

TRANSPORTATION VISION FOR THE NGTA CORRIDOR

To develop an integrated, multi-modal transportation system that facilitates and enables the realization of approved provincial policies in support of:

- Compact, vibrant and complete communities
- A prosperous and competitive economy
- A protected environment

STUDY PURPOSE

The purpose of the Niagara to GTA (NGTA) Corridor Planning and EA study is to:

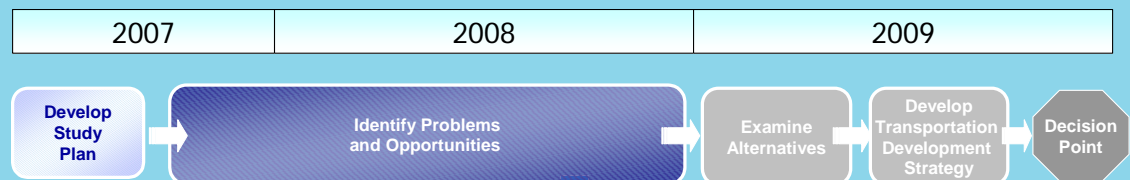
- Address existing and future transportation capacity needs within the NGTA Corridor by providing additional capacity for the next 30 years and beyond.
- Support the projected growth and the policies outlined in the approved *Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe (June 2006)*.

In general terms, the study includes:

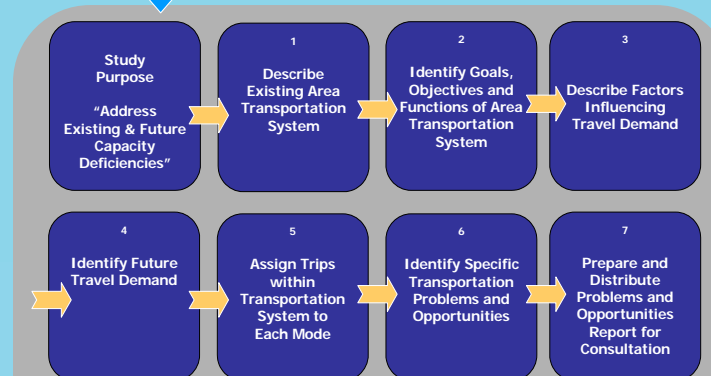
- Assessing the need for additional transportation capacity in the NGTA Corridor;
- Identifying the specific transportation problems and opportunities within the preliminary study area;
- Developing, assessing, and evaluating a range of transportation alternatives to address the identified transportation problems and opportunities; and,
- Preparing a multi-modal Transportation Development Strategy (TDS).

PROCESS FOR IDENTIFYING PROBLEMS AND OPPORTUNITIES

STUDY PROCESS



We Are Here



Process for Identification of Transportation Problems & Opportunities

The identification of the transportation problems and opportunities is one of the most complex and critical stages of this project.

Over the past several months, the NGTA Project Team has been undertaking a rigorous consultation program with the Municipalities, Regulatory Agencies, and the Community Advisory Group; Business and Commercial Stakeholders (BCS); and Transportation Service Providers (TSP). Consultation has focused on the process for identifying transportation problems and opportunities in the Niagara to GTA Corridor, as well as obtaining feedback on the elements of the existing transportation system that adversely affect them and to identify potential opportunities to improve or enhance the system.

In parallel with this consultation effort, the Project Team has proceeded with the technical work, which includes transportation demand forecasting and modelling to identify problems and opportunities.

Please visit the project website (www.niagara-gta.com) to view the information video on the modelling and demand forecasting process.



CONSULTATION IN IDENTIFYING PROBLEMS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The Project Team is fully committed to exploring all modes of transportation in the Niagara to GTA Corridor and to developing a multi-modal "Transportation Development Strategy". Consultation with stakeholders is an integral component of the process for identifying transportation problems and opportunities. As users of the transportation system within the Preliminary Study Area, stakeholders are in the best position to assist in identifying the elements of the existing transportation system that affects them and to identify potential opportunities to improve or enhance the system.

To facilitate stakeholder participation in the identification of transportation problems and opportunities, numerous meetings and discussions were held with key Transportation Service Providers (TSPs) and Business and Commercial Stakeholders (BCSs). Input was sought over a six-month period from over 50 TSPs and 150 BCSs via questionnaires, tele-interviews, and face-to-face meetings. Meetings were also held with our Community Advisory, Municipal Technical and Regulatory Agency Advisory Groups. In general, stakeholders have identified the following themes for problems and opportunities in the NGTA corridor:

PROBLEMS

OPPORTUNITIES

- Limited Accessibility
- Road Congestion
- Insufficient Infrastructure
- Constrained Modal Choice (e.g., high cost, time consuming)
- Safety Concerns (e.g., high truck volume)
- Environmental Impacts
- Border Delays

- Expand Interregional Links (e.g., roadways and transit)
- Improve Existing Infrastructure
- Improve Modal Choice (e.g., facility improvements)
- Multi-modal Transportation Opportunities
- International Trade Opportunities
- Economic Growth Opportunities
- Tourism Opportunities (including tourist transit)

Our website (www.niagara-gta.com) summarizes the results of our stakeholder consultations including when stakeholder groups were consulted and the types of input received.

UPDATE ON DEMAND FORECASTING & MODELLING

Problems and opportunities will be developed based on the following input:

- Social, economic, and environmental policy objectives;
- Feedback from those stakeholders who use and rely on the area transportation system; and
- Transportation models.

Two approaches for transportation modelling and demand forecasting are being utilized in parallel for this study:

- **Greater Golden Horseshoe (GGH) Model** – will be used to forecast person trips (transit and auto) and freight trips (trucks).
- **Strategic Demand Forecasting (SDF) Model** – will be used to forecast freight trips (rail, marine, air) and tourist trips (auto, rail, marine, air).

The above approaches will enable the Project Team to forecast future travel demand for all modes of transportation, including passenger/freight rail, transit, road, marine and air.

The Project Team is currently in the process of developing preliminary findings from these two approaches. At the end of the Problems and Opportunities stage, the Project Team will have a comprehensive understanding of the future problems and transportation needs for all modes of transportation in the NGTA Preliminary Study Area.

Please visit our website (www.niagara-gta.com) for a video of our transportation modelling and demand forecasting approach.

Second Round of Consultation Fall/Winter 2008

The identification of problems and opportunities is a critical stage of this study, and it is the goal of the Project Team to make certain that stakeholder comments are appropriately addressed and that our study is coordinated with other related initiatives. In particular, the Project Team is continuing to coordinate our work with the Regional Transportation Plan being prepared by Metrolinx for the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA). We are also consulting with municipalities on how the policies set out in the *Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe* and land use planning will be addressed in the Niagara to GTA demand forecasting and modelling exercise.

As a result of these efforts, the preparation of an Area Transportation System Problems and Opportunities Report and the second round of consultation (including public information centres) is now anticipated to be held in late 2008. The next round of consultation events will present the findings of the work undertaken on problems and opportunities as well as the approach for assessing transportation system alternatives. A notice advertising these events will be provided in advance.



GOALS & OBJECTIVES

The identification of goals and objectives at an early stage of the process for identifying the transportation problems and opportunities in the NGTA corridor is critical to the success of this process. These include:

Compact, Vibrant, & Complete Communities

- Facilitate development of urban growth centres and the Gateway Economic Centre as per the *Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe*
- Maintain the character of rural and agricultural communities
- Integrate future municipal land use aspirations

Prosperous & Competitive Economy

- Optimize public investment through wise use and management of existing infrastructure
- Provide continuous and integrated area transportation network that links economic nodes and centres
- Support existing and future tourism development

Protected Environment

- Protect our natural environment
- Protect our unique and important cultural and heritage resources

These goals and objectives are based on approved provincial planning policies that provide the broader vision for Ontario's future. These have been documented in the *NGTA Purpose, Goals, and Objectives Discussion Paper*.

The above two discussion papers are available at all municipal offices in the study area, the NGTA site office, and on the project website at www.niagara-gta.com (see back for details). Please contact us if you would like a digital copy of these papers.

FACTORS INFLUENCING TRANSPORTATION DEMAND IN THE NGTA CORRIDOR

The key factors influencing transportation demand in the NGTA corridor, documented in the *Factors Influencing Transportation Demand in the NGTA Corridor Discussion Paper*, include:

Approved Provincial Policies

- Approved provincial policies provide direction and guidance on land use, growth, infrastructure planning, trade, tourism and environmental protection. These policies have a strong influence on future travel patterns, volumes and transportation infrastructure in the NGTA Corridor.

Land Use, Population & Employment

- The *Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe* has established urban growth centres, and density, population and employment growth targets for the year 2031. Population in the NGTA Corridor is forecasted to grow from 1.3 million to almost 2 million! Employment is planned to increase from 590,000 to 908,000 jobs. This substantial growth will result in increased travel for all types of trips (commuting, recreation, goods movement etc.).

Economy

- Dynamic changes in the global economy are reshaping the Canadian economic landscape. Ontario's economic base is expected to grow in all areas, with a shift in focus from manufacturing to services and goods distribution.

Trade

- Canada and the US enjoy the largest bi-national trading relationship in the world, with goods movement through the Niagara Peninsula accounting for approximately 16% of all Canada-US trade. All modes of transportation (i.e., trucks, trains, ships) facilitate trade within, and through, the NGTA Corridor.

Tourism

- While the NGTA Corridor includes world class tourism attractions, tourism visits to the area have declined in recent years due to a number of factors: including the value of our dollar, rising fuel costs and border crossing inconveniences. Tourism visits are expected to increase gradually to the year 2031, reaching 21 million visitors annually.

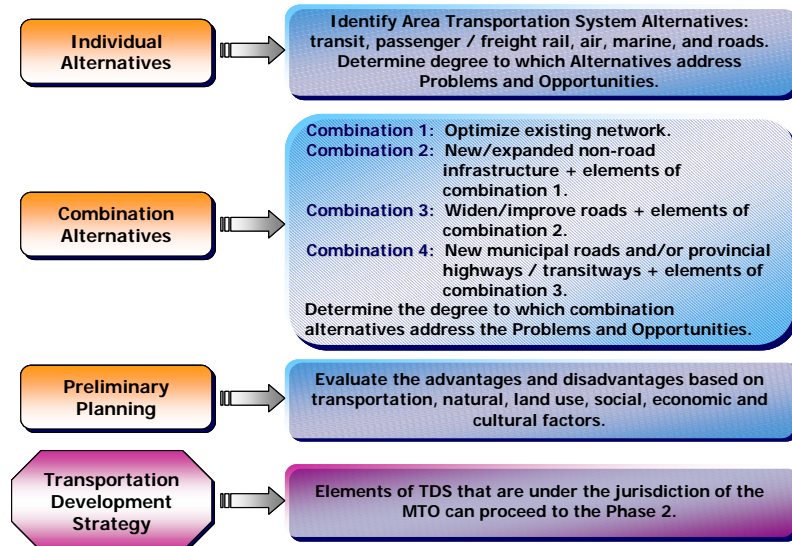
FUTURE WORK: ASSESSMENT OF ALTERNATIVES

The generation and assessment of Area Transportation System Alternatives is focused on addressing the identified transportation problems and opportunities. Transportation, economic, land use, and environmental goals based on government policy and stakeholder input will guide the assessment of infrastructure alternatives.

Individual Area Transportation System Alternatives that are capable of addressing the identified transportation problems and opportunities will be carried forward for further review and incorporated into a series of "combinations of alternatives". The Preferred Combination Alternative(s) will be carried forward to the Preliminary Planning stage.

The preferred combination alternative will form a Transportation Development Strategy (TDS) and will be documented in the *Niagara to GTA Corridor Transportation Needs Assessment Report*, which will be prepared at the end of this phase of the study.

GENERATION AND ASSESSMENT OF ALTERNATIVES





NGTA Highlights

- This study will support the *Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe*.
- The purpose of the NGTA Corridor Study is to provide additional capacity within the transportation system.
- All modes of transportation (i.e., transit, passenger/freight rail, marine, and roads) are being examined.
- The Project Team has undertaken extensive stakeholder consultation regarding Problems and Opportunities within the NGTA Corridor.
- The Project Team is continuing to coordinate our work with the Regional Transportation Plan being prepared by Metrolinx for the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA).
- Land use allocations are being developed to support the modelling and demand forecasting exercise.
- The following steps of the problems and opportunities identification stage are in progress:
 - Study Goals and Objectives and Factors Influencing Transportation Demand have been identified and documented in discussion papers that are available for stakeholder review; and
 - Transportation modelling and demand forecasting is being undertaken.

LOOKING AHEAD

- The Project Team will prepare and distribute an "*Area Transportation System Problems and Opportunities Report*" in late 2008.
- Public Information Centres will be held in late 2008 to provide the public with the opportunity to review and provide comments on this report and discuss study issues with Project Team representatives.
- Subsequent to the identification of problems and opportunities, the Project Team will commence the exercise of assessing and evaluating Transportation System Alternatives.

HOW TO CONTACT THE PROJECT TEAM

WEB

Copies of study reports and discussion papers are available on the study website along with regular project updates, important links and additional project details. The website also has a "Contact Us" page that allows for direct email contact with the Project Team. Please visit us at:

www.niagara-gta.com

TOLL-FREE NUMBER

Telephone inquiries can be received through our "1-800" number. The mailbox for the "1-800" number is routinely checked, and messages will be documented and transferred to the appropriate Project Team member, who will provide a response in a timely manner. Please contact us at:

1-866-890-6441

SITE OFFICE

The NGTA Site Office (located at 30 Hannover Drive, Suite 100, St. Catharines) is open to the public. All relevant study documents will be accessible at the Site Office during business hours (Monday to Friday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.).

MAIL / FAX

You may also provide any written comments by mail or fax to the Project Team:

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Markham, ON L3T 7N9
Fax: 905-882-4399

