

NOTICE OF PROJECT UPDATE – DECEMBER 2015

Preliminary Design Study and Class Environmental Assessment Highway 15 and County Road 42 Intersection Improvements Township of Rideau Lakes, United Counties of Leeds and Grenville W.P. 4315-06-02

The Study

The **Ministry of Transportation (MTO)** has retained **HDR Corporation (HDR)** to conduct a Preliminary Design Study and Class Environmental Assessment (EA) for improvements to the Highway 15 and County Road 42 intersection in the Township of Rideau Lakes, United Counties of Leeds and Grenville. The study area is presented below. This Preliminary Design Study and Class EA will determine a preferred interim and long-term alternative for intersection improvements at Highway 15 and County Road 42.

The purpose of this notice is to provide project stakeholders, including members of the public and public information centre attendees, with an update on the status of the project and a summary of the 'Next Step' timelines.

Public Consultation

The study team held a public information centre (PIC) on June 24, 2015 from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Portland Community Hall. The purpose of PIC #1 was to present the evaluation methodology and preliminary design alternatives developed for the project through an informal drop-in session, and to provide further opportunities for public involvement.

The PIC was well attended and the study team received great feedback on the project, coming away with a better appreciation of the alternatives presented, and being asked to consider some new alternatives.

Process Update

The study team has spent the summer analysing the input received at PIC #1 and developing a short list of alternatives to carry forward for evaluation. The short list of alternatives was endorsed by the project's Municipal Advisory Committee (MAC) at its December 2015 meeting. Some of the designs on the short list of alternatives fall outside the project's original study area, and the study team doesn't have enough equivalent data to fairly compare the short list of alternatives.

Next Steps

The study team is taking a short break to collect the additional data we need in the Spring of 2016. Once this additional data has been collected the MAC will reconvene to assist the study team in evaluating the short list of alternatives, with the goal of selecting the "technically preferred alternative". The results of the evaluation and the "technically preferred alternative" will be presented at a second public information centre to be held later in 2016.

Comments

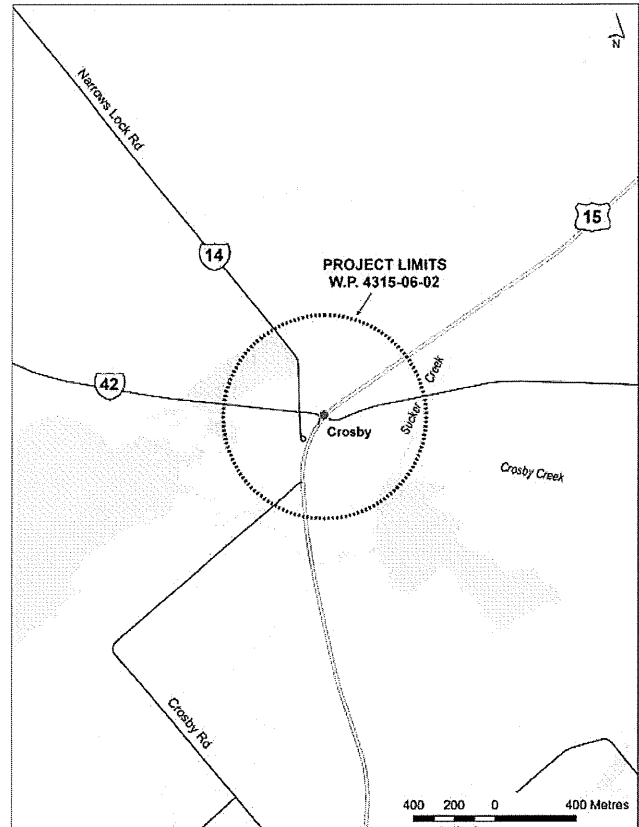
We are interested in any comments you may have about the study. Comments and information regarding this study are being collected to assist the study team in meeting the requirements of the *Environmental Assessment Act*. Information will be collected in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record.

Please send any comments or requests to any of the following:

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If you have any accessibility requirements in order to participate in this study, please contact one of the study team members listed above.