

Wayne Gretzky Parkway North Extension Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Study Purpose:

1. What is the Study about?

The City of Brantford (City) has initiated a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (MCEA) study for the Wayne Gretzky Parkway North Extension (Study). A northern extension of the Wayne Gretzky Parkway was identified in the 2020 Transportation Master Plan to provide optimization of the transportation network as an interregional travel route accessing the provincial highways to and from the north part of the City. The intent of this study is to identify and evaluate alternative solutions/design concepts to improve and expand the overall transportation network and to improve the city and regional traffic in the future.

2. What is the Study scope?

The Study scope involves examining the feasibility of the Wayne Gretzky Parkway extension. The Study will assess the locations, configuration, and specifications of a potential roadway extension along with intersections in the study area. The investigation will identify opportunities to enhance intersection performance for traffic safety, active transportation, and examine road and area drainage, property acquisitions, and environmental impact and mitigation for project implementation.

Environmental Assessment Process:

3. What is the environmental assessment process for this Study?

The MCEA is being undertaken in accordance with the planning process for a Schedule "C" project, as outlined in the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment document (October 2000, as amended in 2007, 2011, 2015 and 2023), which is approved under the Ontario *Environmental Assessment Act*.

4. What studies are being undertaken as part of the project?

As part of this MCEA and the Project Team's ongoing commitment to the environment, studies being undertaken include but are not limited to:

Phase 2:

- Natural Environment Existing Conditions;
- Socio-Economic Impact Assessment;
- Traffic Impact Study;
- Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment;
- Cultural and Built Heritage Assessment (CHRA), and
- Desktop Reviews: Geotechnical, Hydrogeological, Fluvial Geomorphology.

Phase 3:

- Geotechnical Investigation;
- Hydrogeological Investigation;
- Environmental Impact Study (EIS).
- Drainage and Stormwater Management Assessment;
- Property Impact Assessment;
- Air Quality and Emission Assessment including Climate Change Assessment, and
- Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment.

Consultation and Participation:

5. How can I find more information and participate in this Study?

Consultation is an ongoing process, which is an integral and critical component to the project's success. Opportunities for engagement and consultation include, but are not limited to:

- Access to general project information on the City's website: Brantford.ca/WGPExtension
- Inclusion on the Project Contact List to receive regular project updates;
- Receive project specific notifications (via mail or email);
- Newspaper advertisements;
- Attending Public Information Centres;
- Workshop meetings with agencies, stakeholders, impacted property owners, developers and First Nations, and
- Contact one of the Project Team Members identified at the end of the Q&A to submit a comment/concern or to gain more information.

Road Alignment/Transportation/Active Transportation

6. Will the project impact Private Property?

The study is in the preliminary stages and the overall footprint and extent of impacts, if any, will be investigated in next phase of the process.

Throughout the MCEA process, City staff and consultants will need to enter private property to complete several investigations. Preliminary field investigations consist of walking around private property and taking pictures of the natural environment, as well as documenting any archaeological and/or heritage value. The field crews will not be using any equipment during these field investigations (i.e., no shovels or heavy equipment), and will be cognizant of not disturbing your property.

Permission-to-Enter (PTE) consent will be obtained from all affected property owners and developers. No work/field investigations will be undertaken on private property without first obtaining a PTE consent. Private property owner will be notified prior to completing any work/field investigations on property. Individual property owners will be contacted directly with the required field investigations, that impact the respective property.

7. What will be the location of the alignment for the Wayne Gretzky extension?

The project is in its preliminary stage, which consists of identifying and evaluating multiple Alternative Solutions (e.g., do nothing, limiting development, improve alternative roads, extend Wayne Gretzky Parkway North, etc.). During Phase 3 of the EA, Alternative Design Concepts (i.e., alignments) will be identified and evaluated.

8. Will property acquisition be required for the Wayne Gretzky extension?

As stated in answer 6 & 7, the study is in the preliminary stages and the overall footprint and extent of impacts are not yet known. As the project progresses, the number of properties, if any, that need to be fully or partially acquired will be recommended. If acquisition is deemed necessary, the City will meet with individual land owners as early as possible to discuss details to reach amicable agreements.

9. Will the project include Pedestrian, Cycling or other Active Transportation infrastructure?

The study will consider key findings and recommendation of the [City of Brantford's Active Transportation Master Plan Study](#). The Study identifies future extension of Wayne Gretzky

Parkway North as an opportunity to extend the City's Active Transportation network, and the suitability of various facility types will be evaluated following selection of the preferred alternative.

10. How will the Wayne Gretzky Parkway EA be integrated with the planned developments east and west of Park Road North?

The project team is working closely with the developers of the applicable Block Plan applications to coordinate information and development plans. The Wayne Gretzky Parkway North extension is not intended solely for the purposes of servicing the new development but is aimed at improving overall traffic flows in anticipation of the additional developments.

11. Is it possible to construct the road extension for Wayne Gretzky Parkway concurrently with the new school development?

Due to the fast tracking of the new high school development, it will not be possible to align the implementation schedule with this project. The prospective roadway extension is subject to the requirements of the Environmental Assessment process and will therefore follow a separate timeline.

Scheduling/Timing:

12. How long is the Environmental Assessment process expected to last?

The duration of a Schedule C EA is not fixed and can vary depending on several unique factors. In this case, the timeline will be influenced based on regulatory requirements, environmental considerations, and the level of public and stakeholder involvement.

Subject to the study findings and associated MECA requirements, the EA process is expected to conclude in late 2024 or early 2025.

13. What is the estimated timeline for construction?

The study is still in the preliminary studies, and there are many steps to be undertaken prior to construction (e.g., Public Information Centre #1, Public Information Centre #2, preparation of the Environmental Study Report, Notice of Study Completion, Completion of Preliminary Design, etc.). Complete detailed design, costing, phasing, and the implementation plan are subject to the City's capital budget approval, at which time a construction timeline will be identified.

If you have any comments or would like additional information regarding the project works, please visit the project website or contact one of the following Project Team Members:

Guangli Zhang, P.Eng.
Senior Project Manager
City of Brantford
324 Grand River, P.O. Box 818
Brantford, Ontario, N3T 5R7
Phone: 519-759-4150 ext. 5705
WGPExtension@brantford.ca

or

Mehemed Delibasic, P. Eng.
Consultant Project Manager
Egis
6240 Highway 7, Suite 200
Woodbridge, ON L4H 4G3
Phone: 647-463-7993
Mehemed.Delibasic@egis-group.com

Information collected will be used in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Except for personal information, including your name, address and property location, all comments received throughout the study will become part of the public record and included in project documentation. If you have accessibility requirements in order to participate in this project, please contact one of the project team members listed above.