

NOTICE OF STUDY COMMENCEMENT

Project A: Highway 401 Widening and Concrete Median Barrier from 0.5 km east of Essex County Road 42 to 1.5 km west of Merlin Road
Initiate Detailed Design and Class Environmental Assessment Study

Project B: Highway 401 Rehabilitation, Widening and Concrete Median Barrier at the Queen Street Overpass and McDougall Drain Bridge
Complete Detailed Design and Class Environmental Assessment Study
GWP 3034-19-00

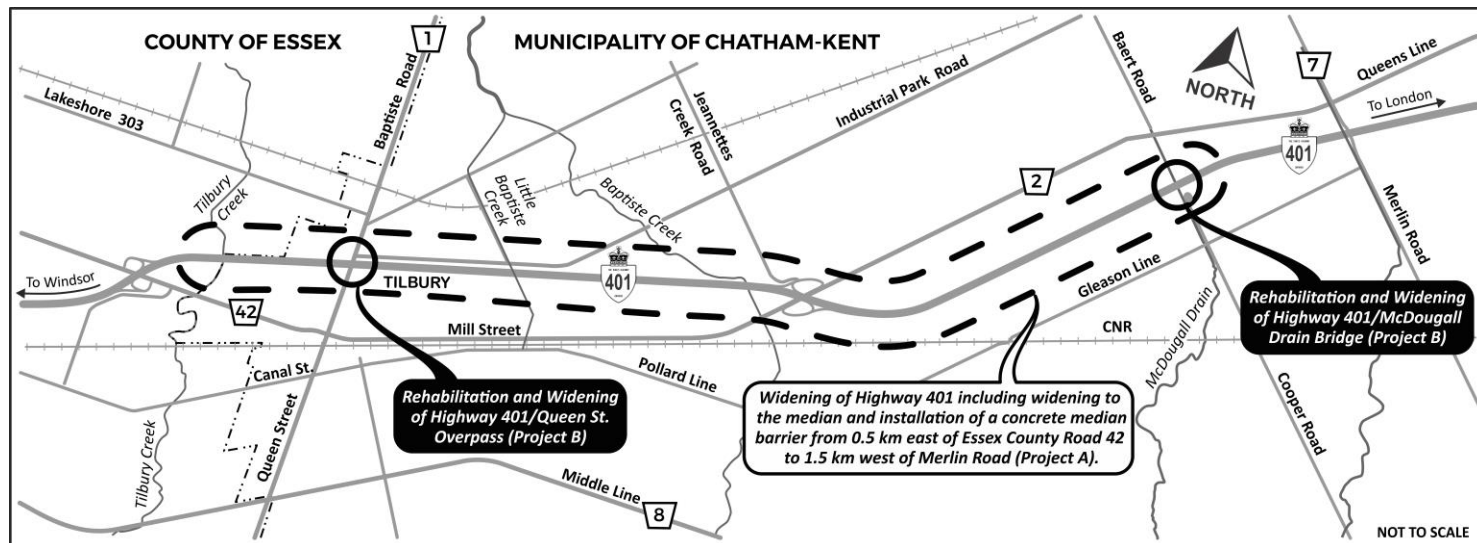
THE PROJECT

The Ontario **Ministry of Transportation (MTO)** has retained **WSP** to undertake the following two projects in the County of Essex and Municipality of Chatham-Kent:

Project A: Initiate Detailed Design for the widening of Highway 401 from 4 to 6 lanes including widening to the median and installation of a concrete median barrier through the study limits as shown in the key plan. Bridge rehabilitation / widening designs for the following bridges will be developed to accommodate the highway widening:

- Tilbury Creek Bridges;
- Little Baptiste Creek Bridges; and
- Baptiste Creek Bridges.

Project B: Complete Detailed Design for the rehabilitation and widening of the Queen Street Overpass and McDougall Drain Bridge on Highway 401 as shown in the key plan to accommodate the highway widening and concrete median barrier.



BACKGROUND

Following the Preliminary Design phase in 2008, a Transportation Environmental Study Report (TESR) documenting the provincial transportation needs for Highway 401 from 0.9 km east of Essex County Road 42 to the Elgin County Boundary (GWP 80-00-00) was published for public review and was subsequently cleared to proceed to Detailed Design.

THE PROCESS

This study is subject to the *Ontario Environmental Assessment Act* and will be completed in accordance with the *Class EA for Provincial Transportation Facilities* (2000) process for a Group 'B' project.

A 'five-year TESR review' will be undertaken to determine if significant changes to the relevant portions of the 2008 EA approved plan for this study area have occurred since the submission of the 2008 TESR. If no significant changes to the relevant portions of the 2008 EA approved plan are identified, this study will proceed to the subsequent design phases.

For Project A, a Design and Construction Report (DCR) will be prepared and published in the future at the end of Detailed Design. For Project B, a DCR will be prepared and published at the end of Detailed Design, currently anticipated to be early 2020.

CONSULTATION AND COMMENTS

Public consultation is an important part of the Class Environmental Assessment process. The public is encouraged to provide input at any point during the study. For additional details, please visit the study website at (www.Hwy401EssexCountyRd42toMerlinRd.ca). To obtain additional information, provide initial comments or to be placed on the mailing list, please contact one of the Project Team members listed below:

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We are committed to ensuring that government information and services are accessible for all Ontarians. For communication supports or to request project material in an alternate format, please contact one of the Project Team members listed above.

Comments and information will be collected to assist the MTO in meeting the requirements of the *Environmental Assessment Act*. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

Please visit the study website at: www.Hwy401EssexCountyRd42toMerlinRd.ca

**Notice of Study Commencement
Contact List**

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