

WCC Update – February 6, 2007

The Provincial Government is now proposing to study some of the same area the ARL/Georgetown corridor is studying through yet another Environmental Assessment, the GTA West Transportation EA. This EA is purportedly to study the transportation options for moving goods and people from the Kitchener/Waterloo/Cambridge/Guelph area to Toronto. Of course the rail line serving that area, which will be a focus of that study, comes directly through Weston.

As with the 427 corridor rapid transit study announced almost 2 years ago now, and still in progress, the latest study has no project or plan attached to it. It is just an EA to study the area. There is no focus or specific solution attached to the study, but it refers to the new 'Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe (GGH)' as its operative plan. Unfortunately, the Growth Plan itself has no specific projects or plans, but is a generalized statement of intent, suggesting obvious issues, like we need better public and goods transportation in the GGH.

So now we have three different EA's studying the same issues. The GO Transit EA, the 427 Corridor EA, and the GTA West EA. Only one of them has a specific project in mind. The others appear to be some form of public consultation that will end in projects (the cart before the horse). Interestingly, it is the same consulting firm (McCormick Rankin) which is conducting all three studies.

As a result we have written to Ministers Cansfield (Transportation), Broten (Environment) and Caplan (Public Infrastructure Renewal), asking that they put an end to the proliferation of EA's and come clean with any projects they have in mind so we can properly study them, and stop using the EA process as a public consultation device for determining strategies or hiding planned projects.

The GTA West website is www.gta-west.com. Copies of its purpose page and our letter to the ministers are on our website www.westoncommunitycoalition.ca .

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