

NOTICE OF STUDY COMMENCEMENT

AN INDIVIDUAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR EXPANSION IN THE GO TRANSIT GEORGETOWN SOUTH RAIL CORRIDOR AND AN EXPRESS TRANSPORTATION LINK BETWEEN LESTER B. PEARSON AIRPORT AND UNION STATION

THE STUDY:

GO Transit, the Province of Ontario's interregional public transit service for the Greater Toronto and Hamilton areas, has initiated an Individual Environmental Assessment (IEA) for the above project under the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act. One component of this study, for which GO Transit is the proponent, is to examine possible improvements to the Georgetown south rail corridor to meet increasing demands for GO service between Halton and Peel Regions and the City of Toronto. The other component of the study is to examine alternatives for an express transportation link between Union Station and Lester B. Pearson Airport including the proposed Air Rail Link service. The co-proponents of this study are GO Transit and the Union Pearson AirLink Group. Although the two project components serve different objectives, they are being planned together as the recommended alternative(s) could result in GO Transit, CN, VIA Rail and the selected express transportation initiative all operating within a shared corridor.



THE PROCESS:

The first step of the IEA process is the preparation and approval of the Terms of Reference (ToR). The ToR provides a framework for completing the IEA including: defining the issues or opportunities to be addressed; the range and types of alternatives to be considered; the process to select a preferred alternative; and the ways in which the public will be consulted and also participate in the study. Following approval of the ToR by the Ontario Minister of the Environment, the IEA study will be undertaken in accordance with the framework outlined in the ToR. The IEA study will consist of: identification of issues or opportunities; development and evaluation of alternatives; selection of a preferred alternative; detailing of impacts and mitigation measures; and, preparation of an environmental assessment report. The IEA will be coordinated with the federal process under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act.

COMMENTS:

Public participation will form an integral part of the development of the ToR and the subsequent individual environmental assessment study. In the ToR phase, a public liaison committee (PLC) comprised of representatives from various groups within the study area will be established to ensure that the concerns of the public are identified, documented and assessed. Several public information centres will be held and advertised in advance to enable the public to meet the project team and give feedback. As well, anyone wishing to comment on or be involved in this Individual Environmental Assessment study should indicate their interest, preferably in writing to:

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The Governments of Canada and Ontario have jointly committed a total of \$770 million to improve and expand the GO Transit rail and bus transit system in the Greater Toronto Area. Funding is being provided under the Canadian Strategic Infrastructure Fund.

Pour plus de renseignements, veuillez composer le (416) 869-3200 ou le 1 888 GET ON GO (438-6646).

