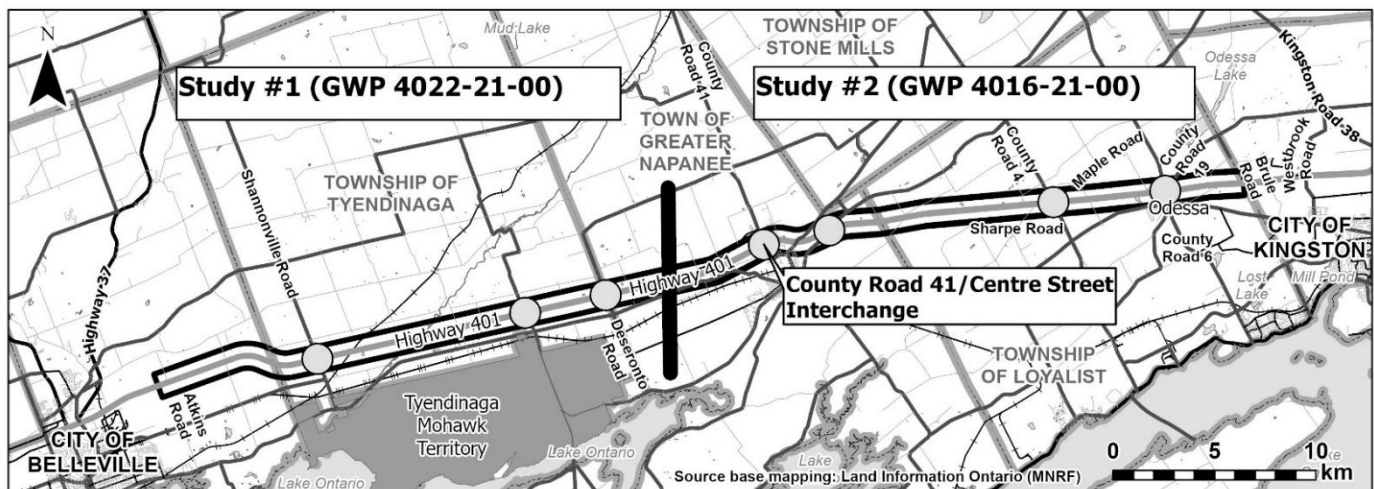


NOTICE OF STUDY COMMENCEMENT
HIGHWAY 401 IMPROVEMENTS BETWEEN BELLEVILLE AND KINGSTON
PLANNING, PRELIMINARY DESIGN AND CLASS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
STUDY #1 (GWP 4022-21-00) AND STUDY #2 (GWP 4016-21-00)

THE STUDY

The Ontario Ministry of Transportation of (MTO) has retained AECOM to undertake two Planning, Preliminary Design and Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) Studies to address current and future transportation needs by developing a plan for the rehabilitation and/or replacement of various bridges and culverts, determining the long-term interchange configuration at seven locations, and establishing the footprint for the interim six and ultimate eight lanes of Highway 401, between the City of Belleville and the City of Kingston. As illustrated, **Study #1 (GWP 4022-21-00)** includes Highway 401 from 4.3 km east of Highway 37 to 5 km west of County Road 41/Centre Street for a total length of approximately 26 km. **Study #2 (GWP 4016-21-00)** includes Highway 401 from 5 km west of County Road 41/Centre Street to 8 km west of Kingston Road 38 for a total length of approximately 29 km.



THE PROCESS

Each study is following the approved planning process for a Group 'B' project under the *Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Transportation Facilities and Municipal Expressways, 2024 (Class EA)*. The project team, which includes representatives from AECOM and MTO, will complete environmental and engineering field investigations and seek input from individuals, organizations, and Indigenous communities. The project team will also develop and evaluate alternative methods of carrying out the project and outline environmental protection/mitigation measures. Two Public Information Centres are planned for each study at key milestones to provide stakeholders with the opportunity to view project materials and provide comments. Notices will also be sent to the project mailing list to provide individuals, organizations and Indigenous communities with the opportunity to learn about the project, view project materials and provide comments.

At the end of each study, the project team will prepare a *Transportation Environmental Study Report* (TESR) that describes how the requirements of the Class EA were met; how the project achieves the greatest overall transportation benefit while minimizing environmental impacts; other key decisions; consultation with individuals, organizations, and Indigenous communities; and commitments for consultation and environmental protection.

The project team will issue a Notice of Completion, at which point there will be a 30-day comment period allowing for an opportunity to provide comments on the TERS. The project team will include comments received, responses to the comments and any supporting materials in a record of consultation. Documentation will be made available for viewing on the project website Hwy401BellevilletoKingston.ca, or/and at a physical location (yet to be determined).

Once a Technically Preferred Alternative has been identified, the Ministry of Transportation may designate lands as highway and acquire property prior to EA process completion. A designation enables the Ministry to provide route/corridor protection through the application of development control measures along the corridor and in the vicinity of the designated lands. For more information about highway corridor management, please visit: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/highway-corridor-management>.

COMMENTS

Additional details, including study notices, background information, PIC materials and reports, will be available on the project website Hwy401BellevilletoKingston.ca. We encourage you to participate in the study and to provide comments through the website or by contacting the project team members listed below. If you wish to have your name added to the project mailing list or have questions about the study, please contact:

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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.