of Implementability, and other technical requirements



05

Economic Environment

Commercial, Industrial and Agricultural land-use, lifecycle of infrastructure and cost-benefit analysis; growth potential

06

Land-Use Planning

Supports Existing and Future development, Compatibility with provincial and location transportations plans and policies

07

Natural Heritage Features

Landforms (including Valley lands), Ground Water, Surface water and fisheries, Terrestrial Vegetation and Wetland, Wildlife and habitat and connections provided by or between these resources

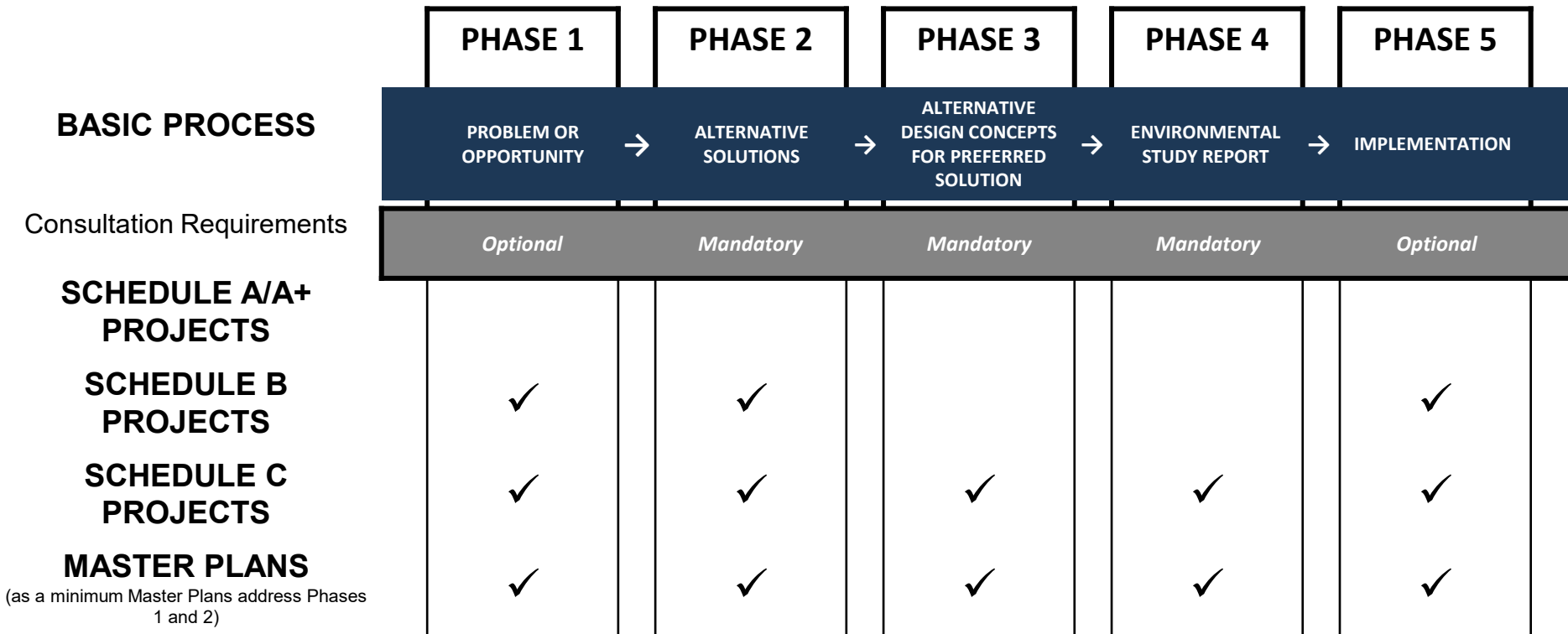
08

Cost

City's ability to finance, cost of implementation of each alternative, including capital cost, property acquisition, maintenance and operational cost

1. Introduction

Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Process:



Source: <https://www.municipalclassea.ca/manual/page10.html>

1. Introduction



Governed by **Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks**



Overseen by **Municipal Engineers Association of Ontario**

- **City of Hamilton Context:**
 - **Completed 136** Master Plans, Independent Projects, and Block Servicing Strategies
 - **Ongoing 21** Master Plans, Independent Projects and Block Servicing Strategies
 - Approximate Total Construction Value: \$325M



2. 2024 Environmental Registry Ontario Posting

Key Details of Proposed Changes to Roads

- Removal of all independent road projects and All Master Plans

Key Details of Proposed Changes to Water/Wastewater/Stormwater

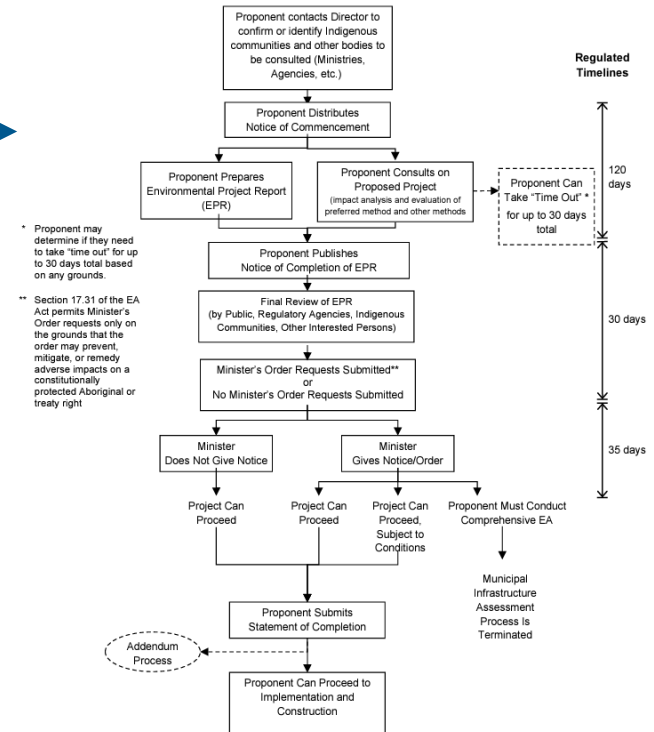
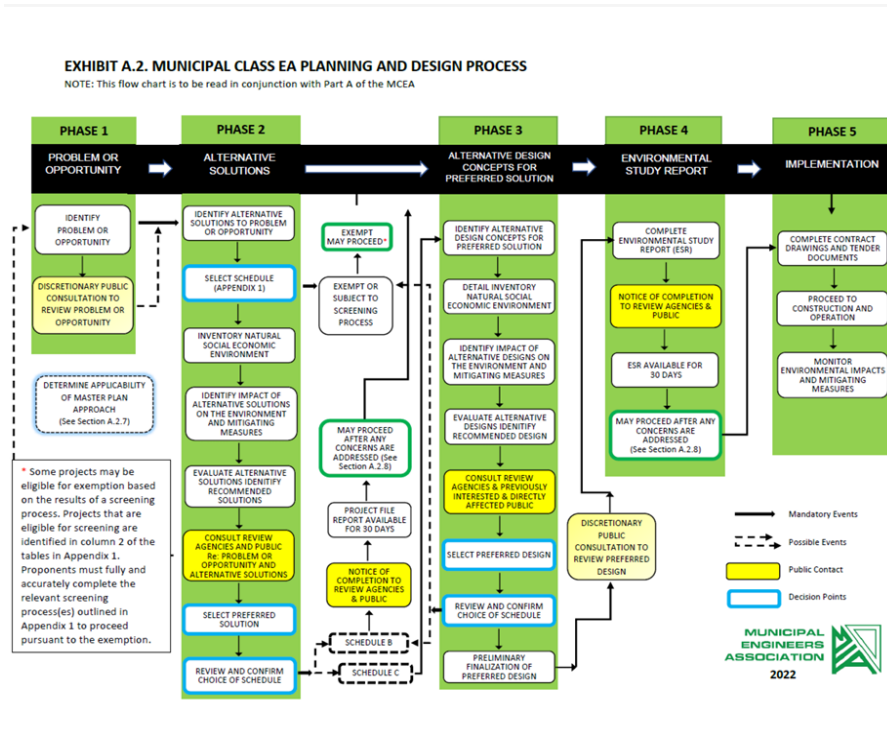
- New Project List
- Does not include most water and wastewater projects currently required subject to the MCEA

2. 2024 Environmental Registry Ontario Posting



Current Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Process Map

Proposed Municipal Project Assessment Process Map



2. 2024 Environmental Registry Ontario Posting

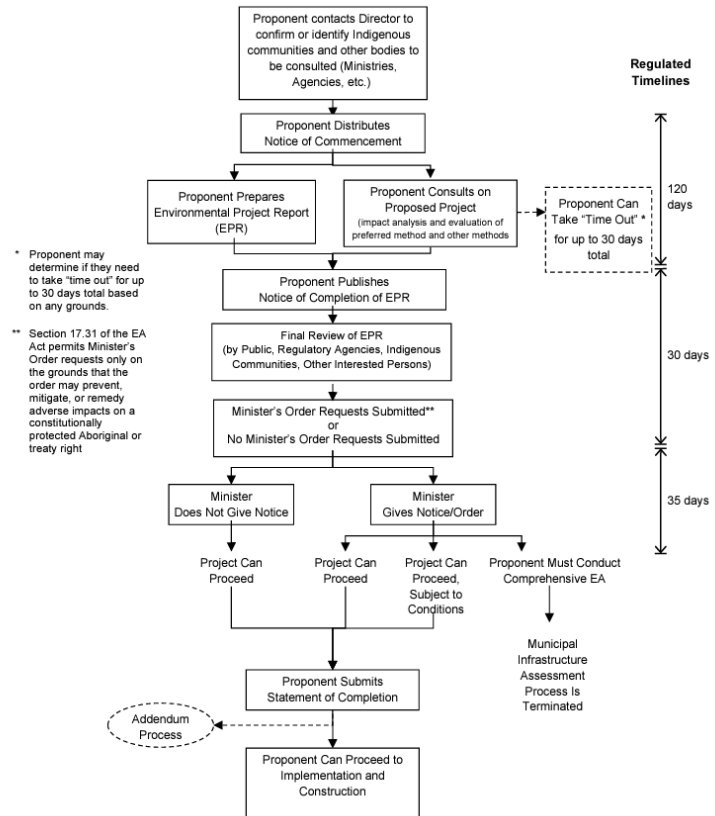


Completion of all required technical work
(minimum 9 months)



Notice of Commencement
+
Engagement and Report Preparation
+
Notice of Completion and 30 Day Public Review
+
Minister's Order Request Process (if applicable)

(185 days or about 6 months*)



*Conflict due to MPAP timelines not aligning with Council requirements

3. Environmental Assessment Staff Working Group Comments

Comments provided to the Ministry were organized under five headings:

1. Proposed Municipal Project Assessment Process Regulation Considerations
2. Proposed Municipal Project Assessment List
3. Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Revocation
4. Transition Provisions
5. Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks Comments

3. Environmental Assessment Staff Working Group Comments

1. Proposed Municipal Project Assessment Process Regulation

- Indigenous concerns (guidance and timelines)
- Municipal Project Assessment Project timelines
- Transparency and genuine engagement

How might we consider the **Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action** in our engagement in community to shape and respond to Reconciliation?

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

**Glancaster Road
Phases 2-4 EA**

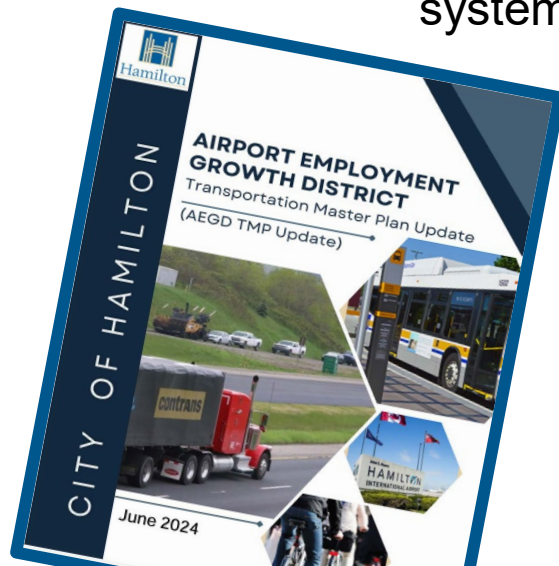
engage.hamilton.ca

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3. Environmental Assessment Staff Working Group Comments

2. Proposed Municipal Project Assessment Process List

- Exclusion of All Master Plans
- Concerns about removal of road works
- Unclear delineation between existing project descriptions and proposed project types
 - Ex. small ground water systems and large surface water systems

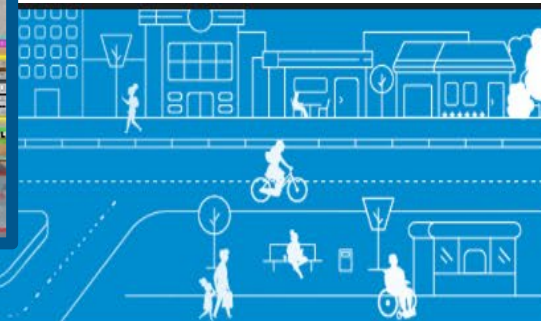


The Master Plan adopted for this Study followed Approach 1 only. Therefore, all listed Schedule B and C projects are not appealable until they fulfill the required Phases 2-4 of the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment process.

3. Environmental Assessment Staff Working Group Comments

3. Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Revocation

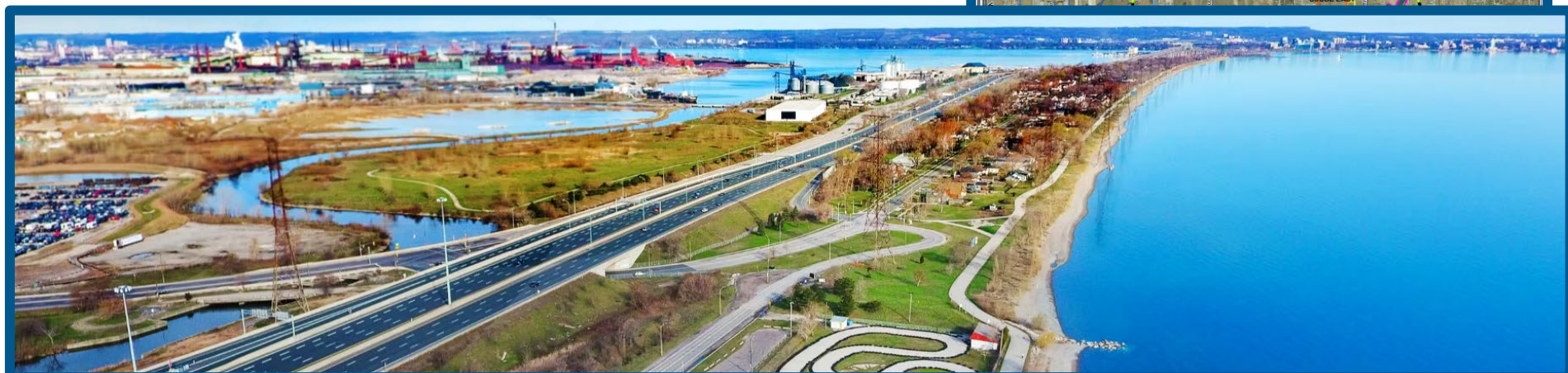
- Defendable planning decisions
- Lack of direction regarding consultation
- Ability to create Hamilton-specific process



3. Environmental Assessment Staff Working Group Comments

4. Transition Provisions

- Request for advance notice of official adoption
- Gap in applying Master Plans (if additional engagement was planned)



4. Summary

- All information in the report and presentation are based on the **draft** regulation proposed by the province.
- City Infrastructure Projects still need to **comply with other existing legislation & City policies.**
- **A new transparent and data-driven decision-making process** will need to be created for City of Hamilton, with an opportunity to be unique to us.
- Staff **Environmental Assessment Working Group** will continue working with the **Municipal Engineers Association** to establish **best practices for municipalities in Ontario**, that the City policies can draw from.





5. Recommendations

- (a) That Council **endorses** Staff comments provided in a letter to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks on March 15, 2024 (included as Appendix “A” to report PED24098/PW24029), in response to proposed regulation ERO-019-7891 intended to modernize the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Process.
- (b) That General Managers of Planning and Economic Development and Public Works Departments be **authorized and directed** to initiate the development of the appropriate internal process for the consistent and transparent planning of infrastructure projects to replace the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment process, **should the Municipal Project Assessment Process be enacted by the Province of Ontario.**
- (c) That **staff report back to Council** on any required staffing and process changes necessary should the proposed regulation ERO-019-7891 be enacted.

6. Next Steps

Ontario  Ministry to release final regulation

  Development of infrastructure planning policy

  Report back to GIC if there are any staffing impacts resulting from the changes



Hamilton

QUESTIONS?