

Powerline Road Transportation Capacity Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Study Purpose:

1. What is the Study about?

The City of Brantford (City) has initiated a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment study (Study) for improvements to Powerline Road, from Paris Road to the east municipal boundary. As identified in the 2020 TMP, Powerline Road is forecast to experience significant growth in traffic volumes over the coming years that will result in the majority of Powerline Road approaching or exceeding capacity during the future 2051 planning horizon. The Study will identify solutions to address future capacity constraints along Powerline Road.

2. What is the Study scope?

The Study scope will investigate opportunities to enhance traffic safety, improve multi-modal transportation infrastructure (including active transportation), assess intersection configuration and specifications (including potential roundabouts), improve City and inter-regional traffic operations, and support new growth in the expansion lands. The Study will identify and evaluate alternative solutions and design concepts to address transportation capacity constraints along Powerline Road to accommodate future growth to the 2051 planning horizon.

Environmental Assessment Process:

3. What is the environmental assessment process for this Study?

This Study is being undertaken in accordance with the planning process for a Schedule "C" project, as outlined in the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment document (October 2000, as amended 2007, 2011, 2015 and 2023), which is approved under the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act. Further information on the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment process is available at www.municipalclassea.ca

4. What studies are being undertaken as part of the project?

Studies being undertaken include, but are not limited to, the following:

Phase 2 (ongoing):

- Transportation Impact Study;
- Natural Heritage Assessment – Existing Conditions;
- Socio-Economic Impact Assessment;
- Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment;
- Cultural and Built Heritage Assessment (CHAR);
- Fluvial Geomorphology and Culvert Crossings Assessment;
- Source Water Protection Review, and
- Desktop Reviews: Geotechnical and Hydrogeological.

Phase 3:

- Geotechnical Investigation;
- Hydrogeological Investigation;
- Environmental Impact Study (EIS);
- Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment;
- Drainage and Stormwater Management Assessment;
- Property Impact Assessment;
- Air Quality and Emission Assessment including Climate Change Assessment, and
- Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment.

Consultation and Participation:

5. How can I find more information and participate in this Study?

Consultation is an ongoing process, which is an integral and critical component to the project's success. Access to general project information can be found on the City's website:

Brantford.ca/PowerlineRoadEA. Opportunities for engagement and consultation include, but are not limited to:

- Inclusion on the Project Contact List to receive regular project updates (via mail or email);
- Attending Public Information Centres; and
- Contact one of the Project Team Members identified at the end of the FAQ Document to submit a comment/concern or to request more information.

Road Network/Transportation/Active Transportation

6. Will the project impact Private Property?

The study is in the preliminary stages and the overall footprint and extent of impacts, if any, will be investigated in the next phase of the process.

Throughout the Study, City staff and consultants may need to enter private property to complete several investigations. Permission-to-Enter (PTE) consent will be obtained from all affected property owners and developers. No work/field investigations will be undertaken on private property without first obtaining a PTE consent. Private property owners will be notified prior to completing any work/field investigations on private property. Individual property owners will be contacted directly with details on required field investigations that impact their property.

7. Will property acquisition be required for Powerline Road?

The study is in the preliminary stages and the overall footprint and extent of impacts are not yet known. As the project progresses, the number of properties, if any, that need to be fully or partially acquired will be recommended. If acquisition is deemed necessary, the City will meet with individual landowners as early as possible to discuss details to reach amicable agreements.

8. Will the project include Pedestrian, Cycling or other Active Transportation infrastructure along the Powerline corridor?

The City of Brantford undertook a review of active transportation as part of the 2020 Transportation Master Plan (TMP), which included an assessment of pedestrian and planned cycling infrastructure. The development of the Active Transportation Master Plan (ATMP) supports the TMP recommendations by addressing pedestrian and cycling mobility in more detail.

This Study will consider key findings and recommendations of the ATMP and TMP and will identify opportunities to extend the City's Active Transportation Network along Powerline Road.

9. How are ongoing studies and infrastructure improvements being coordinated with construction of the new Catholic High School on Powerline Road?

Available information from the ongoing high school development has been incorporated into the study to accurately reflect future conditions and anticipated traffic patterns in the area. The high school is anticipated to be constructed and in operation before implementation of the findings from the Powerline Road study. For questions related to the high school development, please contact Planning and Development Services.

10. How will the City ensure safe access for students, bus parking, access during construction, etc. along Powerline Road for the new Catholic High School until the completion of Powerline Road?

The high school development is following the Site Plan Approval process and is subject to review and approval by Planning and Development Services at the City of Brantford. Planning and Development Services staff are currently working with the Catholic School Board regarding several improvements to Powerline Road in the vicinity of the high school, such as turning lanes, traffic signals, sidewalks, multi-use paths, etc. to support safe access and increased traffic volumes. Improvements approved through the Site Plan Approval process will be constructed in conjunction with the high school development. For questions related to the high school development, please contact Planning and Development Services.

11. How will increased noise be mitigated?

A Noise Study is being completed as part of the EA process. This study will help identify any potential impacts and how to effectively mitigate them as part of Powerline Road infrastructure improvements. Detailed mitigation measures will be determined during Phase 3 once the recommended Preferred Design Concept has been identified.

12. How will increased traffic congestion be mitigated?

A detailed Traffic Impact Study is being completed as part of the EA process. This study will help identify any potential impacts and how to effectively mitigate them as part of Powerline Road infrastructure improvements. Identified mitigations measures will be considered during Phase 3 once the Preferred Solution is determined.

13. Will the project include intersection improvements?

Several investigations will be undertaken to aid in the development and evaluation of various alternative solutions/conceptual designs. A Traffic Impact Study will be complete to provide recommendations for infrastructure improvements along Powerline Road corridor which will include all existing intersections.

14. Are roundabouts being implemented? If so, how will consideration be given to transport trucks and farming equipment being able to navigate roundabouts?

The Study is in the preliminary stages and a number of investigations are being undertaken to aid in the development and evaluation of various alternative solutions/conceptual designs. A Traffic Impact Study will be completed to provide recommendations for infrastructure improvements along the Powerline Road corridor, and the evaluation will consider the implementation of roundabouts where they are warranted.

In accordance with the City of Brantford policy, roundabouts will be considered as an alternative to signalized and all-way stop-controlled intersections where appropriate design standards can be met and operational, safety and financial benefits are expected. As part of the review of potential alternatives, design consideration will be given to the movement of applicable design vehicles (farm equipment, transport trucks, etc.) through existing/new intersections, as well as along the travel corridors of other connection roadways.

Utilities and Infrastructure

15. Will the project impact the existing utilities along Powerline Road?

The study is in the preliminary stages and will assess existing conditions of the Powerline Road corridor to aid in the development of proposed alternative solutions and design concepts, as well as how to mitigate any impacts to the natural, and socio-economic environment including existing utilities. Utility companies have been and will continue to be engaged as part of consultation process to identify opportunities for collaboration.

16. Will the scope of the study include sanitary sewer or watermain infrastructure along Powerline Road?

The Powerline Road Transportation Capacity Environmental Assessment will not be assessing the extension of sanitary and/or water infrastructure. The study is focused primarily on transportation improvements within the corridor.

Scheduling/Timing:

17. How long is the Environmental Assessment process expected to last?

The duration of a Schedule “C” EA is not fixed and can vary depending on several unique factors. In this case, the timeline will be influenced based on regulatory requirements, environmental considerations, and the level of public and stakeholder involvement.

The Study is expected to conclude mid to late 2025.

18. What is the estimated timeline for construction?

The study is still in the preliminary stages, and there are many steps to be undertaken prior to construction, including completion of the Environmental Assessment, preliminary and detailed design, etc. A construction timeline cannot be provided at this time, as schedule could vary widely based on the Preferred Solution and Design determined through this Study and will be subject to the City’s capital budget approval.

If you have any comments or would like additional information regarding the project works, please visit the project website or contact one of the following Project Team Members:

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