

407 EAST

Environmental Assessment

UPCOMING EVENTS

PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE #2 ROUTE ALTERNATIVES (Alternative Methods)

The Ministry of Transportation (MTO) commenced the 407 East Environmental Assessment (EA) study in February 2005. A series of four Public Information Centres are taking place at key milestones of the EA Study. PIC #2 has been scheduled to present:

- Route alternatives being considered,
- Process for identifying a short list of route alternatives,
- Refined Study Area, and
- General evaluation process for short list route alternatives.

The PICs will be conducted in an open house format. This format provides an opportunity for members of the public to discuss the project and relay comments directly to the study team.

PIC#2 will be held at the following locations:

Wed. November 29, 2006

4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Faith Baptist Church
95 Taunton Road East
Whitby

Thurs. November 30, 2006

4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Ajax Community Centre
HMS Room
75 Centennial Road
Ajax

Tues. December 5, 2006

4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Garnett B Rickard
Recreation Complex
2440 Highway 2
Bowmanville

Wed. December 6, 2006

4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
General Sikorski's Polish
Veteran's Club
1551 Stevenson Road North
Oshawa

Mon. December 11, 2006

4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Peterborough Public Library
345 Aylmer Street North
Peterborough

RECENTLY HELD EVENTS

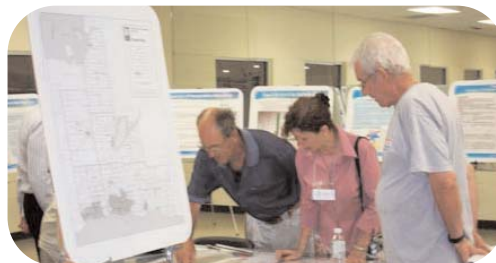
PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE #1 TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES (Alternatives to the Undertaking) May 30th - June 8th 2006

The first set of PICs (PIC #1) held in May and June of 2006, presented the "Transportation Problems and Opportunities" and the assessment and evaluation of the "Alternatives to the Undertaking" (transportation alternatives), which are alternate ways of addressing the transportation needs. A preferred transportation alternative and a preliminary Study Area were presented. The preferred alternative to address long-term transportation needs included the following components:

- A new east-west transportation corridor (highway/transitway) extending Highway 407, from Brock Road in Pickering, to Highway 35/115 in Clarington;
- Two north-south transportation corridors (links) connecting the proposed east-west corridor to Highway 401 in west and east Durham;
- Enhancements to transit;
- Improvements to existing roads (Regional and Provincial); and
- Improvements to existing transportation operations through demand and systems management.

Approximately 260 people attended the PICs. Overall reaction to the preferred transportation alternative was positive. Comments received at the first set of PICs and associated responses are posted on the project website, www.407eastea.com.

The new east-west transportation corridor and the two north-south links have been carried forward to the current route planning phase of the EA.



- Upcoming Events / Public Information Centre # 2
- Recently Held Events / Public Information Centre # 1
- Generation and Assessment of Route Alternatives

- Process Overview for Route Alternatives
- Environmental Fieldwork
- Community Value Plan

- Other News, What's Next?
- How Can I Get More Information?
- Project Contacts

GENERATION AND ASSESSMENT OF ROUTE ALTERNATIVES

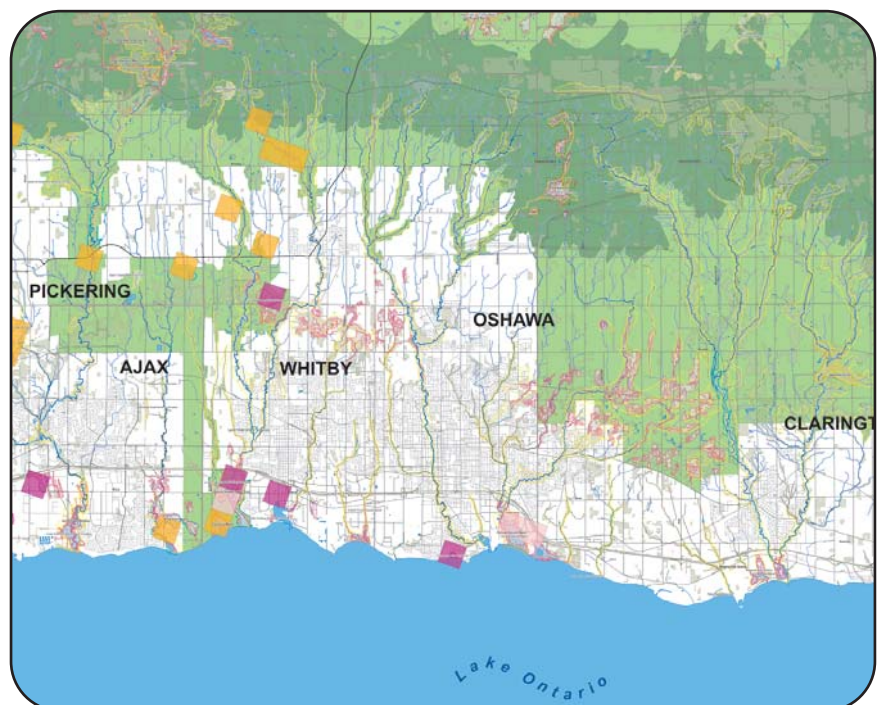
Alternative routes have been generated for the east-west transportation corridor and the two north-south links. The two-stage process is illustrated on Page 3 of this newsletter.

In the first stage of the process, a long list of route alternatives was identified based on the principles outlined in the approved Terms of Reference (November 2004). These principles considered existing and planned population and employment areas; significant natural environmental features, functions and communities; and transportation criteria. The resultant long list of routes included routes generated by the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) from previous studies as well as new routes identified by the Project Team and routes suggested by local municipalities. Constraints within Study Area have also been considered in developing the alternative routes.

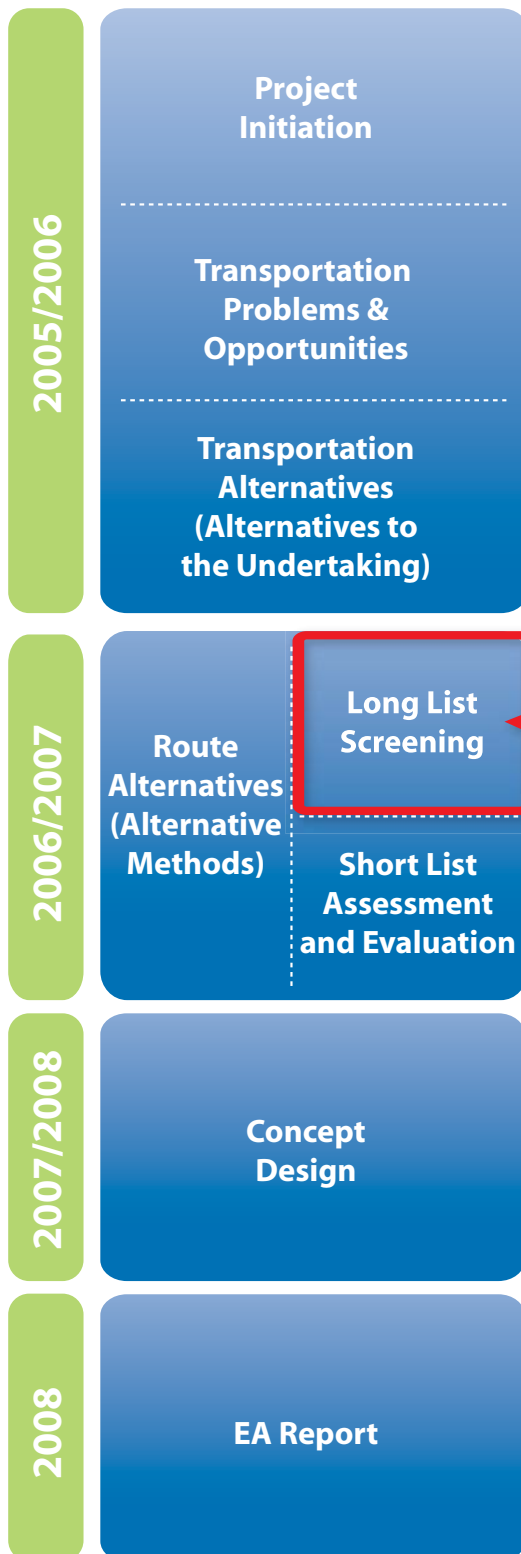
Transportation, natural environment and land use criteria were used in the long list screening process to identify alternatives that were either no longer feasible, and those that were significantly less desirable than other available options.

The screening process and route alternatives will be the focus of PIC #2. After the PIC, the short list of route alternatives will be finalized and carried forward to the next stage of the route alternatives process. These route alternatives will be assessed and evaluated using a broad range of factors and criteria to determine an environmentally and technically preferred route. The preferred route will be the focus of PIC #3 anticipated for late spring 2007.

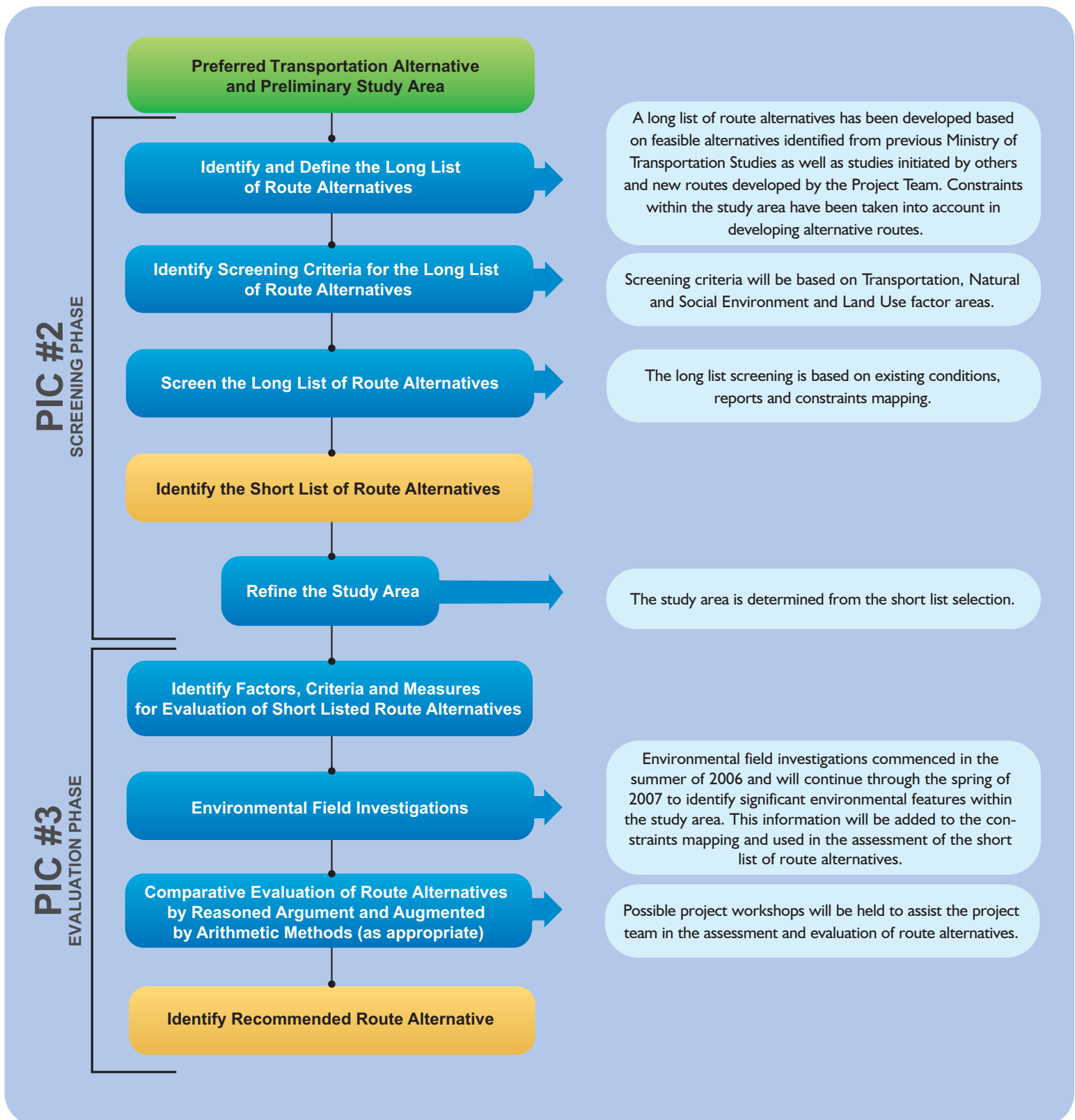
It is important to note that the routes are approximate only, and may be subject to adjustment during stage 2, the evaluation phase, of the process in order to avoid or mitigate effects to the natural, social and built environment. The routes will be finalized upon receipt of comments from the public and agencies.



Significant Natural Environmental Constraints



Process Overview for the Generation, Assessment and Evaluation of Route Alternatives



Environmental Fieldwork - 2006

Environmental fieldwork investigations were initiated in April 2006 based on the Preliminary Study Area presented at PIC #1.

Amphibian surveys were conducted in the evenings between April and June 2006. The most abundant species recorded included the Spring Peeper and American Toad. Both species are both common and widespread in Ontario.

Fish habitat investigations commenced in September and were completed at the end of October. The assessment of fish habitat was being performed for stream segments in order to document physical habitat conditions at sites throughout the study area.

Breeding bird surveys are planned for mid May to early July in 2007, which coincides with the breeding season.

Vegetation investigations involve both the classification of vegetation units using the standardized format known as Ecological Land Classification (ELC) and the identification of rare flora species. Vegetation surveys were conducted throughout September and October. Some areas will be revisited in the spring of 2007.

For more information on survey protocol for amphibians, fish habitat and vegetation please obtain a copy of the 407 East Factsheet on "Environmental Fieldwork".



Community Value Plan

The Community Value Plan (CVP) is an innovative concept being proposed for the 407 East EA. Its purpose is to identify and consider the values of potentially affected communities during the concept design of the preferred route.

Community representatives will assist the Project Team in identifying the key values regarding what they believe is important in retaining the qualities of the natural and built environment in their vicinity. These values will be identified, evaluated and prioritized through discussions and a workshop, in order to develop potential project solutions together that will preserve and/or enhance community character.

The resulting CVP document will be made available at future PICs, workshops and on the project website. As the project evolves and if the process is modified, the CVP will be updated accordingly.

OTHER NEWS

- New fact sheets regarding Natural Environment Fieldwork and Wildlife have been added to the website and will be available at the future PICs.

WHAT'S NEXT?

- Confirm short list of route alternatives
- Carry out evaluation of short list of Route Alternatives
- Hold workshops to obtain public input on short list and community values
- Select a preferred alternative.

HOW CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION OR COMMENT ON THE STUDY?

Your comments and questions are always welcome and can be submitted at any time during the Environmental Assessment process. Your interest in this study is greatly appreciated.

All stakeholders and interested members of the public, who are on our contact mailing list from PIC #1 will once again receive a mailed invitation to attend PICs. If you are new to the area, or know someone who would be interested in being added to the mailing list, please contact the project team through the phone/address at the right of this newsletter, and watch for upcoming information.

Project Contacts

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Visit our project website for regular updates and notices of events:
www.407eastea.com

Get Involved... Be involved... Stay involved.