

Proposed 400 Series Highway Extensions for the Greater Toronto and Niagara Regions

January 1, 2004

THIS MAP SHOWS the major highway development projects in the Greater Toronto and Niagara regions, initiated or proposed between 1995 and 2003 by the Ontario Ministry of Transportation and the Province's SuperBuild Corporation. The projects have been the subject of growing concern in the region. In addition to their direct environmental impacts on important ecological features like the Oak Ridges Moraine and Niagara Escarpment, the projects are seen to be likely to encourage automobile-dependant urban sprawl far beyond existing urban areas.

Under Construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provincial EA Status Federal EA Status Route Status
Provincial and Federal Environmental Assessment Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved EA Submitted, decision pending EA In Development Referenced/proposed in MTO documents Unknown, may not be required
Conceptual Idea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under Construction Planned Or Awaiting Construction Proposed Route Conceptual Route
<p>Provincial/Federal Environmental Assessment Status:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved EA Submitted, decision pending EA In Development Referenced/proposed in MTO documents Unknown, may not be required 	
<p>Route Status:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under Construction Planned Or Awaiting Construction Proposed Route Conceptual Route 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Boundary 400 Series Highways Major Roads and Highways Urban Area (2000) Designated Urban Area Oak Ridges Moraine Niagara Escarpment Designated Greenlands Agricultural Land (1,2,3) Selected Environmentally Significant Areas of Concern 	

Highway 427 northward extension
10 11 12 13 Concepts 1,2,3,4

This proposed highway, for which environmental assessment terms of reference are being developed, would run from the north end of Highway 427 to north of Barrie. The study corridor for this project overlaps the Minesing Swamp. The proposed extension is encouraging sprawling development north of the Oak Ridges Moraine.

Highway 404 northward extension
8 Davis Drive to Hwy 12

The extension of Highway 404 along the south shore of Lake Simcoe to Highway 12 received provincial environmental assessment approval in August 2002. The extension of Highway 404 is already promoting urban sprawl north of Newmarket, and will support urbanization of the Lake Simcoe shoreline.

Highway 410 northward extension
1 2 3 Phases 1, 2, 3
19 Highway 10 toward Collingwood

The extension of Highway 410 beyond Phase 3 is conceptual at this stage, but extension towards Collingwood is referenced in MTO planning documents. The current extensions are encouraging sprawl northwards from Brampton towards Caledon. Further extensions would encourage development northwards over the Oak Ridges Moraine and along the Niagara Escarpment.

9 Bradford By-Pass/404-400 link

The Bradford By-Pass, linking Highways 404 and 400, received provincial environmental assessment approval in August 2002. The by-pass is encouraging large scale low-density urban developments along its route from Bradford to Highway 400. Like the 404 extension, the by-pass will encourage long-distance automobile commuting to the GTA.

Highway 407 eastward extension
5 To Hwy 35/115, 6 Whitby link
7 Courtice link

Terms of reference for the provincial environmental assessment of the proposed eastward extension of Highway 407 to Highway 35/115 are under development. If completed, the extension will encourage urbanization northwards of Pickering, Ajax, Whitby, Oshawa, and Clarington onto prime agricultural lands and sensitive watersheds.

4 Guelph-Kitchener Highway 7 expansion

Final approval of the provincial environmental assessment of a new controlled access highway between Guelph and Kitchener-Waterloo was deferred at the request of MTO as a result of concerns raised by local municipalities and environmental groups. The project has been criticized as promoting urban sprawl in the region.

18 GTA East-West Corridor

The GTA East-West Corridor, linking the area of the 410/407 intersection to the area of Kitchener-Waterloo-Guelph is referenced in the MTO's Strategic Plans, but is conceptual at this stage. The corridor would encourage urbanization westwards from Brampton and northwards from Oakville-Burlington towards the Niagara Escarpment.

The Niagara Mid-Peninsula Highway
14 15 16 17 Options C, D2, F, G

The proposed Mid-Peninsula Highway would run from the Canada-US border to the Hamilton-Burlington area. The environmental assessment of the project was subject to a legal challenge by the City of Burlington and is under revision. Some of the proposed routes would directly impact the Niagara Escarpment.

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0 25 50 km

Data Sources:
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Ministry of Transportation, National Topographic Data Base

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