MOVING ROADS FORWARD

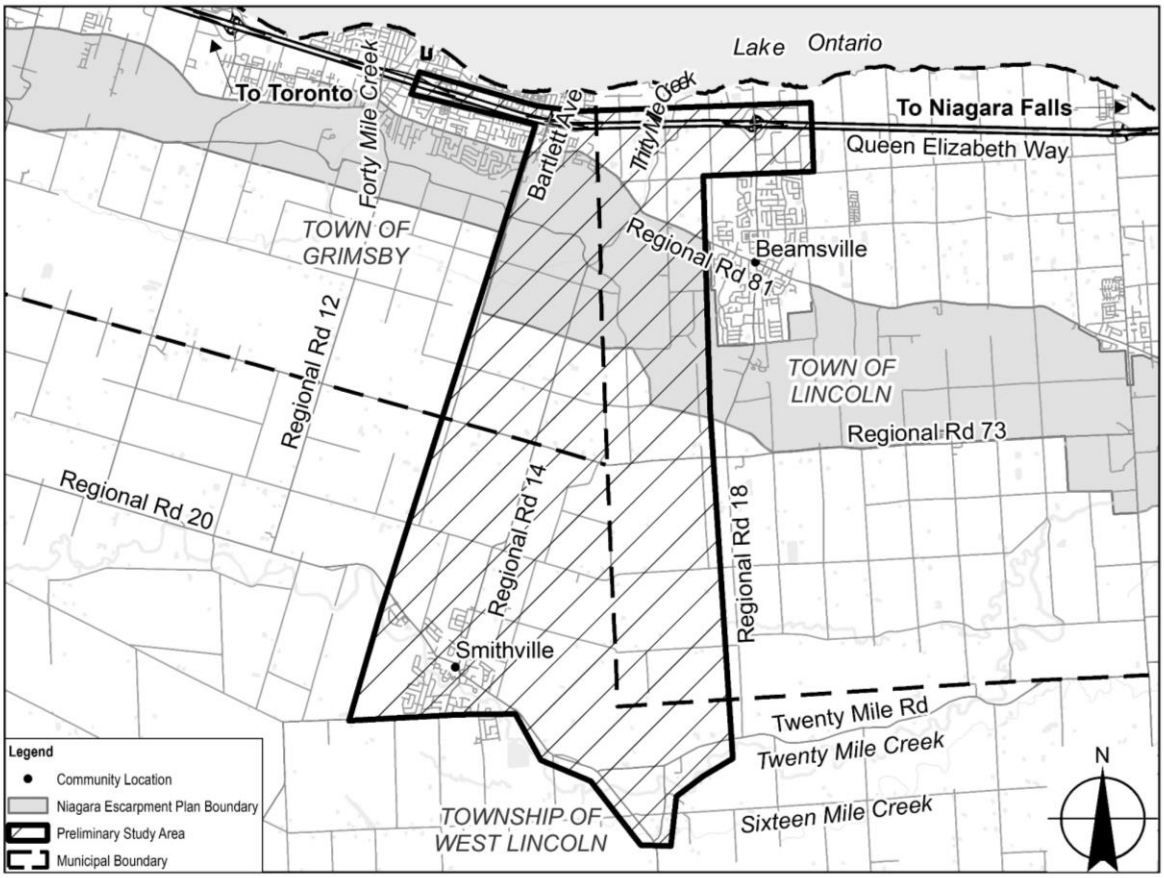
Notice of Commencement of the Terms of Reference

Niagara Escarpment Crossing Individual Environmental Assessment

Town of Grimsby, Town of Lincoln, Township of West Lincoln

The Study

Niagara Region has initiated a Study to provide a north-south transportation crossing of the Niagara Escarpment, between the Queen Elizabeth Way (QEW) and potential Smithville Bypass of Regional Road 20, that is able to accommodate commercial vehicles and other transportation modes in order to provide greater safety for local communities, efficient commercial vehicle operations, and potential additional transportation system capacity, redundancy and resiliency, while ensuring Niagara remains open for business with the effective movement of goods and people. The preliminary study area for the proposed north-south transportation crossing includes portions of the Town of Grimsby, Town of Lincoln, and Township of West Lincoln in Niagara Region, as shown in the key plan below.



The Study Process

The Study will be carried out in accordance with the Environmental Assessment Act as an Individual Environmental Assessment. An Individual Environmental Assessment represents a two-step approval process with the first step being the preparation of a Terms of Reference. The Terms of Reference is a document that will set out the framework or work plan for the planning and decision-making process to be followed during preparation of the Environmental Assessment and includes such aspects as the alternatives that will be considered and the consultation activities that will be carried out.

A Terms of Reference is submitted to the Ontario Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (Minister) for approval. If approved by the Minister, then the preparation of the Environmental Assessment follows as the second step of the process and must be done in accordance with the Terms of Reference.

You are Invited to Participate

The public, agencies, Indigenous Communities, and other interested persons are encouraged to actively participate in the Study process by reviewing information, providing comments, asking questions, and/or attending consultation opportunities. A Public Information Centre is planned for later this year to present the draft Terms of Reference including such requirements as the existing Study Area conditions, proposed alternatives, and the next steps in the Study. Details regarding the Public Information Centre will be advertised as the Study progresses. Study information is available for review on the Region's website at **niagararegion.ca/projects/niagara-escarpment-crossing**

Stay Connected

Please contact either one of the following Study Team members if you wish to be added to the Study contact list to receive future notifications directly or have any questions or comments on the Study:

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Personal information collected or submitted in writing at public meetings will be collected, used, and disclosed by members of Regional Council and Regional staff in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Questions should be referred to the **Privacy Office** at 905-980-6000, ext. 3779 or **FOI@niagararegion.ca**.

If you require any accommodations in order participate in this study, please contact the **Accessibility Advisory Coordinator** at 905-980-6000 ext. 3252 or **accessibility@niagararegion.ca**.

This notice was first issued on June 27, 2023.