

NOTICE OF TRANSITION

Highway 4 Widening and Proposed Talbotville Bypass (GWP 3042-22-00), Highway 3 Twinning (GWP 3041-22-00)

THE STUDY

The Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) has retained Stantec Consulting Ltd. to complete the Preliminary Design, Detail Design and Class Environmental Assessment Study (Class EA) for improvements to Highway 3 from Highway 4 to Centennial Avenue (St. Thomas).

THE PROCESS

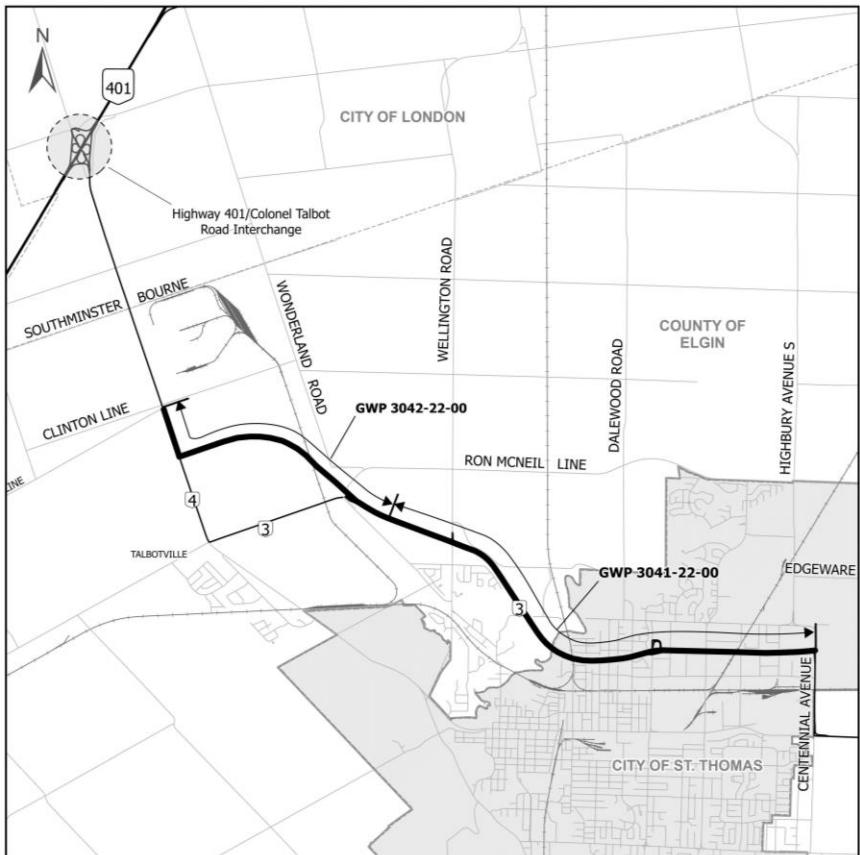
This Preliminary Design was completed in accordance with the *Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Transportation Facilities (2000)*.

The following has been undertaken as a Group 'A' project (GWP 3042-22-00):

- a new Highway 3 alignment bypassing Talbotville (also known as the Talbotville Bypass), connecting Highway 3 near Ron McNeil Line to Highway 4; and
- the widening of existing Highway 4 (from the new Talbotville Bypass to Clinton Line).

The following has been undertaken as a Group 'B' project (GWP 3041-22-00):

- the twinning of the existing Highway 3 through St. Thomas to the Township of Southwold (Ron McNeil Line to Centennial Avenue).



THE TRANSITION

Following the 30-day comment period (Wednesday, May 29 to Friday, June 28, 2024), this notice informs stakeholders, the public, and Indigenous communities of the decision by MTO to transition the project to the *Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Transportation Facilities and Municipal Expressways (2024)*. All comments from the Proposed Transition period have been thoroughly reviewed by the project team, and no concerns with the transition have been identified.

The decision to transition is based on a thorough evaluation of the project's needs and the benefits of the amended EA process. Transitioning to the new Class EA process will improve the planning process of projects beyond Preliminary Design stage, bringing MTO into alignment with best practices observed in other Class EA frameworks. Transitioning from the requirements of the 2000 Class EA to the 2024 Class EA reflects a commitment to optimizing the assessment process by removing redundancies and expediting project planning to facilitate a more streamlined implementation process.

A Transition Record of Consultation will be compiled, documenting comments received during the 30-day comment period, along with responses and details of any meetings. The Record of Consultation will be made available on the project website. Commitments made during the Preliminary Design phase will be addressed as the project progresses through the design process. Design and construction information will continue to be posted on the project website and opportunities for public consultation are ongoing.

Information on the project, such as study notices, background information, and additional design related information including the process under the 2024 Class EA can be found at www.highway3elgin.ca.

COMMENTS

If you have any comments or questions about this notice, or have questions about the study, please contact one of the following project team members:

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All media inquiries shall be directed to MTO's Communications Branch at (416) 327-1158 or mto.media@ontario.ca.

If you have any accessibility requirements in order 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.

This notice was first issued on July 31, 2024.