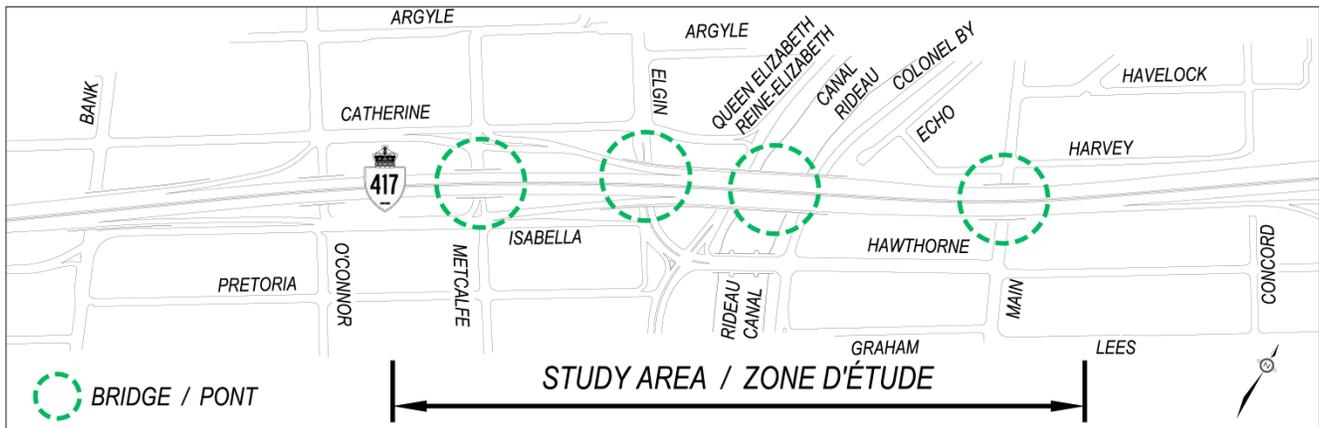


July 12, 2017

Re: Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) – Commencement of Environmental Assessment Study for the Rehabilitation / Replacement of Ottawa Queensway Downtown Bridges, Metcalfe Street to Main Street (G.W.P. 4170-13-00)

THE STUDY

The Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) has retained BT Engineering Inc. (BTE) to undertake a preliminary design and environmental assessment study for the rehabilitation and / or replacement of seven bridges (at four locations) on Highway 417 (Ottawa Queensway) from Metcalfe Street to Main Street, including the Rideau Canal Bridge, in the City of Ottawa. The Queensway Corridor Study Area and the four Local Study Areas are shown on the map below.



The area of study involves three levels of analysis. The “Broader Study Area” includes the geographic area of the City where temporary short term offsite detour routes are being considered to accommodate traffic during freeway closures. The “Immediate Study Area” will focus on the Queensway Corridor generally within or adjacent to the MTO right-of-way that will include the bridge alternatives and possible staging areas for bridge construction sites needed for rapid replacement options. Within this Study Area, “Local Study Areas” have been identified at each of the bridge locations along with potential staging sites necessary for the construction of bridge segments for the rapid replacement options. Environmental inventories and secondary source reviews will be carried out within the limits of the “Immediate and Local Study Areas” and at the potential construction staging sites.

In an effort to maintain safe operations on Highway 417 during the replacement or rehabilitation period for the bridges, several alternatives will be reviewed including structural and construction staging alternatives. In addition, engineering, environmental, and property requirements will be established, along with the identification of mitigation measures to reduce or negate short and long term residual effects.

THE PROCESS

This study will follow the *Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Transportation Facilities (2000)* planning process for a Group "B" project, with the opportunity for external agency and public consultation throughout the project.

Two Public Information Centres (PICs) are planned for this project to provide an opportunity for the public and agencies to provide input and comments on the project, with representatives of the Project Team available to answer questions. PIC No. 1 is expected to be held in the fall of 2017 and will present an assessment of planning solutions (rehabilitation versus replacement) and the preliminary design alternatives. PIC No. 2 is expected to be held in the winter of 2017/2018, and will present the study's technical recommendations and mitigation plan. A letter notifying you of the date, time, and location of the PICs will be sent directly to you along with notification published in the *Ottawa Citizen* and *le Droit* and provided on the project website at: www.queenswaydowntownbridges.com

Upon completion of this study, a Transportation Environmental Study Report (TESR) documenting the anticipated effects of the project and the corresponding mitigation measures will be prepared and made available for a 30-day public review period. A letter notifying you of the TESR Submission will be sent directly to you along with notification published in the *Ottawa Citizen* and *le Droit* and provided on the project website.

To ensure we are using the most current information, we are asking for background data and any pertinent information you may have in the vicinity of the study areas. To maintain our study schedule we are requesting this information or any comments by August 8, 2017.

All information will be collected in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (2009). With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record. If you have any project related questions or concerns, or wish to be removed from the project mailing list, please contact:

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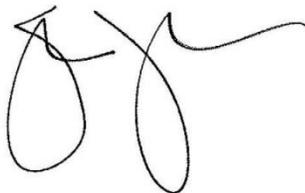
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July 12, 2017

Preliminary Design and Environmental Assessment Study for the Rehabilitation / Replacement
of Ottawa Queensway Downtown Bridges, Metcalfe Street to Main Street (G.W.P. 4170-13-00)

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Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Taylor', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Steve Taylor, P.Eng., BTE
Project Manager

c.c. Dave Lindensmith, Senior Project Engineer, MTO Eastern Region Planning & Design Section
Kevin Ogilvie, MTO Senior Environmental Planner
Gordon Bell, Consultant Environmental Planner