

**Ministry of  
Transportation**

Office of the Minister  
  
777 Bay Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto ON M7A 1Z8  
416 327-9200  
[www.ontario.ca/transportation](http://www.ontario.ca/transportation)

**Ministère des  
Transports**

Bureau de la ministre  
  
777, rue Bay, 5<sup>e</sup> étage  
Toronto ON M7A 1Z8  
416 327-9200  
[www.ontario.ca/transports](http://www.ontario.ca/transports)



October 27, 2021

107-2021-4374

His Worship John Grant  
Mayor  
Town of Brock  
[brock@townshipofbrock.ca](mailto:brock@townshipofbrock.ca)

Dear Mayor Grant:

I would like to take this opportunity to provide an update on the Bradford Bypass Project including information regarding Ontario Regulation (O. Reg) 697/21 that came into effect on Oct. 7, 2021.

The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) posted a proposal on the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) on July 8, 2020, for a 45-day public comment period to conditionally exempt the Ministry of Transportation's (MTO) Bradford Bypass project from the requirements of the *Environmental Assessment Act* (EAA).

O. Reg 697/21 (URL: [www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/r21697?search=697](http://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/r21697?search=697)) exempts the Bradford Bypass Project from the requirements of the EAA, subject to conditions, to promote environmental protection and provide for continued consultation with government agencies, Indigenous communities and members of the public. For more information on the government's decision, please see the complete Oct. 7, 2021 ERO Decision Notice at the following link [www.ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-1883](http://www.ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-1883).

The regulation sets out a streamlined process with a goal of maintaining strong environmental oversight for the planning, assessment, documentation, and consultation objectives necessary to advance the project to implementation and continue environmental protection. This will reduce timeline delays for building important infrastructure for Ontario communities that will facilitate the movement of people across the province, while maintaining environmental considerations and opportunities for public and Indigenous engagement.

The regulation conditionally exempts the Bradford Bypass project from the duplicative requirements which have already been completed through other regulatory processes that consider environmental protection. This will allow MTO to advance the implementation of this critically needed transportation infrastructure in an efficient and timely manner.

The regulation provides flexibility for early works at County Road 4 to proceed, subject to MTO fulfilling requirements regarding consultation, identification and assessment of impacts and mitigation measures. Early works include a grade separated crossing at County Road 4 (Yonge Street) to accommodate the County of Simcoe's widening of County Road 4 from two to four lanes for the portion of the area between the 8<sup>th</sup> Line and 9<sup>th</sup> Line, including a multiuse recreational trail on the east side of County Road 4.

To maintain continued environmental protection, and further opportunities for consultation, the regulation incorporates key environmental assessment planning process requirements into regulatory conditions. This will ensure that MTO advances the planning and assessment of the Bradford Bypass through a decision-making process that is consistent with the requirements of the EAA.

The regulation, in general, incorporates all but Condition 4 of the 2002 EA Notice of Approval, which had directed MTO to follow the *Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Transportation Facilities (MTO Class EA)* for the design and construction of the project.

MTO will still be required to follow all other relevant provincial and federal legislative requirements, standards, and practices, as they apply to the design, construction and operation of the project to ensure continued environmental protection. The regulation requires MTO to fulfil technical design commitments made in the EA, such as completion of an archaeological assessment, a stormwater management plan, a groundwater protection and well monitoring plan, and a noise report. MTO will still prepare technical studies, including:

- Agricultural Impact Assessment
- Air Quality Impact Assessment
- Archaeological Assessment (Stages 2, 3, & 4, as required)
- Drainage and Hydrology
- Erosion and Sediment Control Risk Assessment
- Fish and Fish Habitat Existing Conditions and Impact Assessment Report
- Fluvial Geomorphology
- Groundwater Impact Assessment
- Land Use and Property Impact Assessment
- Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment
- Preliminary Landscape Composition Plan
- Snowdrift Assessment
- Terrestrial Ecosystems Existing Conditions and Impact Assessment
- Waste and Excess Materials Management Plan
- Human Health

MTO is required to notify MECP, certain municipalities and government agencies, any interested persons, and Indigenous communities of proposed changes to the project that would be significant. MTO will continue consultation with Indigenous communities and submit Indigenous Consultation Plans to MECP and for distribution to potentially impacted and interested Indigenous communities.

The regulation requires MTO to establish an issues resolution process that will focus on addressing concerns raised by Indigenous communities and interested persons. While still under development, it will include a process to outline and guide discussions with Indigenous communities and other interested persons regarding the potential environmental impacts of the project; documentation that records the issues raised, how they were considered, and any changes to the project as a result; and notification to the commenter on the results of the issues resolution process. In addition, MTO as a Crown Minister will continue to be subject to its constitutional obligations to consult with Indigenous communities that have established or credibly asserted Aboriginal or treaty rights that could be adversely impacted by the project.

As the project moves ahead, an Early Works Report will be provided for stakeholder review and input later this fall, with final design and construction for early works anticipated to commence in 2022. My ministry is on track to prepare an Environmental Conditions Report for the overall Bradford Bypass highway and to present the project at Public Information Centre 2 (PIC 2) in Fall 2022. An Environmental Impact Assessment Report shall be prepared for stakeholder review following PIC 2, and Preliminary Design completion is anticipated in early 2023 with Detail Design to follow.

For additional information and details regarding the proposed early works as well as the Bradford Bypass Project, please visit the following website: [www.bradfordbypass.ca/](http://www.bradfordbypass.ca/).

My ministry will also carefully consider all impacts and will continue to work with municipalities and other concerned stakeholders to identify principles and recommendations for mitigating the environmental impacts of placing new or expanded provincial highways and transitways within this area.

Sincerely,



Caroline Mulroney  
Minister of Transportation

cc. Honourable David Piccini, Minister of Environment, Conservation, and Parks