



The Corporation of the Town of Tecumseh

# Transportation Master Plan Study Outline



March 2008

## STUDY PURPOSE

The Town of Tecumseh has experienced significant growth over the past twenty years and is planning for future development in the Maidstone, Oldcastle and Tecumseh Hamlets. Tecumseh's current population is in excess of 25,000 people and it is projected to reach approximately 38,000 people by 2024.

In order to accommodate the projected growth and to meet the transportation needs of the community, the Town of Tecumseh has initiated a Transportation Master Plan that will establish sustainable integrated transportation strategies that consider all modes of travel (automobiles, transit, cycling, walking). Dillon Consulting Limited has been retained to assist the Town in this undertaking.

The study will provide the Town with the strategies and policy directions to manage transportation needs safely, effectively, and cost efficiently while providing Tecumseh residents with a range of transportation choices to meet their needs. Ultimately, the Tecumseh Transportation Master Plan will result in a more livable community that supports the mobility needs of its residents, businesses and visitors in both the rural and urban areas.

## STUDY APPROACH

### Ontario Environmental Assessment Act

The Environmental Assessment (EA) process is a planning tool used to identify the possible adverse effects of proposed municipal infrastructure projects on the environment. The *Ontario Environmental Assessment Act* requires Ontario municipalities to complete an EA when undertaking capital works projects. Municipalities in Ontario have the benefit of using the Municipal Engineers Association's Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (MCEA) process for certain municipal road, water and wastewater projects.

By eliminating or reducing effects on the environment, the municipality can avoid expensive, and sometimes controversial, remedial action once the project has been completed. Over the long term, environmental assessment provides decision makers with the kind of information they need to approve projects that are suitable with a healthy, sustainable environment for both present and future generations.

### Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Process

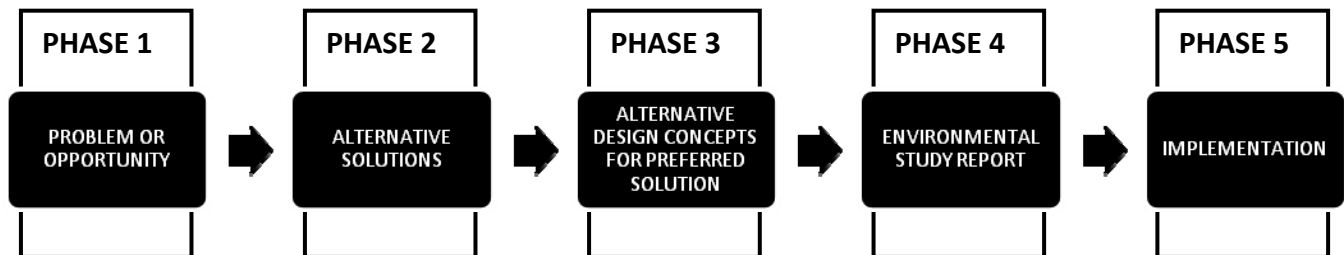
The Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (MCEA) process includes five phases.

- Phase 1      Problems and Opportunities** – Identification and description of problems to be addressed or opportunities to be realized.
- Phase 2      Alternative Solutions** - Identify alternative solutions considering the existing environment and establish a preferred solution taking into account public and agency input.

**Phase 3 Alternative Design Concepts for Preferred Solutions** - Examine alternative methods of implementing the preferred solution based on the existing environment, public and agency input and environmental effects.

**Phase 4 Environmental Study Report** - Document a summary of the rationale and the planning, design and consultation process established through Phases 1 to 3.

**Phase 5 Project Implementation**



This study is being conducted in accordance with the requirements of Phases 1 and 2 of the MCEA process (MEA, amended 2007), which is an open public process under the *Environmental Assessment Act*. The study results can serve as direct input into any subsequent Environmental Assessment studies that may be deemed appropriate. The Tecumseh Transportation Master Plan will define the problems and opportunities, consider and evaluate solutions, and identify an optimum transportation system within the Town of Tecumseh for the 2021 horizon year.

The Master Plan process allows for the development of long range plans which integrate the infrastructure requirements for existing and future land uses with environmental assessment planning principles including public and agency consultation.

## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Specific goals and objectives of the Tecumseh Transportation Master Plan are to:

- Develop a Transportation Master Plan that will address the current transportation issues and develop a long term strategic plan that contributes to the long term transportation sustainability of the Town;
- Encourage an integrated multi modal transportation system that provides for public transit, cycling and pedestrian modes in conjunction with vehicular traffic,
- Identify a public transit plan that meets the needs of the community and will encourage a mode choice shift from automobile use to transit use;
- Explore opportunities to reduce dependency on the automobile through Travel Demand Management measures.

The study will be coordinated with various initiatives, including the completed Essex-Windsor Regional Transportation Master Plan and studies being undertaken by surrounding municipalities, the County of Essex and the Ministry of Transportation to promote consistency with planning strategies and coordination of long term infrastructure planning solutions.

## PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Consultation early in and throughout the process is a key component of environmental assessment planning. A key component of the study will be consultation with interested stakeholders including the public, interest groups and regulatory agencies. The consultation work program has been developed to ensure that all of those with a potential interest in the study have the opportunity to participate and provide input during the process.

Two Public Information Centres (PICs) that will be publicly advertised will be held at key points during the study to provide opportunities for public input and presentation of study findings to date. The PICs will be planned for a weekday evening with a drop-in centre held prior to a formal presentation and question and answer period. Public/stakeholder ideas and comments will be conveyed to the Project Team for review and consideration.

Additional methods of getting involved are provided through the Town's website. The website provides access to the EA process for members of the public unable to attend the PICs.

Comments can be forwarded anytime by mail or e-mail, or in person at the PICs.

The web site address is: <http://www.tecumseh.ca/>

## STUDY SCHEDULE

The proposed work program reflects the study scope, the requirements of the Master Planning Process under the Municipal Class EA and the Town's Terms of Reference for the study.

The following milestones and completion dates have been identified:

Notice of Study Commencement - March 2008  
Public Information Centre # 1 - June 2008  
Public Information Centre # 2 – September 2008  
Completion of Master Plan Report – January 2009

## HOW YOU CAN GET MORE INFORMATION

If you require additional information related to the study or wish to be added to the study mailing list, please contact:

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Dillon Project No. 08-8777-1000



TOWN OF TECUMSEH



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