The Ministry of Transportation (MTO) is undertaking the Highway 7 & 8 Transportation Corridor Planning and Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) Study, from Greater Stratford to the New Hamburg Area. The purpose of the study is to prepare a long-term strategy to address the identified transportation needs for the Analysis Area and prepare a preliminary design for the provincial roadway components of the recommended plan.

This is the fourth in a series of newsletters that will be released over the course of the Highway 7 & 8 Transportation Corridor Planning and Class EA Study. During the lifespan of the Planning and Class EA Study, the newsletters will explain where we are in the study process, provide a status update, and describe the activities that are taking place. Each newsletter will also notify you of events and documents that will be available for review. Our study team appreciates your interest and we trust that you will find these newsletters to be a valuable information resource as the study proceeds.

### STUDY UPDATE

Over the last year, Public Information Centres #2, #2B and #2C were held, at which MTO presented an initial and revised “long list” of corridor alternatives; the screening of this long list, which resulted in an initial and expanded “short list” of corridor alternatives; and the process and criteria to be used to evaluate this short list. The revision and expansion of these lists were made in response to input received from stakeholders.

The study team thanks all stakeholders and members of the public who have participated in the study process to-date. Your input is an important component of the study process.

### NEXT STEPS

Following the September 30, 2009 submission date for stakeholders to review and comment on the material presented at PIC #3, the study team will:

- review and respond to all comments received through the consultation process for PIC #3;
- finalize the preferred corridor;
- undertake the assessment and evaluation of the widening / route alternatives within the preferred corridor and; and
- commence the public consultation process for PIC #4 (tentatively scheduled for late Fall 2009).

### WORKSHOPS

The study team may conduct future workshops or special meetings to address specific study issues. If you are interested in participating in a workshop or special meeting please contact the study team at the contact information below. Please note that workshop participants may be selected to ensure a representative cross section of geographic interests and community perspectives.

### STUDY CONTACTS

Your comments and questions are always welcome and can be submitted at any time during the Class EA process. To have your name added to the study mailing list, please contact:

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REVISED STUDY PROCESS

Major study phases, reports and formal points of contact are shown in the following diagram:

The Preferred Corridor is subject to refinement/changes based on feedback from the PIC#3 consultation process.