

## The Windsor-Essex Parkway - What's Happening in 2010

Over the course of 2010 many activities will take place leading up to the start of full construction of The Windsor-Essex Parkway in 2011.

### **Initial Construction**

One of the most exciting activities already underway is initial construction which includes the building of two bridges and a noise barrier near the east end of The Windsor Essex Parkway. One bridge is located where Highway 3 will pass over The Windsor-Essex Parkway and the other will carry a future off-ramp from Highway 401 westbound to Highway 3 and the realigned Howard Avenue.

Work began in March on the approximately two kilometre long noise barrier located adjacent to the Southwood Estates community, from Howard Avenue to North Talbot Road. The five metre high noise barrier will provide effective noise mitigation for the community during construction and when the Parkway is open to traffic.

Work on the bridge foundations is currently underway. Initial construction is expected to take one year to complete.

### **Utility Relocation**

The first major utility relocation for The Windsor-Essex Parkway was completed in fall 2009. Two hydro transmission towers were raised near Ojibway Parkway to accommodate vertical clearance requirements for the six-lane freeway west of the future plaza site. Discussions with utility owners in preparation for utility relocations continue. Additional relocations are anticipated throughout 2010.

### **Selection of a Builder**

The Windsor-Essex Parkway will be built using the private sector's expertise and innovation to design, build, finance and maintain The Windsor-Essex Parkway. This is known in Ontario as an Alternative Financing and Procurement (AFP) model. Using the request for qualifications process, three short-listed bidders were announced in October 2009. The request for proposals was released to short-listed bidders in December 2009 and a successful team will be chosen in late 2010 based on the proposals received.

### **Mitigation Measures**

Initial construction includes measures that focus on impacts outlined in the Environmental Assessment Report. Measures include the control of noise and dust and addressing impacts to a small population of Willow Leaf Asters. When full construction begins in 2011, it too will be completed in accordance with commitments documented in the approved Environmental Assessment Report.

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