

# OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



Ministry of  
Transportation

Office of the Minister

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Ministère des  
Transports

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MAR 30 2011

RE: Niagara to GTA Corridor Planning and Environmental Assessment Study  
Release of the draft Transportation Development Strategy report  
[www.Niagara-GTA.com](http://www.Niagara-GTA.com)

The Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) has released its draft Strategy on Phase 1 of the Niagara to GTA (NGTA) Corridor Environmental Assessment (EA) study. The purpose of the study is to provide a plan for future transportation capacity within the NGTA study area in support of the provincial *Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe*.

The draft Strategy report recommends transportation improvements for the entire study area; some are short term while others are medium to long term.

Shorter term actions include: adding more transit service in the area, managing traffic on existing roads and highways more effectively, reducing travel needs by creating better alternative choices, known as transportation demand management techniques

Medium to longer term initiatives include: expanding existing roads and highways, adding High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes and transit by-pass lanes on provincial highways, and planning for increased network connectivity by identifying multi-modal transportation corridors for the long term future.

In the Hamilton-Halton section of the study area, the draft Strategy recommends additional analysis to further assess and evaluate transportation options. After extensive public consultation, the study team has heard the desire for further analysis and consultation. The study team will analyze the impacts of environmental, community and economic factors in this area, and consult further prior to bringing forward a final recommendation for this area. The additional analysis will incorporate an evaluation of the relative advantages and disadvantages of alternatives to increase capacity in this section of the study area.

This further study is expected to take 1-2 years following the 90-day review period for the draft Strategy report. We invite public comment at this time on the entire draft Strategy report as well as on the recommendation for further study of the Hamilton-Halton section of the study area. Of course, additional consultation would be an important part of the further study referenced above.

Your input on the draft Transportation Development Strategy report is appreciated, as it will help guide the study team in their next stage of work. The draft Strategy is available for review on the project website [www.Niagara-GTA.com](http://www.Niagara-GTA.com). If you would like to discuss the contents of the report, or require clarification, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the study team.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathleen Wynne".

Kathleen Wynne  
Minister