

# New provincial highway will affect wide swath in Halton Hills

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The GTA West Study is an individual Environmental Assessment being carried out by the Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) for the route planning of the new 50-km transportation corridor. A wide swath of Halton Hills land is included within the GTA West study area— from Eighth Line east to the Brampton border and from south of Hwy. 401 to 10 Sideroad.

The study team presented its recommended short list of route alternatives at a Public Information Centre at Mold-Masters SportsPlex Thursday evening. The two routes in Halton Hills on that list are labeled 1C and 1E.

Route 1C crosses Winston Churchill Blvd. south of Bovaird Dr. then runs between Ninth and Tenth Lines to join up with Hwy 401/407. Potential interchanges being considered are at Five Sideroad and Tenth Line.

Route 1E would run in Halton Hills between Winston Churchill Blvd. south of Five Sideroad, across Tenth and Ninth Lines to Hwy. 401. Interchanges being considered are at Winston Churchill Blvd. and Tenth Line.

The study group has come up with a Focused Analysis Area zone surrounding the short list of route alternatives. The routes may be further refined. Properties (marked in orange on the accompanying map) would still be of interest to the study team and could possibly be impacted by the highway.

For some Halton Hills properties (1,700 acres) on the edges of the study area (marked in green) it's unlikely they will be impacted by the highway.

"The lands remain within the study area, however, our interest in them is reduced," said MTO spokesperson Astrid Poei. "As a result, following review, MTO will not likely object to development applications in this area."



Poei said the MTO would start processing development applications for properties in that green zone of the study area after the PICs wrap up later this week. She added that it's anticipated the Focused Analysis Area would be further reduced once the preferred route alternative is selected.

"We may also consider a new study area at that time," Poei said.

Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette, who has been urging the MTO to reduce the size of the study area, said the fact 1,700 acres "are not a focus point in this study is a positive step for those land owners in this area."

"The MTO is suggesting that those in the 1,700 acres can develop or add to their properties, or whatever, it also begs the question,

why is MTO being so stubborn and not releasing these lands completely," said Bonnette.

The public has until Jan. 12 to provide comments. For details on the information presented at the PIC visit <http://www.gta-west.com/consultation-pic.html>



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