

# NOTICE OF TRANSPORTATION ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY REPORT ADDENDUM SUBMISSION

## Highway 400 / Highway 89 Interchange - Interim Improvements (W.O. #06-20016)

### PRELIMINARY DESIGN & CLASS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT STUDY UPDATE

#### **THE PROJECT**

AECOM has been retained by the Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) to undertake a Preliminary Design Update Study along Highway 400 from 1 km south of Highway 89 to the Junction of Highway 11. The Highway 400 / Highway 89 Interchange component of this study is being advanced, as the existing Highway 89 Bridge over Highway 400 is scheduled for replacement in 2018.

The 2004 Transportation Environmental Study Report (TESR) (G.W.P. 30-95-00) received environmental clearance for improvements to this section of Highway 400 including improvements to the Highway 400 / Highway 89 Interchange. The update study is confirming the long-term (2031) needs for this section of the corridor, including capacity, operational and safety needs, so that rehabilitation investments are made with knowledge of the long-term vision of the corridor. The overall project limits are located within the Town of Innisfil, City of Barrie, and the Township of Springwater within Simcoe County.

The long-term vision of the corridor includes widening this section of Highway 400 as well as improvements and modifications to each of the interchanges to accommodate the proposed widening and provide adequate traffic operations. Replacement structures may be subject to interim improvements to accommodate the ultimate recommendations from this study update. The Highway 89 Bridge replacement over Highway 400 will be built to accommodate the future Highway 400 widening along with interim improvements to the interchange.

#### **THE RECOMMENDED PLAN**

Key features of the interim improvements to the Highway 400 / Highway 89 Interchange include:

- Replacement of the Highway 89 bridge and reconstruction of the interchange to a Parclo A-3 configuration (reinstate the ramp in the northwest quadrant of the interchange to Highway 400 southbound);
- Minor realignment of Reive Blvd and relocation of the commuter parking lot to the northeast quadrant in the interim; and
- Upgrade the single lane exit-ramps from Highway 400 to Highway 89 to two-lane exit-ramps.

Long term improvements include the realignment of Reive Blvd and construction of a direct ramp from Highway 89 westbound to Highway 400 northbound. A traffic analysis conducted at the interchange confirmed that the interim configuration would operate acceptably within the 2031 planning horizon.

#### **THE PROCESS**

This study is following the approved planning process for a Group 'B' project under the *MTO Class Environmental Assessment (EA) for Provincial Transportation Facilities (2000)*.

A Transportation Environmental Study Report (TESR) Addendum has been prepared to document changes to the Highway 400 / Highway 89 Interchange recommended plan outlined in the TESR (2004). The TESR Addendum includes a discussion on the need for improvements at the Highway 400 / Highway 89 Interchange, the generation, assessment and evaluation of alternatives, the recommended plan, a summary of environmental issues and potential mitigation measures, a summary of consultation undertaken throughout the study, and commitments to be carried out during Detail Design and construction. The TESR Addendum is available for a 30-day public and agency review period commencing **Thursday March 23, 2017** and ending **Friday April 21, 2017**. The TESR Addendum may be viewed at the following locations during regular business hours:

**Innisfil Public Library, Cookstown Branch**  
 20 Church Street, Cookstown, ON L0L 1L0  
 Tuesday and Thursday: 1:00 pm to 8:00 pm  
 Wednesday: 10:00 am to 8:00 pm  
 Friday: 10:00 am to 5:00 pm,  
 Saturday: 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

**Innisfil Public Library, Churchill Branch**  
 2282 4<sup>th</sup> Line, Innisfil, ON L0L 1K0  
 Tuesday to Thursday: 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm  
 Saturday: 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

**Innisfil Public Library, Lakeshore Branch**  
 967 Innisfil Beach Road, Innisfil, ON L9S 1V3  
 Sunday: 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm  
 Tuesday to Friday: 9:30 am to 9:00 pm  
 Saturday: 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

**Town Hall – Clerk's Office, Town of Innisfil**  
 2101 Innisfil Beach Road, Innisfil, ON L9S 1A1  
 Monday to Friday: 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

**Ministry of Transportation, Central Region – Environmental Section**  
 159 Sir William Hearst Avenue, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Toronto, ON M3M 1J8  
 Monday to Friday: 8:30 am to 4:00 pm

Interested persons are encouraged to review the TESR Addendum and provide written comments to the Ministry of Transportation and AECOM during the 30-day review period (**ending Friday April 21, 2017**). If after consulting with the Ministry and consultant staff, you still have serious unresolved concerns, you have the right to request the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change (in writing to: Ferguson Block, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor, 77 Wellesley Street West, Toronto, Ontario M7A 2T5) to issue a Part II Order (i.e. bump-up) for this project. A Part II Order may lead to the preparation of an Individual EA. A copy of the Part II Order request that is sent directly to the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change should also be forwarded to the Ministry of Transportation and consultant staff at the addresses below. If there are no outstanding concerns at the end of the 30-day review period (**ending Friday April 21, 2017**) the project will be considered to have met the requirements of the Class EA. Only changes documented in the TESR Addendum are eligible for bump-up. In the event that a Part II Order request is granted, MTO has the option to withdraw the Addendum.

#### **COMMENTS**

To obtain additional information or to provide input at any point during the study, please contact the Project Team as follows:

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**Email:** [projectteam@highway400improvements89to11.com](mailto:projectteam@highway400improvements89to11.com), or **visit us at** <http://highway400improvements89to11.ca>

There is an opportunity at any time during the study for interested persons to provide input to the Project Team regarding the study. Comments are being collected to assist MTO in meeting the requirements of the *Ontario EA Act*. This material will be maintained on file for use during the study and may be included in project documentation. Information collected will be used in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record. If you have any accessibility requirements in order to participate in this project, please contact one of the Project Team members listed above.

