

Appendix B. Class EA Consultation

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Appendix B.1 Contact List

Indigenous Communities - Contact List

Organisation	Full name	Position	Email	Main address	Main phone
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Indigenous Communities - Contact List

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Provincial Government - Contact List

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Provincial Government - Contact List

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Provincial Government - Contact List

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Upper Thames River Conservation Authority	Michael Funk	Land Use Regulations Officer	funkm@thamesriver.on.ca	1424 Clarke Road London ON N5V 5B9	+1 519 451 2800 ext. 305
Upper Thames River Conservation Authority	Phil Simm	GIS Specialist - Watershed Planning, Research & Monitoring	simmpp@thamesriver.on.ca	1424 Clarke Road London ON N5V 5B9	+1 519 451 2800 ext. 247
Upper Thames River Conservation Authority	Terry Chapman	GIS Specialist - Watershed Planning, Research & Monitoring	chapmant@thamesriver.on.ca	1424 Clarke Road London ON N5V 5B9	+1 519 451 2800 ext. 249

Municipal Government - Contact List

Organisation	Full name	Position	Email	Main address	Main phone
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City of London	Chris McIntosh	Manager, Strategic Lands Engineering	cmcintosh@london.ca	300 Dufferin Avenue London ON N6B 1Z1	+1 519 661 2489 ext. 5862
City of London	Heather McNeely	Director, Planning and Development	hmcneely@london.ca	300 Dufferin Avenue London ON N6B 1Z1	+1 519 661 2489 ext. 5309
City of London	Josh Morgan	Mayor	mayor@london.ca	300 Dufferin Avenue Suite 214	+1 519 661 2489 ext. 4920
City of London	Michael Schulthess	Clerk	askcity@london.ca	300 Dufferin Avenue London ON N6B 1Z1	+1 519 661 2489 ext. 5493
City of London	Planning General Inquiries	General Inquiries Inbox, Planning	plandev@london.ca	300 Dufferin Avenue London ON N6B 1Z1	+1 519 930 3500
City of London	Steven Hillier	Councillor, Ward 14	shillier@london.ca	300 Dufferin Avenue Suite 214	+1 519 661 2489 ext. 4014
City of St. Thomas	Crystal Penney	Planning and Building Services Coordinator	cpenney@stthomas.ca	545 Talbot Street St. Thomas ON N5P 3V7	
City of St. Thomas	Dale Arndt	Airport Manager	darndt@stthomas.ca		519-633-5866
City of St. Thomas	Gary Clark	Councillor	gclarke@stthomas.ca	545 Talbot Street St. Thomas ON N5P 3V7	
City of St. Thomas	Jeff Kohler	Councillor	jkohler@stthomas.ca	545 Talbot Street St. Thomas ON N5P 3V7	
City of St. Thomas	Jim Herbert	Councillor	jherbert@stthomas.ca	545 Talbot Street St. Thomas ON N5P 3V7	
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City of St. Thomas	Lori Baldwin-Sands	Councillor	lbaldwin-sands@stthomas.ca	545 Talbot Street St. Thomas ON N5P 3V7	
City of St. Thomas	Lou Pompili	Director of Planning and Building Services	lpompili@stthomas.ca	545 Talbot Street St. Thomas ON N5P 3V7	+1 519 631 1680 ext. 4211
City of St. Thomas	Maria Konefal	Clerk	mkonefal@stthomas.ca	545 Talbot Street St. Thomas ON N5P 3V7	+1 519 631 1680 ext. 4123
City of St. Thomas	Nathan Bokma	Senior Project Manager, Industrial Development	nbokma@stthomas.ca	545 Talbot Street St. Thomas ON N5P 3V7	
City of St. Thomas	Patrick Anckaert	Manager of Capital Works	panckaert@stthomas.ca	545 Talbot Street St. Thomas ON N5P 3V7	
City of St. Thomas	Rose Gibson	Councillor	rgibson@stthomas.ca	545 Talbot Street St. Thomas ON N5P 3V7	
City of St. Thomas	Sandra Datars Bere	City Manager	sdatarsbere@stthomas.ca	545 Talbot Street PO Box 520	+1 519 631 1680 ext. 4120
City of St. Thomas	Shayne Reitsma	Manager of Development and Compliance	sreitsma@stthomas.ca	545 Talbot Street St. Thomas ON N5P 3V7	+1 519 631 1680 ext. 4151
City of St. Thomas	Steve Peters	Councillor	speters@stthomas.ca	545 Talbot Street St. Thomas ON N5P 3V7	
City of St. Thomas	Steve Wookey	Councillor	swookey@stthomas.ca	545 Talbot Street St. Thomas ON N5P 3V7	

Municipal Government - Contact List

Organisation	Full name	Position	Email	Main address	Main phone
City of St. Thomas	Tara McCaulley	Councillor	tamccaulley@stthomas.ca	545 Talbot Street St. Thomas ON N5P 3V7	
County of Elgin	Andrea Loughlean	Manager of Emergency Management & Elgin-Middlesex Regional Fire School	aloughlean@elgin.ca	450 Sunset Drive St. Thomas ON N5R 5V1	+1 519 631 1460 ext. 123
County of Elgin	Andrew Parker	Manager of Roads	aparker@elgin.ca		
County of Elgin	Blaine Parkin	CAO and Clerk	cao@elgin.ca	10 Wellington St. E. Alliston ON L9R 1A1	+1 519 631 1460
County of Elgin	Blaine Parkin	CAO/Clerk	cao@elgin.ca	10 Wellington St. E. Alliston ON L9R 1A1	+1 519 631 1460
County of Elgin	Grant Jones	Deputy Warden	gjones@elgin.ca	450 Sunset Drive St. Thomas ON N5R 5V1	
County of Elgin	Paul Clarke	Planning Technician	pclarke@elgin.ca	450 Sunset Drive St. Thomas ON N5R 5V1	
County of Elgin	Peter Dutchak	Director, Engineering Services	pdutchak@elgin.ca	450 Sunset Drive St. Thomas ON N5R 5V1	+1 519 631 1460 ext. 124
County of Elgin	Planning Department - Inbox	Planning Department Inbox	planning@elgin.ca	450 Sunset Drive St. Thomas ON N5R 5V1	
London Police Service	Rick Proulx	Facilities Services Manager	rproulx@londonpolice.ca	601 Dundas Street London ON N6B 1X1	+1 519 619 8340
Middlesex County	Chris Traini	County Engineer	ctraini@middlesex.ca	399 Ridout Street North London ON N6A 2P1	
Municipality of Central Elgin	Allison Dennis	Fire Services Coordinator	adennis@centralelgin.org	450 Sunset Drive St. Thomas ON N5R 5V1	+1 519 631 4860 ext. 282
Municipality of Central Elgin	Andrew Sloan	Mayor	asloan@centralelgin.org	450 Sunset Drive St. Thomas ON N5R 5V1	
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Municipality of Central Elgin	David Baughman	Councillor, Ward 5	dbaughman@centralelgin.org	450 Sunset Drive St. Thomas ON N5R 5V1	
Municipality of Central Elgin	David Conners	Councillor, Ward 4	dconners@centralelgin.org	450 Sunset Drive St. Thomas ON N5R 5V1	+1 519 878 2008
Municipality of Central Elgin	Delaney Leitch	Deputy Clerk	deleitch@centralelgin.org		
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Municipality of Central Elgin	Robin Greenall	CAO/Clerk	rgreenall@centralelgin.ca	450 Sunset Drive St. Thomas ON N5R 5V1	+1 519 631 4860 ext. 276
Municipality of Central Elgin	Todd Noble	Deputy Mayor	tnoble@centralelgin.org	450 Sunset Drive St. Thomas ON N5R 5V1	+1 519 868 8355
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Municipal Government - Contact List

Organisation	Full name	Position	Email	Main address	Main phone
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Interest Groups - Contact List

Organisation	Full name	Position	Email	Main address	Main phone
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Badger Infrastructure Solutions	Amanda Hubbard	Strategic Business Development (Middlesex, Elgin, Oxford & Norfolk Counties)	ahubbard@badgerinc.com		647-522-4780
Bell Canada	Patrick Hunt	Project Coordinator	patrick.hunt@bell.ca		519-663-7348
Carolinian Canada Coalition	Michelle Kanter	Executive Director	admin@carolinian.org	Innovation Works 201 King St. E.	+1 519 280 5268
Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario (CFFO)	Jackie Rombouts	Development Relations Coordinator	jackie@christianfarmers.org	642 Woolwich Street Guelph ON N1H 3Y2	+1 519 837 1620 ext. 227
Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario (CFFO)	Mackenna Roth	Marketing Communications Coordinator	mackenna@christianfarmers.org		519-837-1620 ext. 222
Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario (CFFO)	Paul Bootsma	Member Relations Manager, and Field Services Manager (Chatham-Kent)	paul@christianfarmers.org	642 Woolwich Street Guelph ON N1H 3Y2	+1 519 837 1620 ext. 225
Elgin Federation of Agriculture	Mary-Anne Van De Gevel	Board of Directors	elginfarmers@gmail.com		
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Enbridge Gas Inc.	Lisa Dumond	Account Executive	lisa.dumond@enbridge.com		
Enbridge Gas Inc.	Reg Thompson	Business Development Representative	Reg.thompson@enbridge.com		
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Enbridge Gas Inc.	Scott McLean	Corrosion Engineer	Scott.McLean@enbridge.com	101 Honda Boulevard Markham ON L6C 0H9	+1 519 436 4600 ext. 5002043
Entegrus Powerlines Inc.	Crystal Kubu		crystal.kubu@entegrus.com		
Entegrus Powerlines Inc.	Margaret Rodd	Vice President Customer Service, Communications and Enterprise Transformation	margaret.rodd@entegrus.com		
Entegrus Powerlines Inc.	Ryan Karl	-	ryan.karl@entegrus.com		
Entegrus Powerlines Inc.	Tad Goodman	-	tad.goodman@entegrus.com		
Entegrus Powerlines Inc.	Zeeshan Syed	-	zeeshan.syed@entegrus.com		
ERTH Corporation	Chris White	President & CEO	chris.white@erthcorp.com	253 King Street East Ingersoll ON N5C 1H4	
Forbes Bros. Group of Companies	Randy Villeneuve	VP of Operations (Eastern Canada)	rvilleneuve@forbesbrosltd.ca		
Grain Farmers of Ontario	Rachel Telford	Manager of Member Relations	rtelford@gfo.ca	679 Southgate Drive Guelph ON N1G 4S2	
Grain Farmers of Ontario	Scott Persall	Director, District 5 (Elgin and Norfolk)	spersall.sp@gmail.com	679 Southgate Drive Guelph ON N1G 4S2	+1 519 410 1781
Grain Farmers of Ontario	Steve Twynstra	Director, District 4 (Middlesex)	steve@twilightacrefarms.ca	679 Southgate Drive Guelph ON N1G 4S2	+1 519 878 4205
Lake Huron & Elgin Area Water	Andrew Henry	Director, Regional Water	ahenry@huronelginwater.ca		
Lambton Federation of Agriculture	Brian Eves	President	beves.lfa@gmail.com	1601 Lambton Line Wallaceburg ON N8A 4L2	+1 519 784 8207
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Marcie Zajdeman Energy Lawyer	Marcie Zajdeman	Energy Lawyer	antmar@rogers.com	525 Old Orchard Grove Toronto ON M5M 2G3	+1 416 574 1612
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National Farmers Union (NFU)	Max Hansgen	Ontario President & Region 3 Coordinator	president@nfuontario.ca	5420 ON-6	
Ontario Federation of Agriculture	Angela Cammaert	Director At Large	angela.cammaert@ofa.on.ca		
Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA)	Carol Verstraete	Member Service Representative, Zone 1 (Essex, Kent)	carol.verstraete@ofa.on.ca	2200 Hanlon Creek Boulevard Guelph ON N1C 0A1	+1 519 809 3040
Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA)	Crispin Colvin	Zone Director (Zone 6 - Lambton-Middlesex)	Crispin.Colvin@ofa.on.ca	200 Hanlon Creek Boulevard Guelph ON N1C 0A1	

Interest Groups - Contact List

Organisation	Full name	Position	Email	Main address	Main phone
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Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA)	Karen McLean	Member Service Representative, Zone 6 (Lambton, Middlesex))	karen.mclean@ofa.on.ca	60 Sunset Avenue Watford ON N0M 2S0	+1 519 918 4470
Ontario Federation of Agriculture	Laura Fraser	Member Service Representative, Zone 4 (Elgin,	laura.fraser@ofa.on.ca		519-617-7176
Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA)	Louis Roesch	Director, Zone 1 (Chatham-Kent and Essex County)	louis.roesch@ofa.on.ca	200 Hanlon Creek Boulevard Guelph ON N1C 0A1	+1 519 351 7711
Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA)	Tracey Arts	Director, Zone 4 (Elgin and Oxford)	tracey.arts@ofa.on.ca	100 Stone Road West Suite 206	
Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers (OGVG)	Aaron Coristine	Science, Regulatory Affairs & Government Relations Manager	a.coristine@ontariogreenhouse.com	32 Seneca Road, Ontario,	+1 519 326 2604 ext. 205
Ontario Nature	Caroline Schultz	Executive Director	carolines@ontarionature.org	214 King Street Suite 612	+1 416 444 8419
Ontario Nature	Dr. Anne Bell	Director - Conservation and Education	anneb@ontarionature.org	214 King Street Suite 612	+1 416 444 8419
Rogers Communications	Ahleam Halbouni	-	Ahleam.Halbouni@rci.rogers.com		
Rogers Communications	Foster Cordrey	-	Foster.Cordrey@rci.rogers.com		
Rogers Communications	Gavin Meaker	System Planner	Gavin.Meaker@rci.rogers.com	800 York Street London ON N5W 2S9	+1 519 660 7556
Rogers Communications	Rogers Communications Permit Coordinator Inbox	Permit Coordinator Inbox	SWOGR.PERMITS@rci.rogers.com		
Rogers Communications	Ryan Figueiredo	OPE Manager	Ryan.Figueiredo@rci.rogers.com		
Siskinds LLP	Andrea Edward	Legal Counsel	andrea.edward@siskinds.com		
Siskinds LLP	Paula Lombardi	Legal Counsel	paula.lombardi@siskinds.com	275 Dundas Street London ON N6B 3L1	+1 519 660 7878
Southwestern Ontario Student Transport Services	Carol Rossi	Assistant to the CAO	crossi@mybigyellowbus.ca	1250 Dundas Street London ON N5W 5P2	+1 519 649 1160 ext. 221
Southwest Ontario Tourism Corporation (SWOTC)	Joanne Wolnik	Executive Director	joanne@swotc.ca	622 Dundas St. Suite 138	
Start Communications	Bill Shewfelt	-	Bill.Shewfelt@team.start.ca		
St. Thomas and District Horticultural Society	Jean-Marie Steward	President	jeanmarie.steward@gmail.com	35781 Fingal Line Fingal ON N0L 1K0	+1 519 913 3721
St. Thomas Economic Development Corp.	Mike Kerkvliet	Manager of Business Development & Entrepreneurship	mkerkvliet@stthomas.ca		226-377-0064
St. Thomas Economic Development Corp.	Sean Dyke	-	sdyke@stthomas.ca	545 Talbot Street St. Thomas ON N5P 3V7	+1 519 319 9604
St. Thomas Field Naturalist Club	St. Thomas Field Naturalist	General Inbox	stfnc_news@runbox.com		

Appendix B.2. Compiled Consultation Materials

St. Thomas Line Project

Notice of Commencement and Community Open House #1

Class Environmental Assessment for a new transmission line to power the electric vehicle battery manufacturing facility and support future growth

January 2024

Hydro One is committed to energizing life for communities, people, and businesses across Ontario. As industry grows, so does the need for safe and reliable power. Last year, Volkswagen Group announced that PowerCo Canada Inc. will build its largest electric vehicle battery cell manufacturing plant in the City of St. Thomas. To meet the electricity demands for this facility and support future growth in the region, Hydro One is proposing to construct a new 230-kilovolt double-circuit transmission line that will extend from our existing transmission corridor north of Highway 401 in the City of London to the new Centennial Transformer Station in St. Thomas.

Environmental Assessment Process and Route Alternatives

The proposed project will follow the "Class Environmental Assessment for Minor Transmission Facilities" (Class EA for MTF, 2022), established in accordance with the *Ontario Environmental Assessment Act*. This planning process applies to transmission infrastructure projects that are carried out routinely and have predictable environmental effects that can be readily managed.

As part of this process, Hydro One has identified three route alternatives, along with variations, for the proposed new transmission line, as shown on the reverse map and in greater detail at HydroOne.com/StThomasLine. These route alternatives were identified by mapping out technical, socio-economic, and natural environment constraints and identifying potential opportunities to parallel linear infrastructure. As part of the Class EA, each route alternative will be studied and evaluated to ultimately select a preferred route for the new line.



See reverse for map

All personal information included in your request – such as name, address, telephone number and property location – is collected, under the authority of section 30 of the Environmental Assessment Act and is collected and maintained for the purpose of creating a record that is available to the general public. As this information is collected for the purpose of a public record, the protection of personal information provided in the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA) does not apply (s.37). Personal information you submit will become part of the available public record unless you request that your personal information remain confidential.



We'd like to hear from you

Early, meaningful and open engagement is a top priority for Hydro One. Receiving feedback from Indigenous communities, residents, businesses, government agencies, and interest groups will be instrumental to inform all aspects of the Class EA. We invite you to join our upcoming **Community Open House #1** to learn more about the project, ask our team questions and provide input.

February 21, 2024

3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
St. Anne's Parish Centre
20 Morrison Drive
St. Thomas

February 22, 2024

3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Belmont Arena & Community Centre
14020 Belmont Road
Belmont

We're Here to Help

If you would like any further information or have any questions, please contact Community Relations at:



1.877.345.6799



Community.Relations
@HydroOne.com

Visit our project website
to learn more:
[HydroOne.com/
StThomasLine](https://HydroOne.com/StThomasLine)

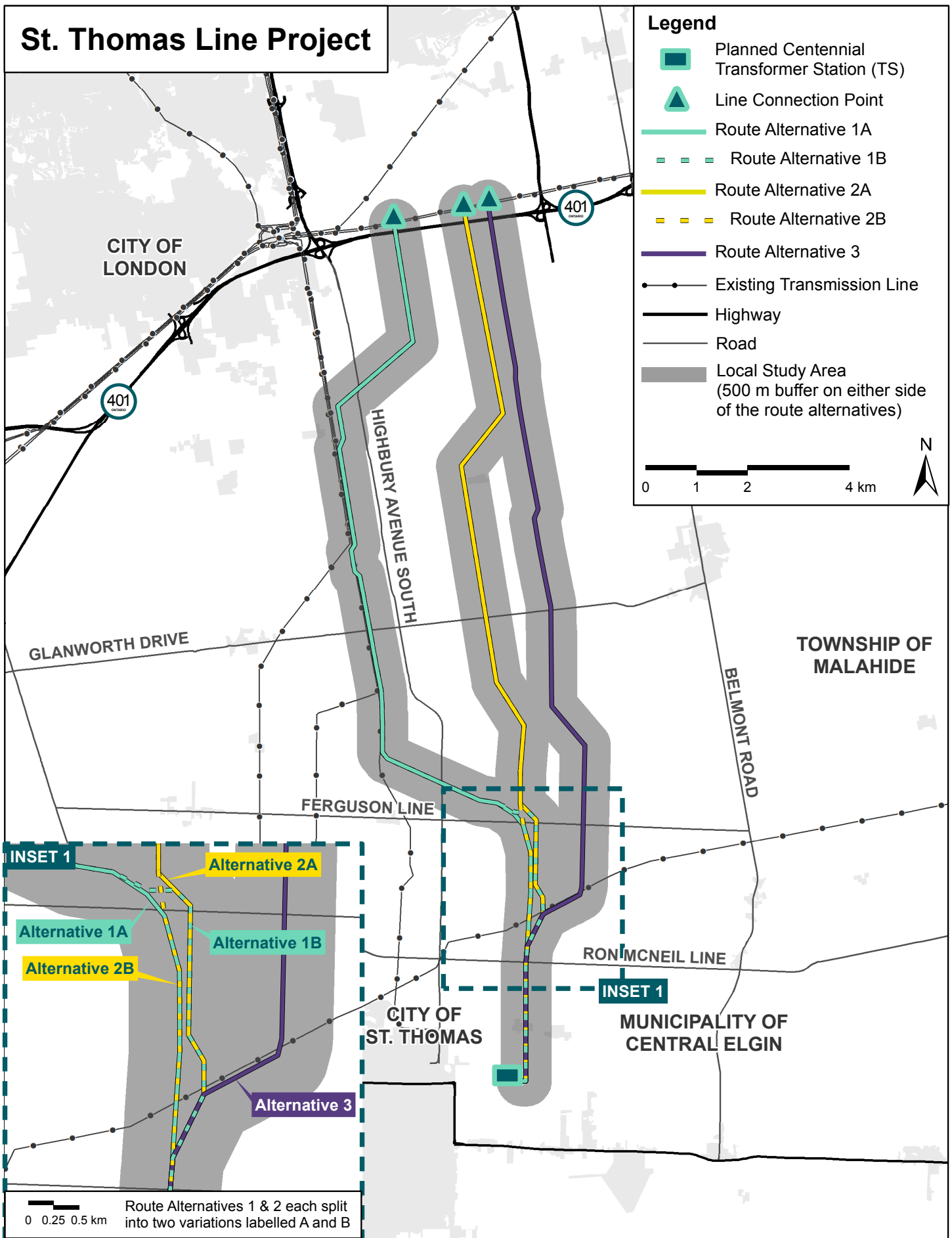


St. Thomas Line Project

Legend

-  Planned Centennial Transformer Station (TS)
-  Line Connection Point
-  Route Alternative 1A
-  Route Alternative 1B
-  Route Alternative 2A
-  Route Alternative 2B
-  Route Alternative 3
-  Existing Transmission Line
-  Highway
-  Road
-  Local Study Area (500 m buffer on either side of the route alternatives)

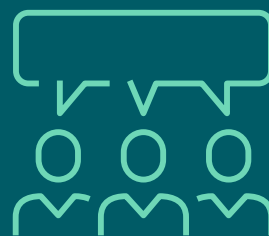
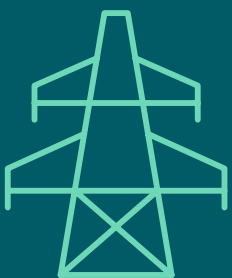
0 1 2 4 km



0 0.25 0.5 km Route Alternatives 1 & 2 each split into two variations labelled A and B

Welcome

St. Thomas Line Project Community Open House #1

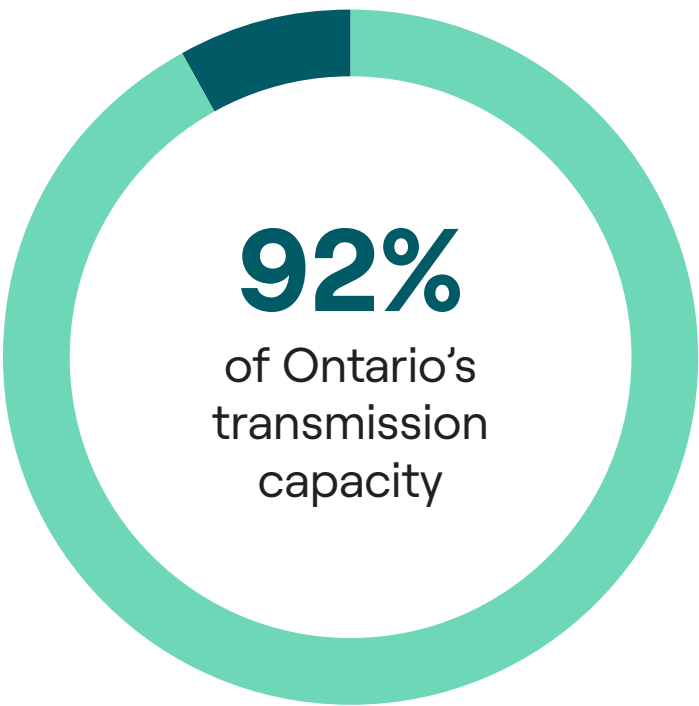


Why We're Here

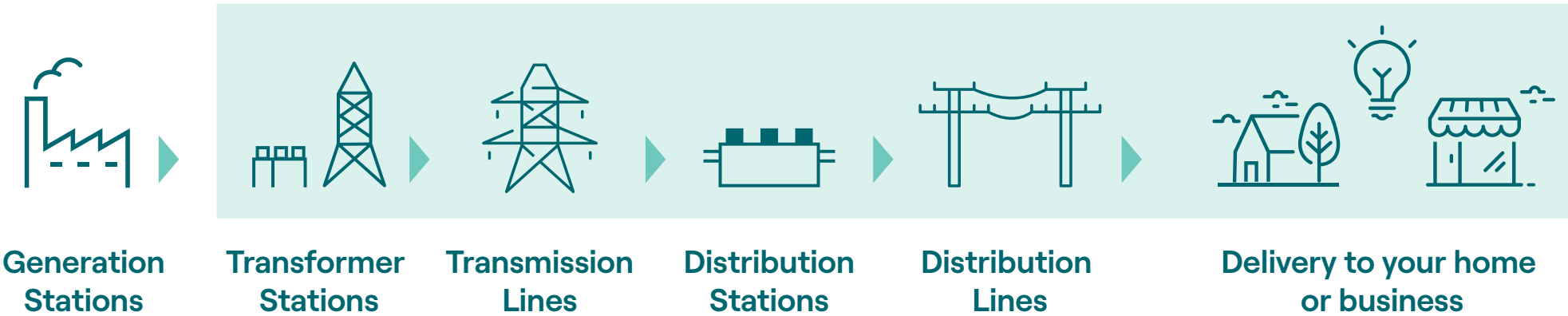
- Introduce the new transmission line project needed to energize the planned electric vehicle battery cell manufacturing facility
- Discuss the Class Environmental Assessment process
- Share details on the proposed route alternatives and the route selection process
- Present key milestones and next steps
- Answer questions and gather your feedback

How the System Works

Our team of approximately 9,300 skilled and dedicated employees proudly build and maintain a safe and reliable electricity system which is essential to energizing life in communities across the province.



Hydro One's Role in the Ontario Electric System



Energizing New Industry

As southwest Ontario continues to attract large investment to the region, we are committed to providing the power needed to support economic growth while continuing to provide reliability for homes and businesses.

The new St. Thomas Line Project will connect PowerCo Canada Inc's (owned by Volkswagen Group) largest electric vehicle battery cell manufacturing facility in North America to Ontario's clean energy grid.

To energize the future facility, Hydro One is commencing a Class Environmental Assessment for a 230-kilovolt double-circuit transmission line that will extend approximately 20 kilometres from the existing transmission line north of Highway 401 in the City of London to the planned Centennial Transformer Station (TS) in the City of St. Thomas.

This line is the second project Hydro One has commenced to meet the energy needs of the new facility – which is equivalent to energizing a city the size of Windsor.



Class Environmental Assessment

The Class Environmental Assessment (EA) for Minor Transmission Facilities (2022) is the first step towards completing the planning for this important project.

This process applies to transmission infrastructure projects that are carried out routinely and have predictable environmental effects that can be readily managed to ensure that potential effects are thoroughly considered before a project begins.

Key Components of a Class EA

- Consultation with Indigenous communities, property owners, community members, elected officials, interest groups and government agencies
- Collection of environmental (natural and socio-economic) data
- Identification and evaluation of alternative methods (ex. route alternatives)
- Identification of potential effects and mitigation measures
- Selection of a preferred alternative (ex. preferred route)
- A draft Environmental Study Report (ESR) made available for public review and comment period
- Submission of Final ESR and Statement of Completion to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation, and Parks

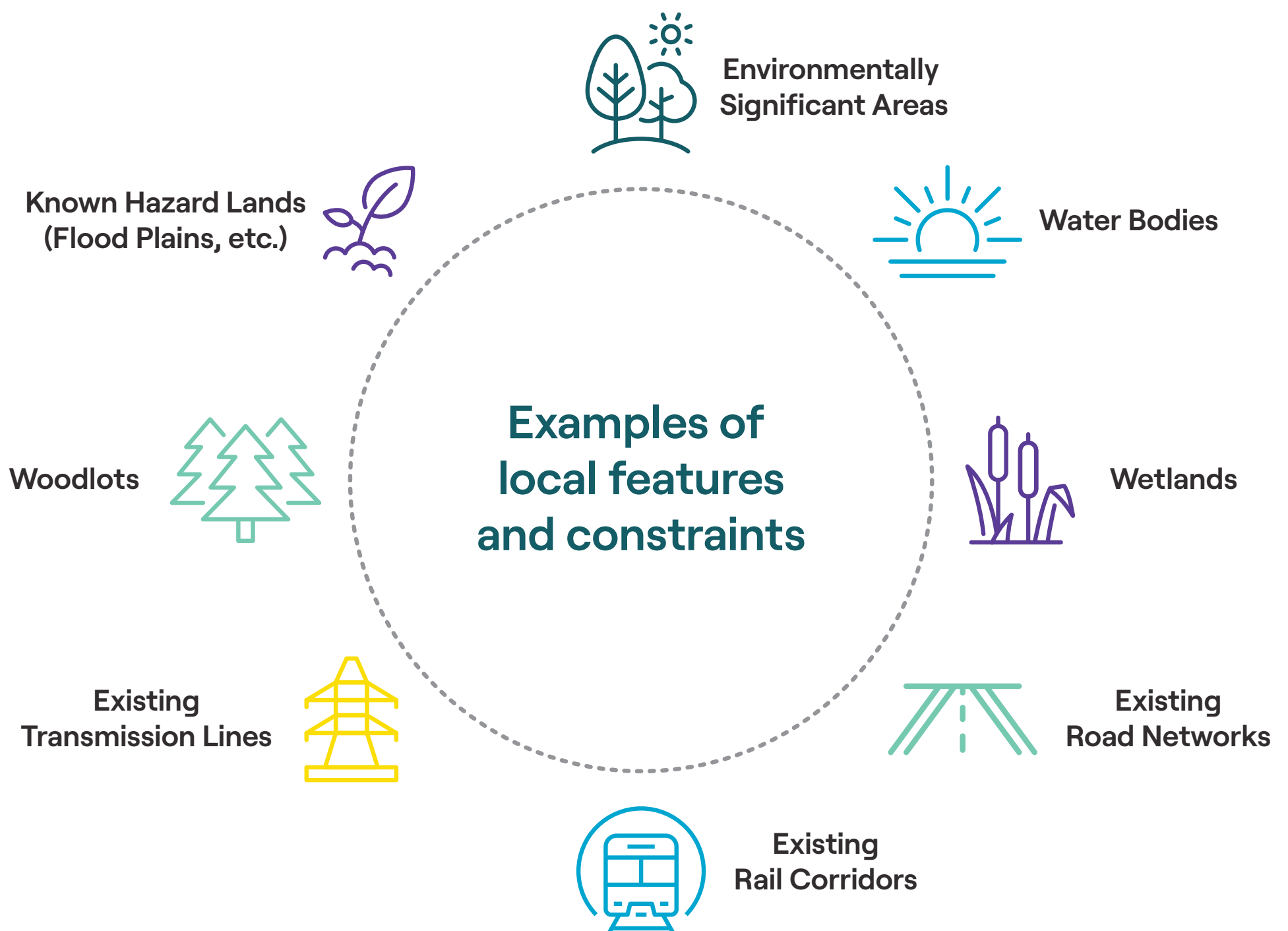
For more information, please see our handout or visit HydroOne.com/ClassEA



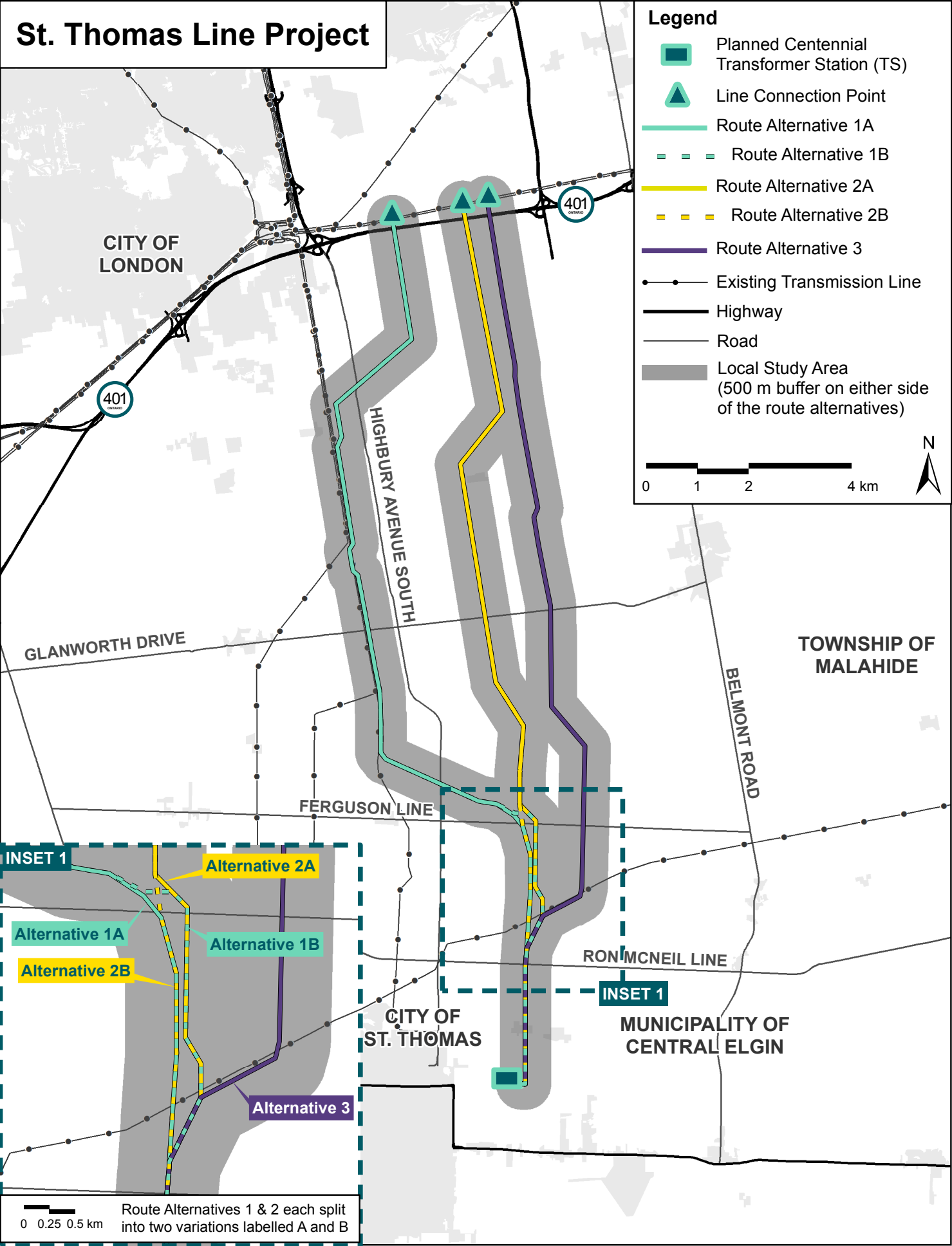
How We Got Here

Hydro One conducted a preliminary assessment to identify feasible route alternatives for the new transmission line.

This involved mapping out known environmental and technical features and constraints and identifying opportunities to parallel existing linear infrastructure where feasible.



Routes We're Studying



See our table maps for more detailed information.

Selecting the Preferred Route

Over the course of the Class EA, we will focus on studying and learning more about each route alternative by collecting data from a variety of sources, conducting environmental surveys and technical assessments, and holding a wide range of engagement opportunities to gather input and feedback. Through this process, we will evaluate and compare the advantages and disadvantages of each route based on criteria in the four categories below.



Natural Environment

- Vegetation
- Waterbodies and aquatic habitat
- Terrestrial wildlife habitat
- Species at risk/sensitive species
- Wetlands, natural hazards and floodplain areas



Socio-economic environment

- Agricultural resources and operations
- Residential properties
- Commercial, industrial, institutional, recreational and other business and facilities
- Source water protection and groundwater wells
- Archeological or built heritage resources



Indigenous culture, values and land use

- Indigenous interests (cultural sites, traditional areas, historic lands and resources)



Technical and cost

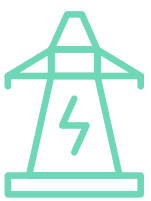
- Line length and angles
- Crossings of existing infrastructure
- Real estate and land rights considerations
- Construction complexity

Building the New Line

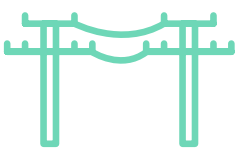
Building the new proposed transmission line will include:



Attaining property rights to construct a new transmission corridor approximately 46 meters (150 feet) wide and 20 kilometers long.



Installing new towers and wires that could carry a voltage of up to 230 kilovolts. This includes creating access roads and construction areas.



Connecting the new line to the planned Centennial TS located in the City of St. Thomas' industrial park to the existing transmission line north of Highway 401 in the City of London.



Restoring construction areas to their pre-construction state.



Working with Property Owners

Our team has a long history of building new transmission projects and working closely with property owners.

Throughout the planning and delivery of the project we will:



Engage with owners to discuss how the transmission line may intersect with their properties.



Understand existing conditions and work with owners to ensure feedback is taken into consideration as part of our route evaluation.

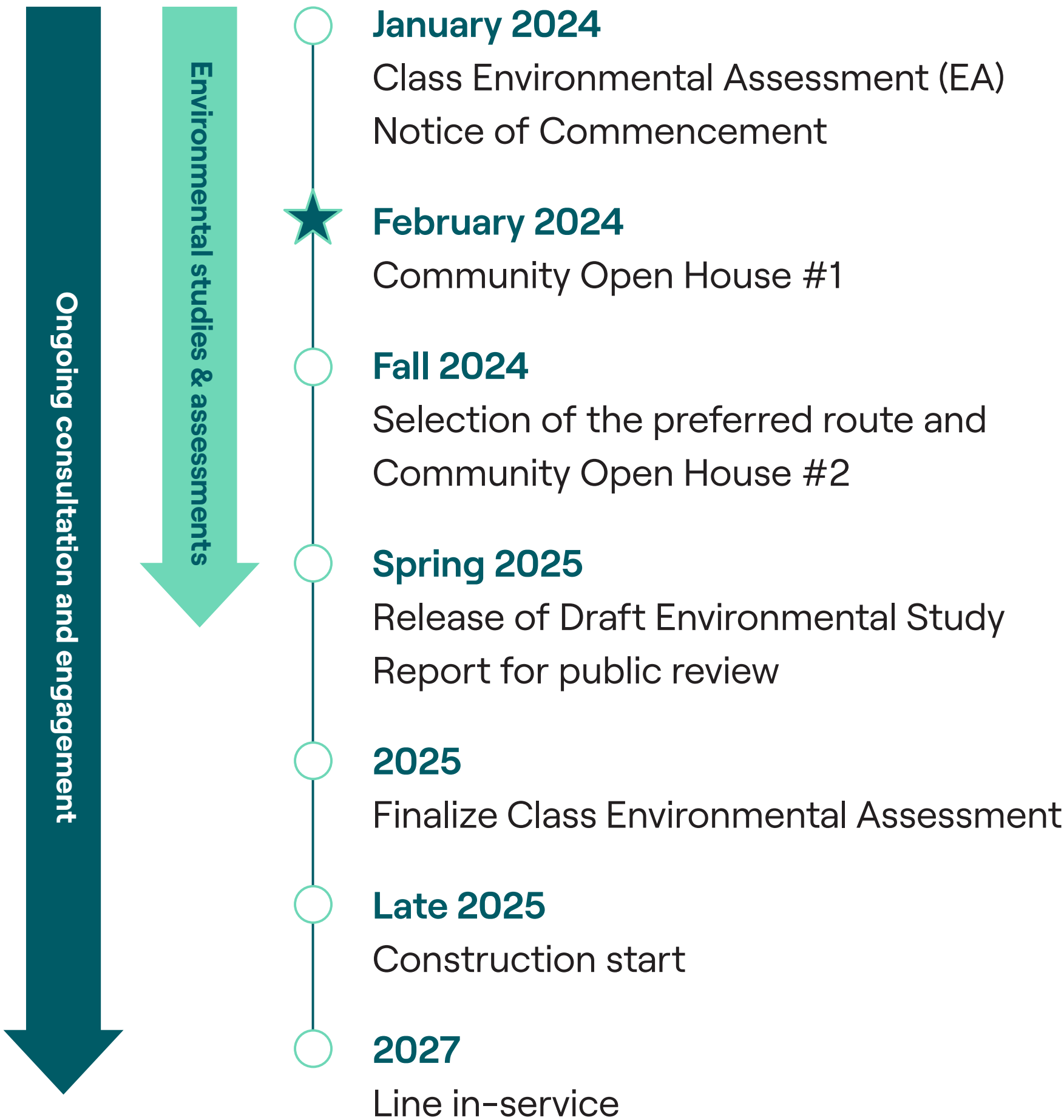


Answer questions and provide regular project information and updates.

Since we've commenced the Class EA, we've begun requesting temporary access from select landowners across all three route alternatives to conduct early field studies (ex. vegetation and wildlife surveys), which will help our team understand the local environment.

Once a preferred route is selected this fall, our real estate team will work with directly impacted property owners to discuss next steps.

Project Milestones



*All dates are subject to change

Engaging with Communities

We are committed to listening to the community as we plan and build the new transmission line. Throughout the duration of the project, we will:



Host a wide range of engagement opportunities to gather input and feedback.



Continue to keep communities, residents and members of the public involved in our planning and project activities.

We encourage you to sign up for our project contact list at HydroOne.com/StThomasLine



Working with Indigenous Communities

Hydro One is committed to working with Indigenous communities in a spirit of cooperation and shared responsibility.

Forging meaningful relationships with Indigenous communities based upon trust, confidence, and accountability is vital to building partnerships and advancing Reconciliation.

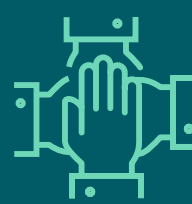
Our Four Pillars of Indigenous Consultation



**Excelling at
Engagement**



**Working with
Integrity**



**Holding
Ourselves
Accountable**



**Breaking
Barriers**

Next Steps



Hydro One will continue to conduct environmental surveys and research.



Hydro One will continue to consult Indigenous communities, landowners, members of the public, government agencies, elected officials, and interest groups to obtain feedback and answer questions about the project.



The project team will consider all feedback received and evaluate the results of environmental and technical research and select the preferred route for the new transmission line.



Details of the evaluation process and the preferred route will be presented at a community open house anticipated for later this fall.



Thank You!

Your input is important to us. Please share your feedback with our team and complete a comment form before you go. To provide comments or to be added to the project contact list, please call or email:



1.877.345.6799



Community.Relations@HydroOne.com

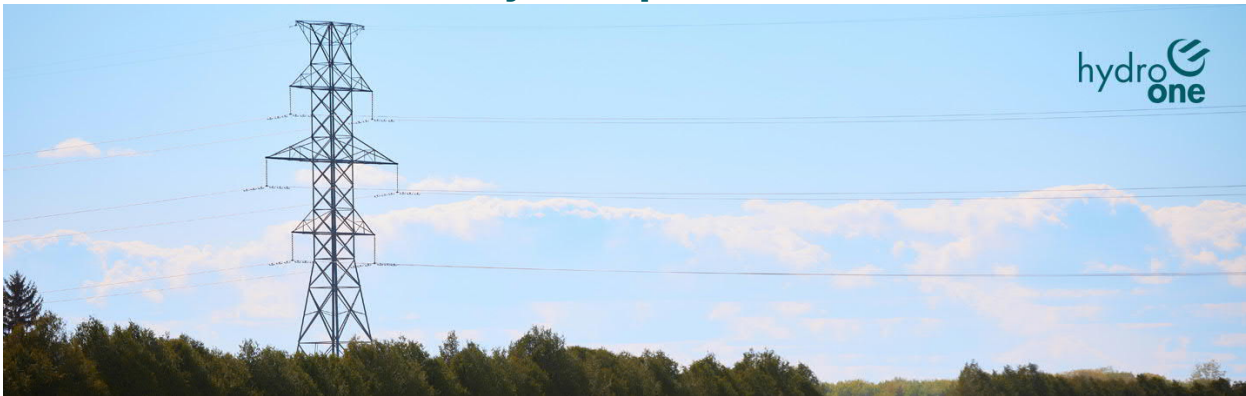
For the most up-to-date project information and project updates, visit our project website:



HydroOne.com/StThomasLine



St. Thomas Line Project Update #1



Thank you for your valuable feedback on St. Thomas Line Project. We are writing to share details on upcoming environmental study work required for the Class Environmental Assessment and our technical review.

What's new

Your input has been instrumental in learning more about the local area and we are committed to addressing your questions and concerns to the best of our ability. To date, we've had the opportunity to hear valuable feedback which will inform the evaluation of each route.

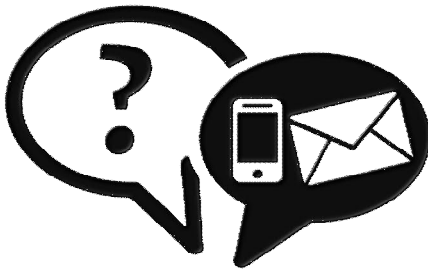
As we continue to study the different routes, we want to inform you that aerial ground survey work will be taking place in the coming weeks. During this time, you may see a helicopter flying overtop the project study area to collect survey points on ground elevation, vegetation, roads, utility infrastructure and aerial objects among other items to help understand design and clearance constraints.

Stay in touch

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at:

Telephone: 1-877-345-6799

Email: Community.Relations@HydroOne.com



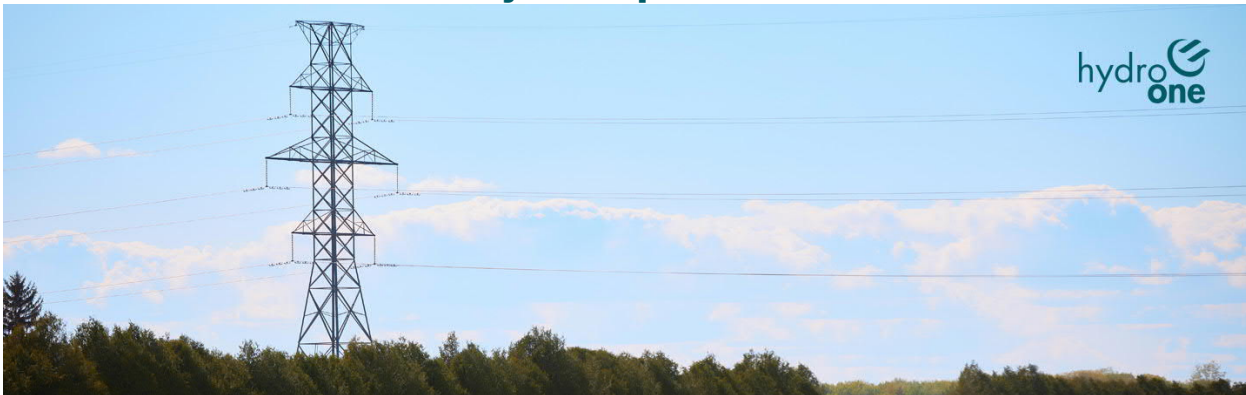
We encourage you to share feedback on our interactive map available on our website, HydroOne.com/StThomas

On behalf of the project team, we look forward to continuing discussions with you.

We will continue to provide updates to our contact list as the project progresses.

To be removed from this contact list, email us at the above.

St. Thomas Line Project Update #2



Since we began the environmental assessment in January, we've had the opportunity to hear from many of you and learn more about the local area. I'm writing to share an update on upcoming activities.

What's new

In your community

Hydro One will host community drop-in sessions twice a week through the summer to continue gathering local knowledge and input on the three proposed route options for the St. Thomas Line project. Every Tuesday and Wednesday until August 28th, community members can walk in or schedule an appointment between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Express & Suites in St. Thomas to meet with the project team and provide their feedback or have their questions answered.

To book an appointment, email us at community.relations@hydroone.com or call 1.877.345.6799

Environmental Studies

As we continue to study the different routes, aerial ground survey work and environmental studies have begun at various points along all proposed routes. This week, you may see a helicopter flying overtop the project study area to collect survey points on ground elevation, vegetation, roads, utility infrastructure and aerial objects among other items to help understand design and clearance constraints.



Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at:

Telephone: 1-877-345-6799

Email: Community.Relations@HydroOne.com

We encourage you to share feedback on our interactive map available on our website, HydroOne.com/StThomas

On behalf of the project team, we look forward to continuing discussions with you.

We will continue to provide updates to our contact list as the project progresses.

To be removed from this contact list, email us at the above.

Energizing Life in Southwestern Ontario

St. Thomas Line Project

The new St. Thomas Line project will power a new electric vehicle battery cell manufacturing facility in St. Thomas and support economic growth in the area.

[HydroOne.com/Projects](https://hydroone.com/projects)



Announcement: Hydro One Drop-in Hours Available at The Holiday Inn Express

Join us at our drop-in sessions starting
Tuesday May 21, 2024

Hydro One will host community drop-in sessions twice a week through the summer to continue gathering local knowledge and input on the three proposed route options for the St. Thomas Line project. Every Tuesday and Wednesday until August 28, community members can walk in or schedule an appointment between 10:00 a.m. and 3 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Express & Suites in St. Thomas to meet with the project team and provide their feedback or have their questions answered.

To book an appointment, email us at **community.relations@hydroone.com** or call **1.877.345.6799**.

Use the QR code to learn more and sign up
for our project contact list.



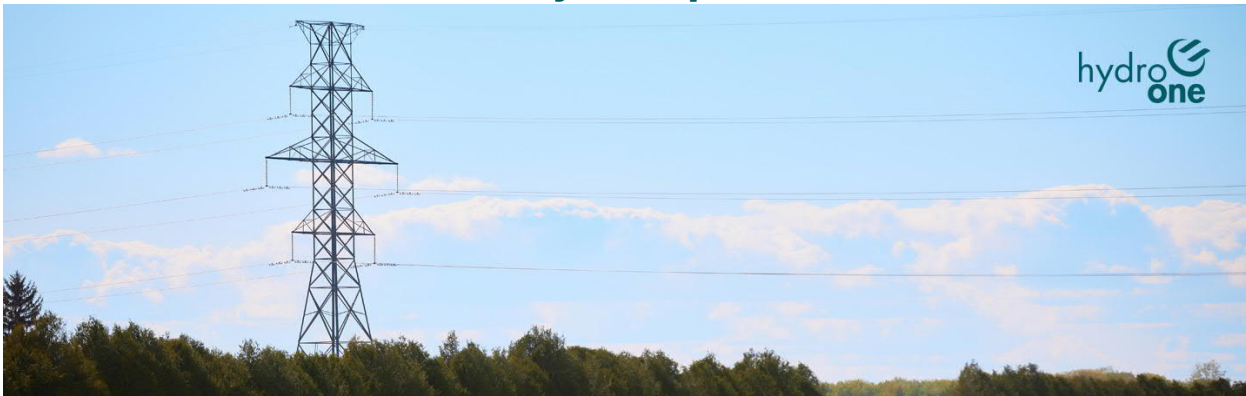
Drop-In Hours

**May 21, 2024 to
August 28, 2024**

Tuesday & Wednesday
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
The Holiday Inn Express
275 Highview Drive
St. Thomas, ON

**HydroOne.com/
StThomasLine**

St. Thomas Line Project Update



Planning for the St. Thomas Line project is moving ahead. Our team is currently evaluating and comparing the profiles of each route alternative. This involves collecting data from a variety of sources, conducting environmental surveys and technical assessments, and analyzing and assessing the feedback received from project stakeholders and the community to date.

Thank you to all participants who attended our community open house earlier this year in St. Thomas and Belmont to discuss the project. With a turnout of over 200 individuals, the valuable feedback shared at these sessions, as well as at the community office, through our [community relations inbox](#) and on the [interactive map](#), will be integral to informing the ongoing planning and development of this project.

Many of you had similar questions and we'd like to share our responses to some of the key issues we're hearing about.

Will the proposed new transmission line be a redundant connection for electricity servicing the PowerCo facility to avoid possible service interruptions?

The new PowerCo electric vehicle (EV) battery manufacturing facility requires 380 megawatts of power, equivalent to the energy needed for a city the size of Windsor. To supply this power, Hydro One needs to build one new transformer station and two new 230-kilovolt transmission lines. The two new transmission lines include a [2km double-circuit line in St. Thomas](#) and a [20km double-circuit line](#) between St. Thomas and the City of London. Both transmission lines are essential to meet the power needs of the facility.

Why isn't Hydro One considering an alternative that includes upgrades to existing transmission lines?

As previously noted above, 380 megawatts of power are required to energize the new EV battery manufacturing facility. Given the magnitude of supply required, the current capacity that can be achieved through reasonable upgrades of existing transmission lines will be inadequate to meet the demand for the facility.

Why can't Hydro One parallel the existing transmission lines?

Building a new transmission line project is never an easy process, and we know that there will be a change for landowners regardless of the route selected. When identifying the route alternatives for this project, we carefully assessed various natural, socio-economic and technical constraints. This includes environmentally significant areas such as conservation areas, residential and industrial property developments, the number of properties affected, and the crossing of existing infrastructure among other considerations. We also looked at opportunities such as paralleling existing linear infrastructure like transmission lines or major roads, where feasible.

While Route Alternative 1 parallels the existing transmission line right-of-way west of Highbury Avenue for approximately one-third of the way, our team did look at whether we could follow the corridor for a greater distance. In our review, we determined that there are several constraints that create challenges to parallel the entire corridor length. These included:

- At the north end of the route, there was lack of sufficient space required for the approximate 45 metre (150 ft) wide corridor, as it would directly cross over several industrial buildings. There were also technical constraints due to the Highway 401 overpass and industrial parks to the south of freeway.
- Crossing the Kettle Creek Valley presents challenges due to the constraints from the Dan Patterson Conservation Area and the extensive clearing of mature vegetation that would be necessary. In selecting a preferred route Hydro One aims to minimize the impact to mature vegetation where possible.
- At the south end of the route, there was lack of sufficient space to accommodate the corridor and right of way, as it would directly intersect and cross several residential dwellings.

How will Hydro One mitigate impacts to agricultural lands?

While farming and agricultural operations are considered a compatible use within Hydro One transmission line rights-of-ways, minimizing impacts to agricultural operations is a primary concern for the project team at Hydro One. As we continue our environmental and construction planning for this project, we will look for opportunities to avoid, protect and mitigate any potential damage to environmental features, including concerns related to soil compaction and drainage, to every extent possible and, where necessary, make appropriate repairs.

We've had the opportunity to learn about farming operations from other projects we've been working on to date, including having the opportunity to see first-hand the size of

modern-day farming equipment. Additionally, once a preferred route is selected, a dedicated Hydro One real estate representative will work closely with directly impacted property owners who have the preferred transmission line right-of-way on their property. During these one-on-one conversations, we will collect information specific to their property and feedback will be considered where technically feasible.

It is our goal to build a transmission line that considers the interests and needs of the community. Feedback gathered through ongoing consultation with farmers and other community members will be considered throughout the Class Environmental Assessment process.

Are transmission lines safe? What are the health impacts?

We understand that changes to our infrastructure can raise interest about electric and magnetic fields (EMF). To address these concerns, we have a dedicated team that regularly monitors international studies on EMF and ensures that our infrastructure is built and maintained following best practices and industry standards. We look to Health Canada, the World Health Organization and the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection, for guidance on electrical and magnetic fields which is reflected in our design standards and operating procedures.

Based on global studies, which have and continue to be regularly monitored, these organizations indicate that members of the public do not need to take precautions to protect from fields produced by extremely low frequencies such as those from transmission lines.

Next Steps

Over the next few months, the project team will continue to assess the proposed routes and their variations and the impacts each route has on the community and the surrounding lands. Feedback received along with technical, socio-economic and environmental constraints will be considered in the evaluation and selection of a preferred route.

We expect to have a preferred route to share with the public in the fall and will hold additional community meetings to share the chosen route and additional project updates. In the meantime, project team members are at the Holiday Inn Express in St. Thomas every Tuesday and Wednesday (until August 28) to meet community members and respond to questions and concerns.

To book an appointment, email us at community.relations@hydroone.com or call 1.877.345.6799

We recognize that community engagement remains crucial beyond the selection and announcement of the preferred route, we remain committed to ongoing dialogue and engaging the local community as this project progresses. We will remain available to discuss any project related questions or concerns throughout construction and eventual energization of the new transmission line.

Please continue to share your feedback.

Stay in touch

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at:

Telephone: 1-877-345-6799

Email: Community.Relations@HydroOne.com



We encourage you to share feedback on our interactive map available on our website, HydroOne.com/StThomas

On behalf of the project team, we look forward to continuing discussions with you.

We will continue to provide updates to our contact list as the project progresses.

To be removed from this contact list, email us at the above.

Notice of preferred route and invitation to community open houses

Hydro One reaches milestone in St Thomas Line Project

October 2024

Hydro One has reached a milestone in the St. Thomas Line Project, a new transmission line that will connect the PowerCo Canada Inc. (owned by Volkswagen Group) electric vehicle battery cell manufacturing plant in the City of St. Thomas to Ontario's clean energy grid.

Since January 2024, we have been conducting a Class Environmental Assessment (EA) under Ontario's *Environmental Assessment Act* to build a new 230-kilovolt double-circuit transmission line. This line will extend from our existing transmission corridor north of Highway 401 in the City of London to the new Centennial Transformer Station in the City of St. Thomas.

As part of the Class EA process, we evaluated three potential route alternatives along with variations by gathering environmental and technical data, along with input from Indigenous communities, community members, elected officials, interest groups and businesses.

Based on this information and feedback received, **Route Alternative 3** has been selected as the preferred route for the new transmission line (see map on reverse).

We invite you to attend our upcoming community open houses to learn more about the project, speak with our project team and share your feedback.

All personal information included in your request – such as name, address, telephone number and property location – is collected, under the authority of section 30 of the *Environmental Assessment Act* and is collected and maintained for the purpose of creating a record that is available to the general public. As this information is collected for the purpose of a public record, the protection of personal information provided in the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA)* does not apply (s.37). Personal information you submit will become part of the available public record unless you request that your personal information remain confidential. If you have any accessibility requirements to participate in this Study, please contact Community Relations listed to the right.



See reverse for map



Community open house locations and details

November 13th, 2024

3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Belmont Arena &
Community Centre
14020 Belmont Road
Belmont

November 14th, 2024

3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
St. Anne's Parish Centre
20 Morrison Drive
St. Thomas

We're here to help

For more information, to sign up for the project contact list, or to ask questions, please contact Hydro One Community Relations:



1.877.345.6799



Community.Relations
@HydroOne.com

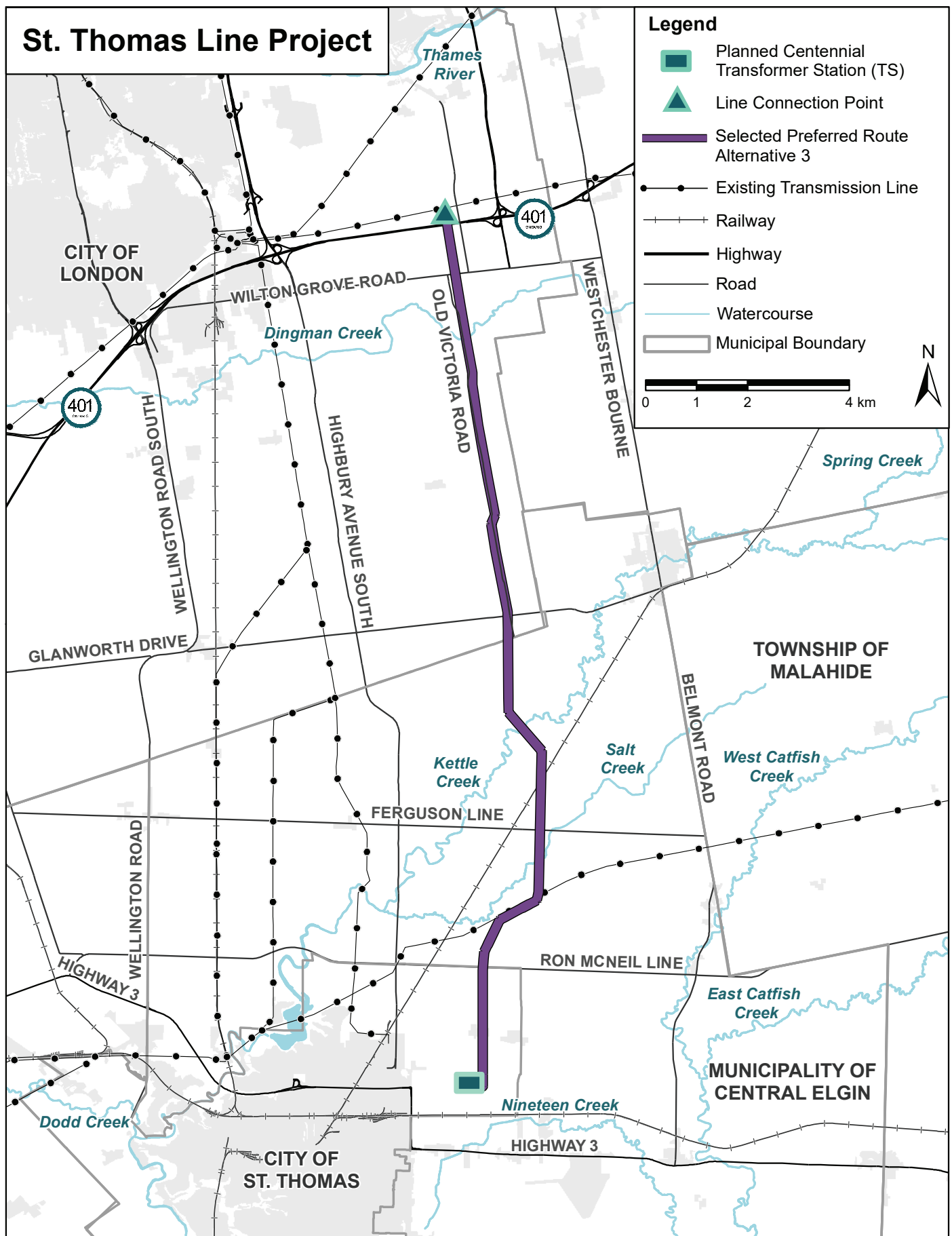
HydroOne.com/
StThomasLine

St. Thomas Line Project

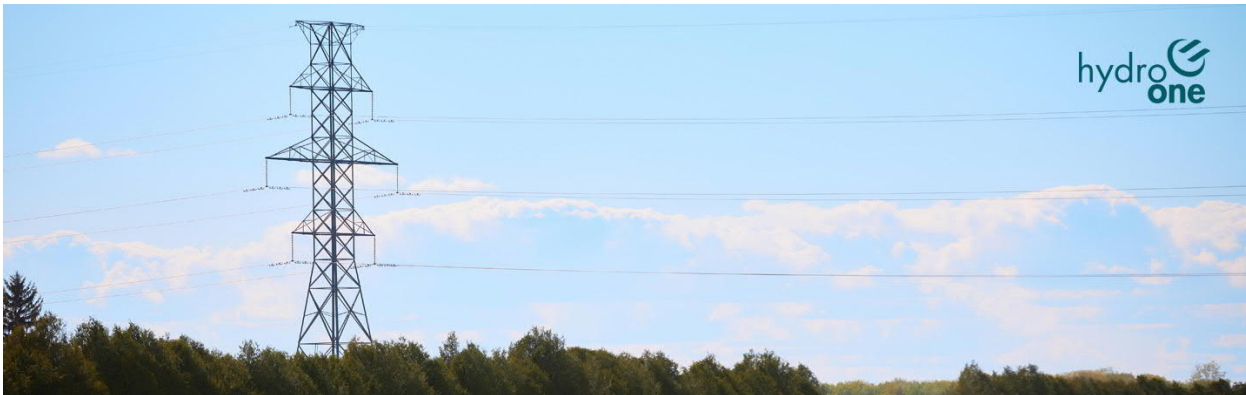
Legend

-  Planned Centennial Transformer Station (TS)
-  Line Connection Point
-  Selected Preferred Route Alternative 3
-  Existing Transmission Line
-  Railway
-  Highway
-  Road
-  Watercourse
-  Municipal Boundary

0 1 2 4 km



St. Thomas Line Preferred Route Announcement



Hydro One has reached a milestone in the St. Thomas Line Project, a new transmission line that will connect the PowerCo Canada Inc. (owned by Volkswagen Group) electric vehicle battery cell manufacturing plant in the City of St. Thomas to Ontario's clean energy grid.

Since January 2024, we have been conducting a Class Environmental Assessment (EA) under Ontario's Environmental Assessment Act to build a new 230-kilovolt double-circuit transmission line. This line will extend from our existing transmission corridor north of Highway 401 in the City of London to the new Centennial Transformer Station in the City of St. Thomas.

As part of the Class EA process, we evaluated three potential route alternatives along with variations by gathering environmental and technical data, along with input from Indigenous communities, community members, elected officials, interest groups and businesses.

Based on this information and feedback received, **Route Alternative 3 has been selected as the preferred route** for the new transmission line. See attached map.

The evaluation concluded that Route 3 offers the most overall advantages compared to the other route alternatives identified through the environmental assessment. Route 3 ranked highest in all the categories including natural environment, socio-economic environment, Indigenous culture, values and land use, and technical and cost.

About the preferred route and evaluation results

- The preferred route passes through the fewest environmentally sensitive features and involves the least disruption to species at risk and their habitats.
- Compared to all route alternatives, the preferred route has the least impact on residential properties within the right of way.
- Additionally, the preferred route won't require any network outages during construction and minimizes the need for complex changes to any existing transmission lines.

We invite you to attend our upcoming community open houses to learn more about the project, speak with our project team and share your feedback.

November 13th, 2024 3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Belmont Arena & Community Centre
14020 Belmont Road Belmont

November 14th, 2024 3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. St. Anne's Parish Centre 20 Morrison
Drive St. Thomas

Stay in touch



Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at:

Telephone: 1-877-345-6799

Email: Community.Relations@HydroOne.com

We encourage you to share feedback on our interactive map available on our website, HydroOne.com/StThomasLine

On behalf of the project team, we look forward to continuing discussions with you.

We will continue to provide updates to our contact list as the project progresses.

To be removed from this contact list, email us at the above.

Factsheet:

Route selection process

Hydro One has selected Route 3 as the preferred route

In January 2024, Hydro One commenced a Class Environmental Assessment and identified three route alternatives, along with variations, for the new transmission line.

The assessment considered four categories of evaluation criteria: natural environment, socio-economic environment, Indigenous culture, values and land use, as well as technical and cost. These criteria were applied in a balanced manner, and the results of the evaluation identified Route 3 as the preferred route.

About the preferred route and evaluation results



- The preferred route passes through the fewest environmentally sensitive features and involves the least disruption to species at risk and their habitats.
- Compared to all route alternatives, the preferred route has the least impact on residential properties within the right of way.
- Additionally, the preferred route won't require any network outages during construction and minimizes the need for complex changes to any existing transmission lines.

The evaluation concluded that Route 3 offers the most overall advantages compared to the other route alternatives identified through the environmental assessment. Route 3 ranked highest in all the categories including natural environment, socio-economic environment, Indigenous culture, values and land use, and technical and cost.

We're here to help



1.877.345.6799



Community.Relations
@HydroOne.com



HydroOne.com/
StThomasLine

Evaluation summary



Natural environment

Route 3 scored the best overall in the natural environment category.

- Minimizes vegetation removal
- Least effect to species at risk habitat
- Least effect to significant wildlife habitat
- Least effects to designated natural areas and identified restoration areas such as Significant Valleylands, Significant Woodlands, Provincially Significant Wetlands, Environmentally Sensitive Areas



Socio-economic environment

Route 3 scored the best overall in the socio-economic environment category.

- Least effects to residential properties and no buildings located in the right of way
- Least effects to Source Water Protection Areas
- Least effects to built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes
- Effects to agricultural resources and operations were similar to other alternatives



Indigenous culture, values and land use

Overall, Route 3 scored the best in the Indigenous culture, values and land use category.

- Least impacts to natural environment communities with the potential to support hunting, trapping and/or harvesting grounds
- Least effects to rare, undisturbed native habitats and ecosystems
- Least effects to rare/sensitive species regeneration potential



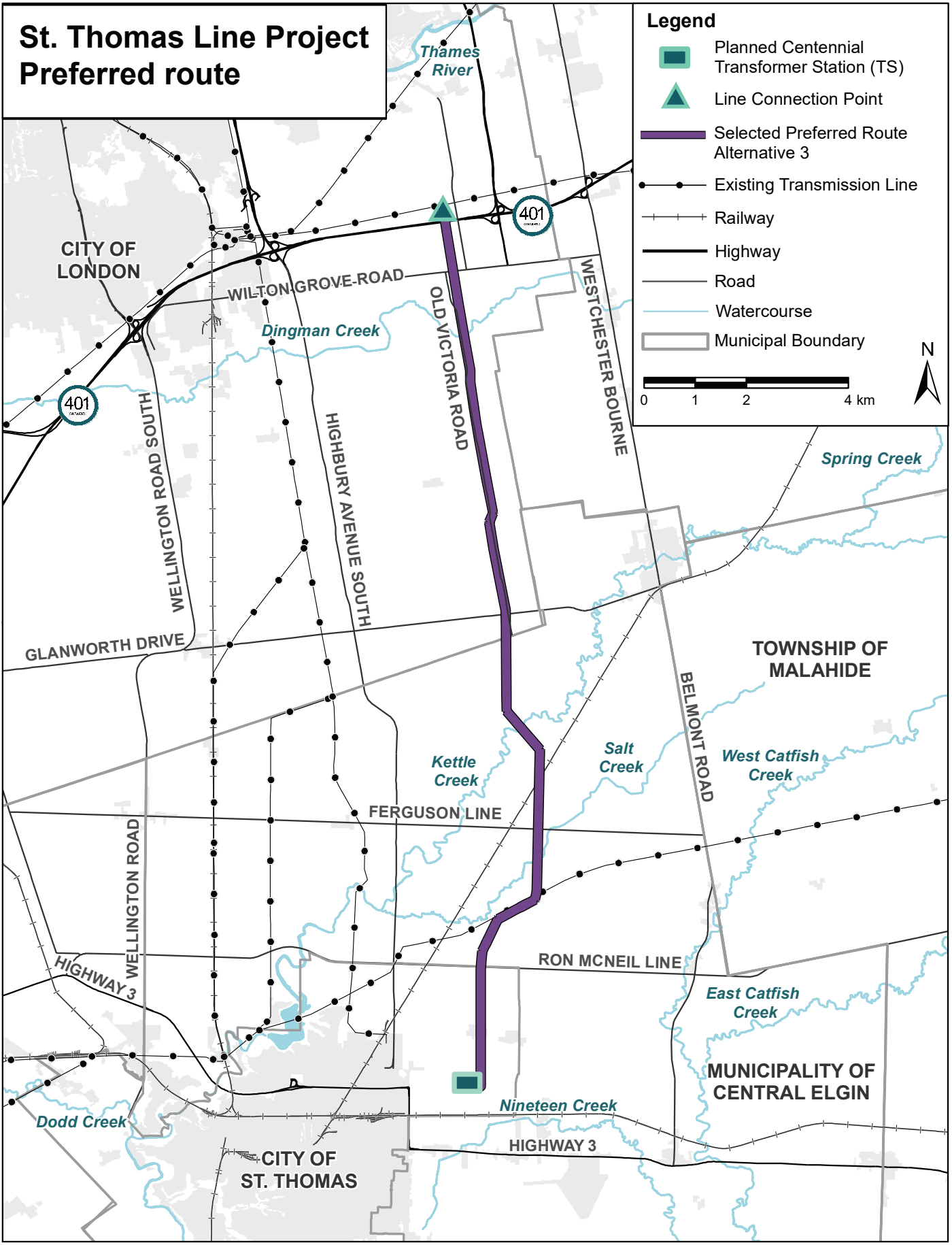
Technical and cost

Route 3 scored the best overall in the technical and cost category.

- Requires the least amount of pipeline crossings
- Impacts the least amount of properties
- Does not require bypasses, circuit modifications or outages



St. Thomas Line Project Preferred route

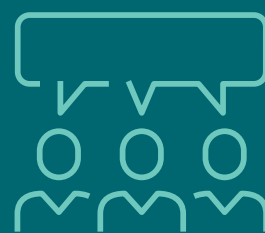
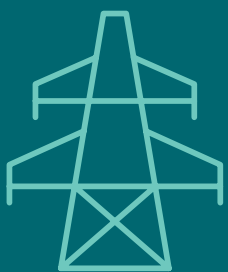


Welcome

St. Thomas Line Project

Community Open House #2

November 2024

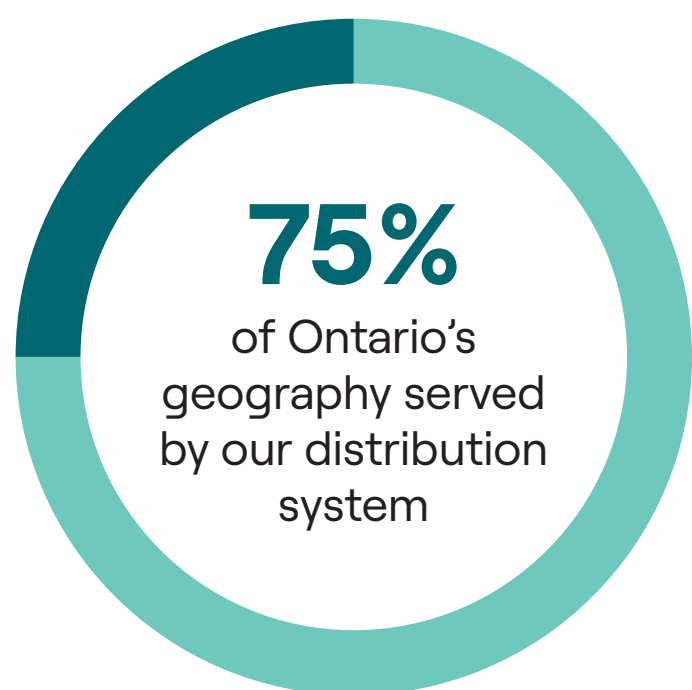
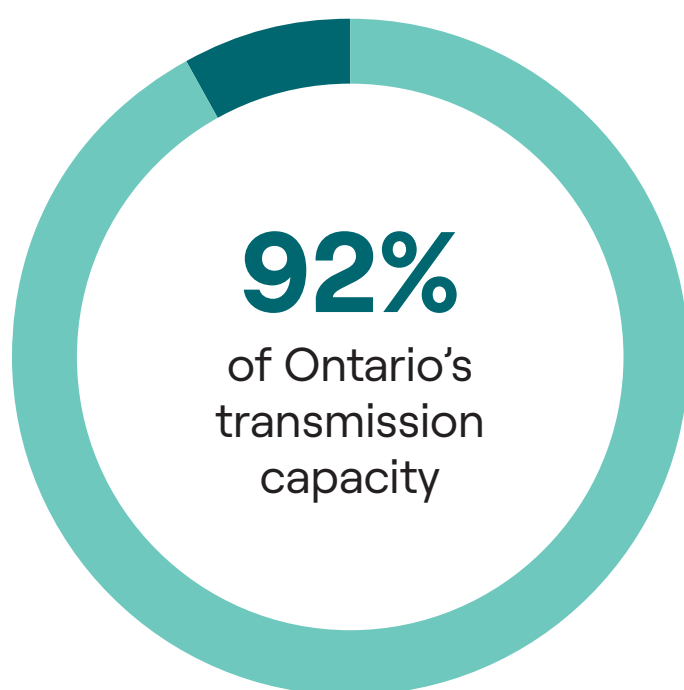


Why we're here

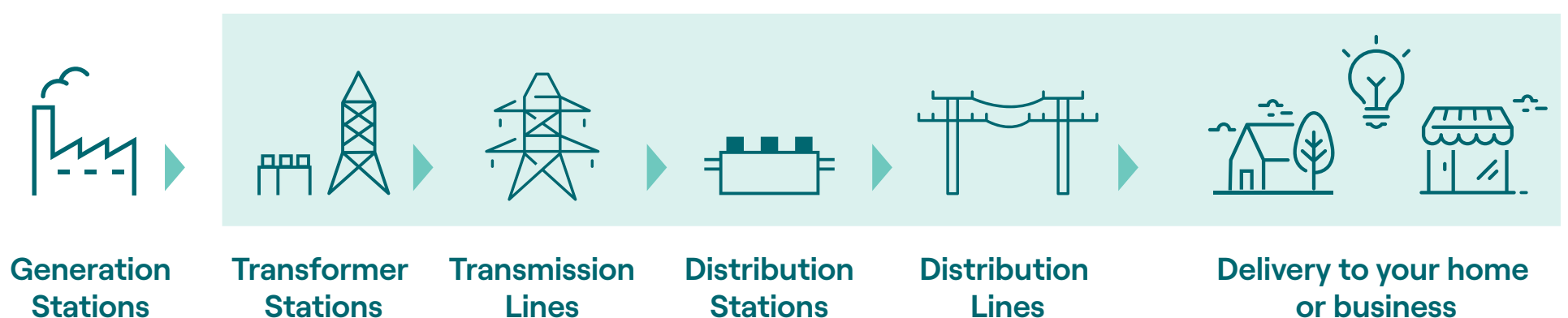
- Share the Preferred Route for the St. Thomas Line Project
- Provide an overview of the evaluation process and selection of the Preferred Route
- Present key milestones and next steps
- Answer questions and gather your feedback

How the system works

Our team of approximately 9,300 skilled and dedicated employees proudly build and maintain a safe and reliable electricity system which is essential to energizing life in communities across the province.



Hydro One's role in the Ontario electric system



Project overview

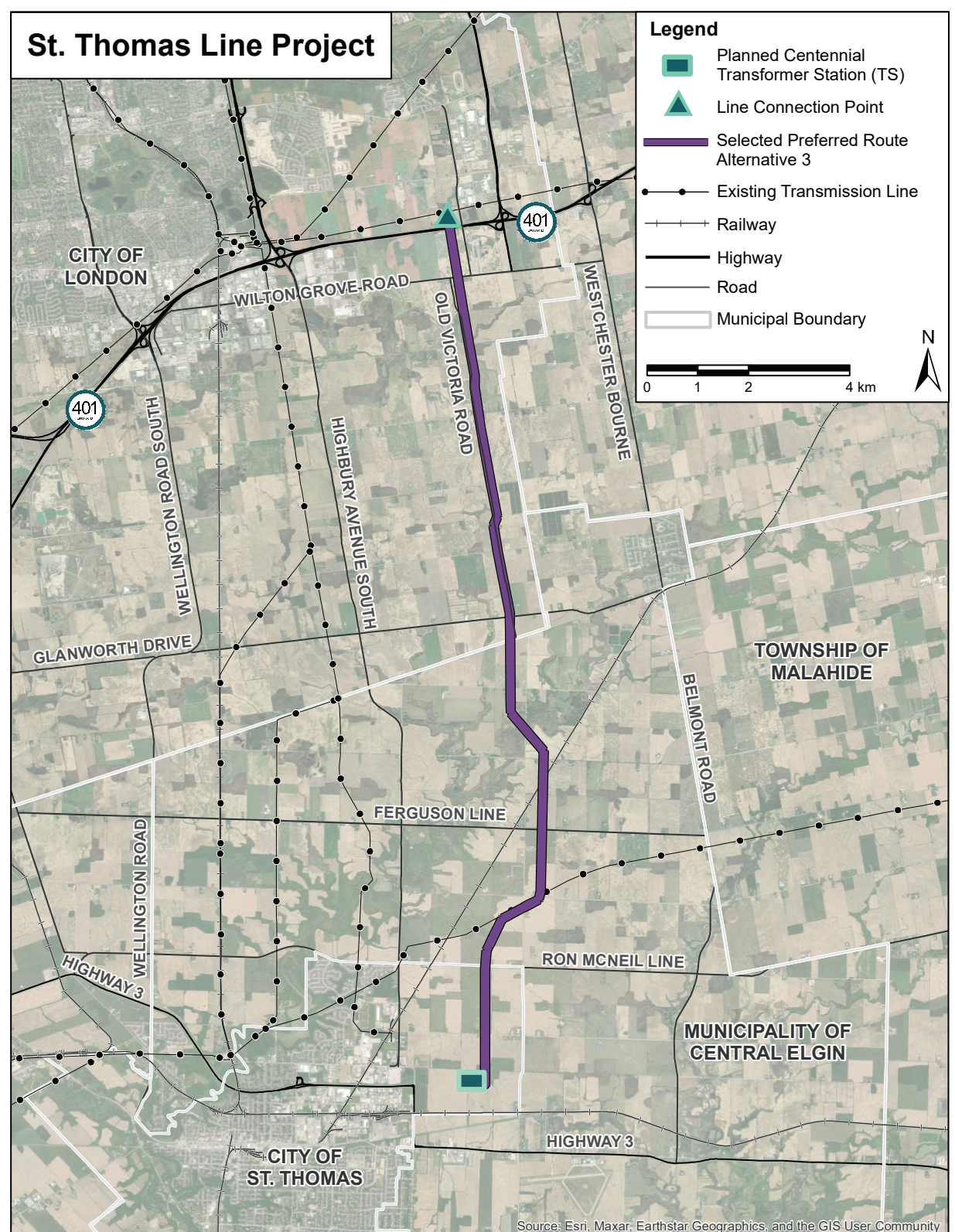
- As southwestern Ontario continues to attract large investment to the region, we are committed to providing the power needed to support economic growth while continuing to provide reliability for homes and businesses
- The St. Thomas Line Project will connect PowerCo Canada Inc. (owned by Volkswagen Group) electric vehicle battery cell manufacturing facility in the City of St. Thomas to Ontario's clean energy grid
- To energize the future facility, Hydro One will construct a 230-kilovolt (kV) double-circuit transmission line that will extend approximately 20 kilometres from the existing transmission line north of Highway 401 in the City of London to the planned Centennial Transformer Station (TS) in St. Thomas
- We are currently completing a Class Environmental Assessment for Minor Transmission Facilities (2022) for the project, under the Ontario *Environmental Assessment Act*



Preferred route alternative

Benefits of route alternative 3

- The preferred route passes through the fewest environmentally sensitive features and causes the least disruption to species at risk and their habitats.
- Compared to all route alternatives, the preferred route has the least impact on residential properties within the right of way.
- Additionally, the preferred route won't require any network outages during construction and minimizes the need for complex changes to any existing transmission lines.



Class Environmental Assessment

The Class Environmental Assessment (EA) for Minor Transmission Facilities (2022) is the first step towards completing the planning for this important project.

This process applies to transmission infrastructure projects that are carried out routinely and have predictable environmental effects that can be readily managed to ensure that potential effects are thoroughly considered before a project begins.

Steps of a Class EA:

- Consultation with Indigenous communities, property owners, community members, elected officials, interest groups and government agencies
- Collection of environmental (natural and socio-economic) data
- Identification and evaluation of alternative methods (ex. route alternatives)
- Identification of potential effects and mitigation measures
- ★ Selection of a preferred route alternative
- Preparation of a draft Environmental Study Report (ESR) that will be made available for a 30-day public review and comment period
- Submission of the Final ESR and Statement of Completion to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks

For more information, please see our handout or visit HydroOne.com/ClassEA

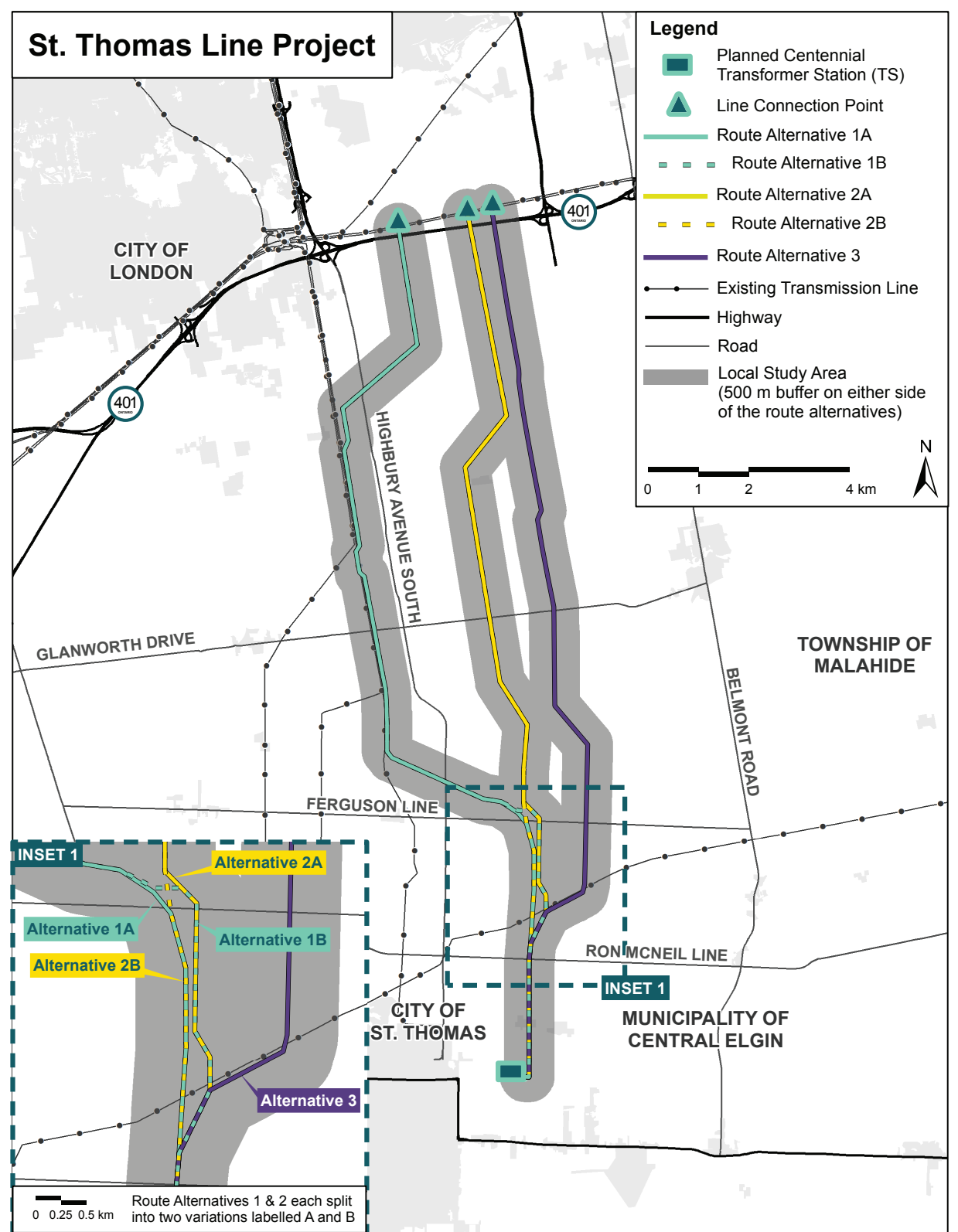


Route alternatives assessed

In January 2024, we identified three viable route alternatives, along with variations, to connect the new Centennial TS in St. Thomas to an existing Hydro One transmission line north of Highway 401 in the City of London.

Since January 2024, we have been collecting environmental and technical information, as well as holding a wide range of engagement opportunities to gather input and feedback.

In October 2024, following an evaluation of the route alternatives, Route 3 was announced as the preferred route.



Your feedback informed the route evaluation

Community outreach:



Open houses, community drop-in hours, and registered mail to potentially impacted property owners



Ongoing calls and emails



Interactive map



Notices, newspaper, and social media ads



Meetings with Indigenous communities, local elected officials and regional leaders

What we've heard:



Consider effects to agricultural lands and operations



Maximize the use of existing transmission and infrastructure corridors



Consider species at risk and ecological restoration areas



Minimize effects to homes

Evaluation of the route alternatives

The route alternatives were evaluated based on environmental field studies, research, and feedback received regarding the advantages and disadvantages of each option based on four evaluation categories, which were applied to all routes in a fair and transparent manner:

 Natural environment	 Socio-economic environment	 Indigenous culture, values and land use	 Technical & cost
• Surface water resources • Vegetation • Wildlife and wildlife habitat • Species At Risk • Wetlands, natural hazards and floodplain areas • Designated natural areas and identified habitat restoration areas	• Co-locating existing infrastructure • Agricultural resources and operations • Residential properties • Source water protection • Built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes • Archaeological resources	• Intersects areas of historical significance • Areas that support hunting, trapping and/or harvesting grounds • Areas that support fish bearing waters • Effects to rare, undisturbed native habitats or ecosystems	• Line length • Crossings of existing infrastructure • Co-location of existing transmission lines • Real estate considerations • System benefits and impacts • Construction complexity

The preferred route best balances the evaluation categories overall

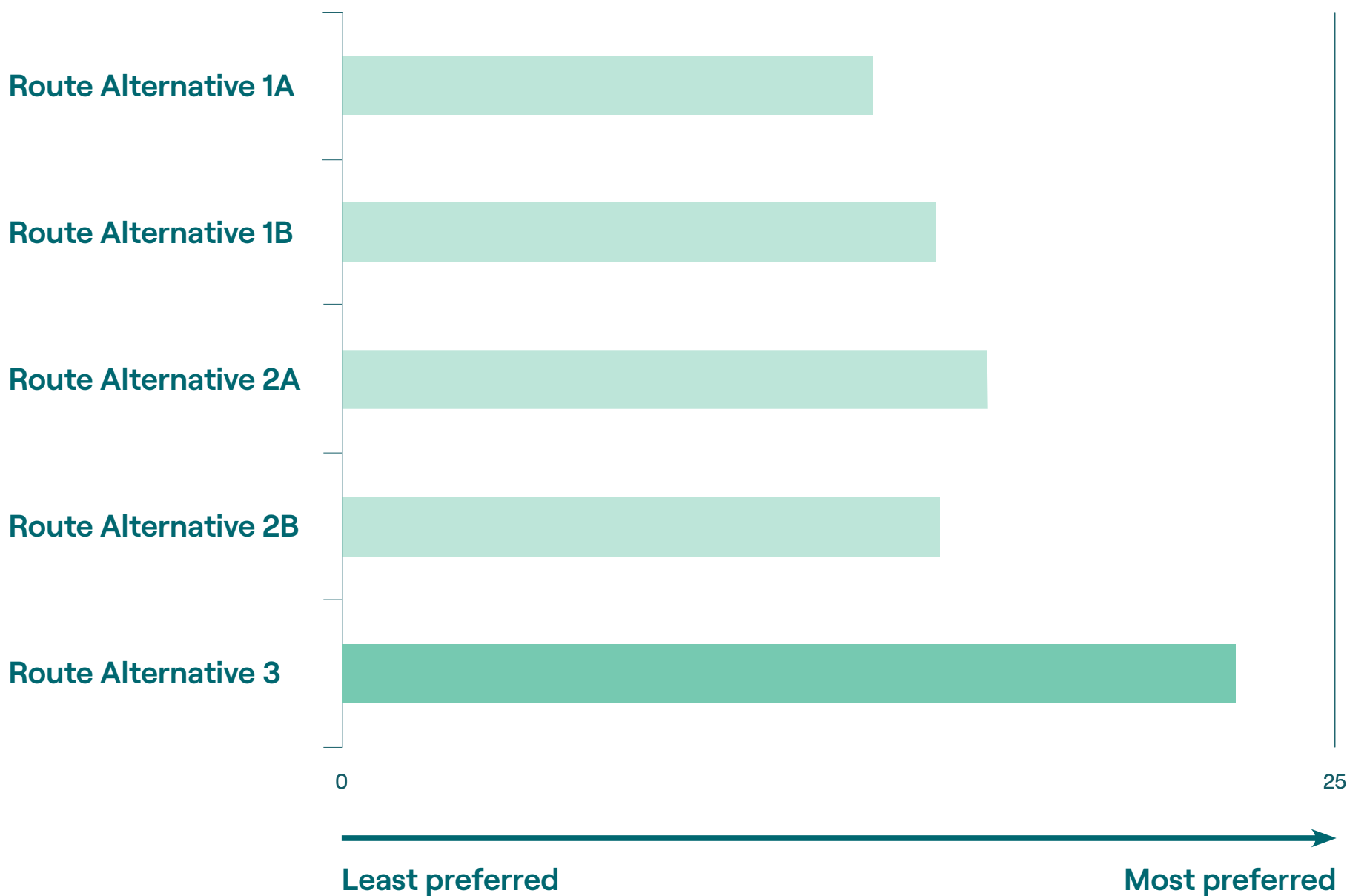


Evaluation summary

Natural environment

Route Alternative 3 scored the best overall in the Natural Environment category

- Minimizes vegetation removal
- Least effects to significant wildlife habitat and candidate significant wildlife habitat within the right of way
- Least effects to species at risk
- Least effects to significant valleylands, significant woodlands, provincially significant wetlands, environmentally sensitive areas, and restoration areas



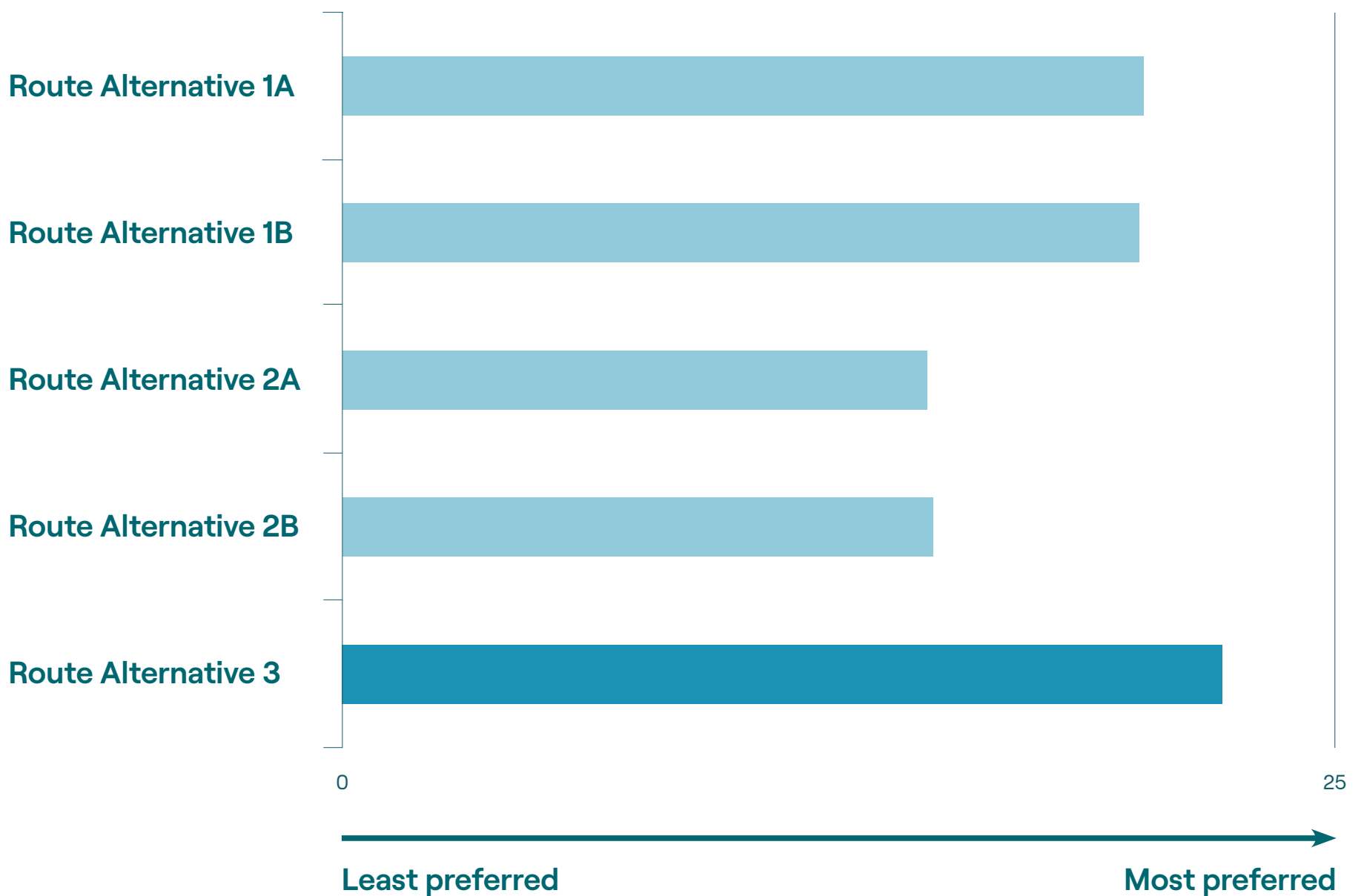


Evaluation summary

Socio-economic environment

Route Alternative 3 scored the best overall in the Socio-Economic Environment category

- Impacts the least amount of residential properties
- Least effects to source water protection areas
- Least effects to built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes
- Least effects to archaeological resources
- Effects to agricultural resources and operations were similar to other alternatives



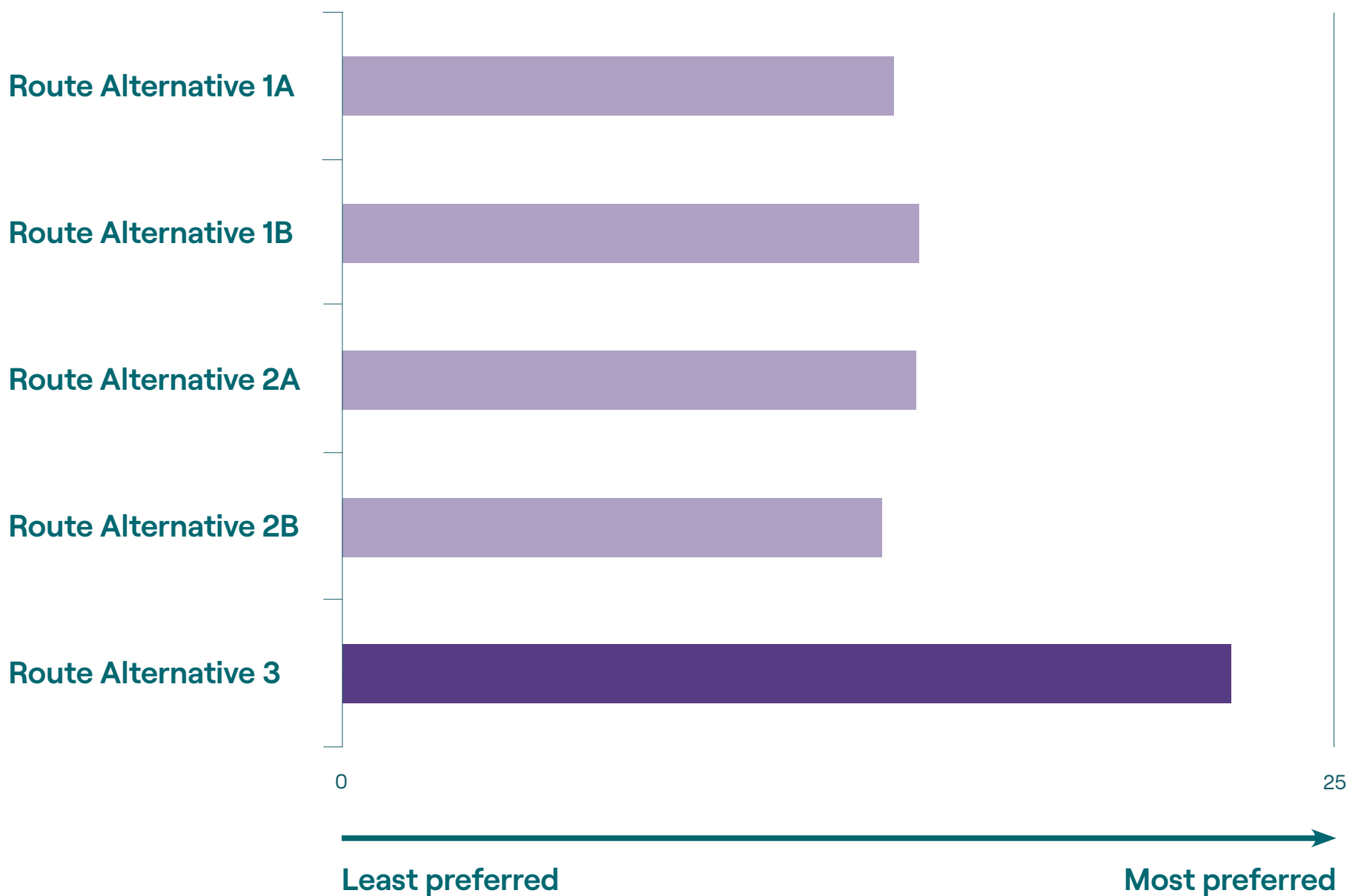


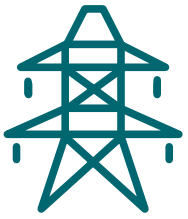
Evaluation summary

Indigenous culture, values and land use

Route Alternative 3 scored the best overall in the Indigenous Culture, Values and Land Use category

- Least impacts to areas with the potential to support hunting, trapping and/or harvesting grounds
- Least effects to rare, undisturbed habitats and ecosystems including species at risk habitat, and confirmed and candidate significant wildlife



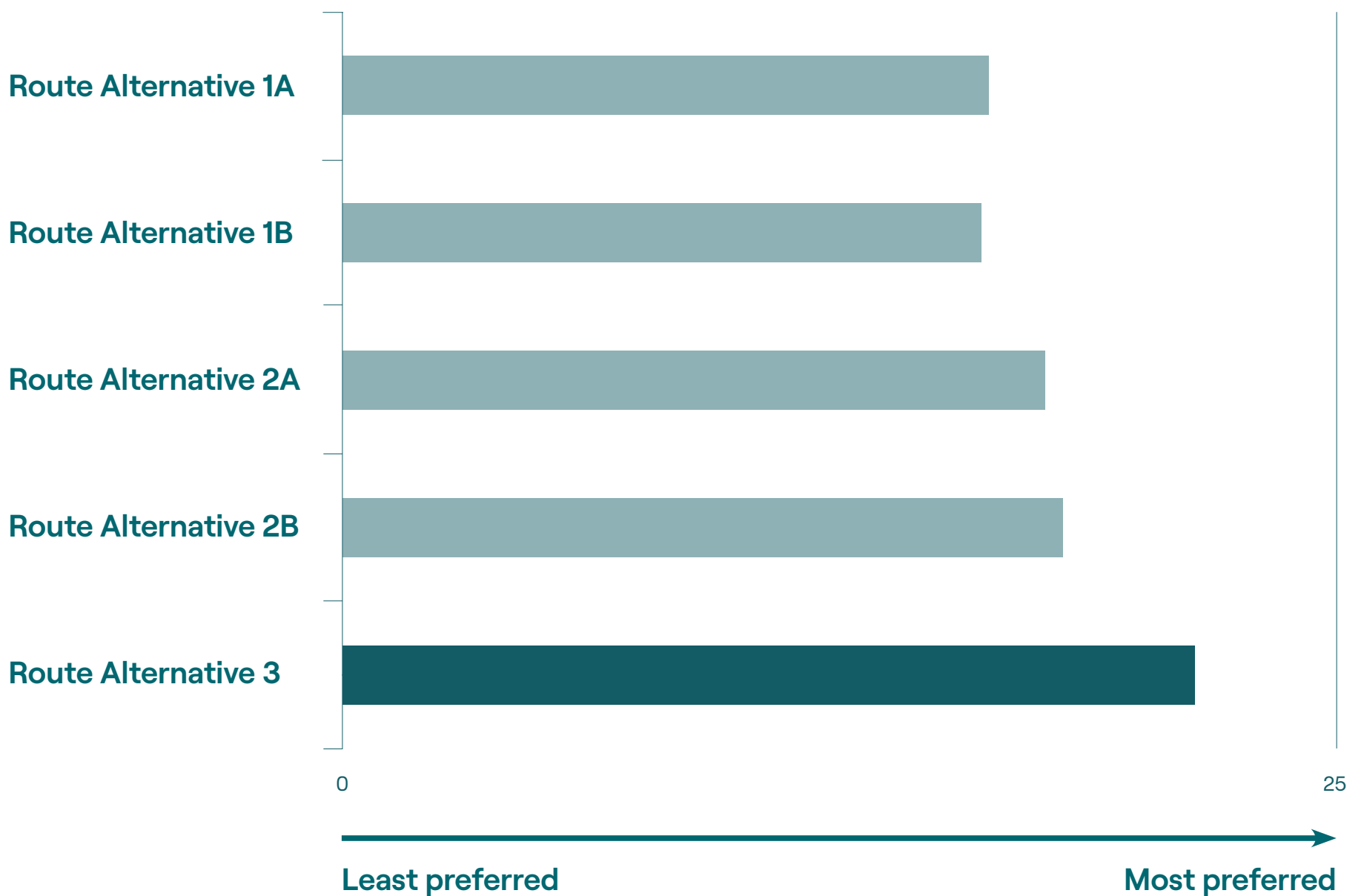


Evaluation summary

Technical and cost

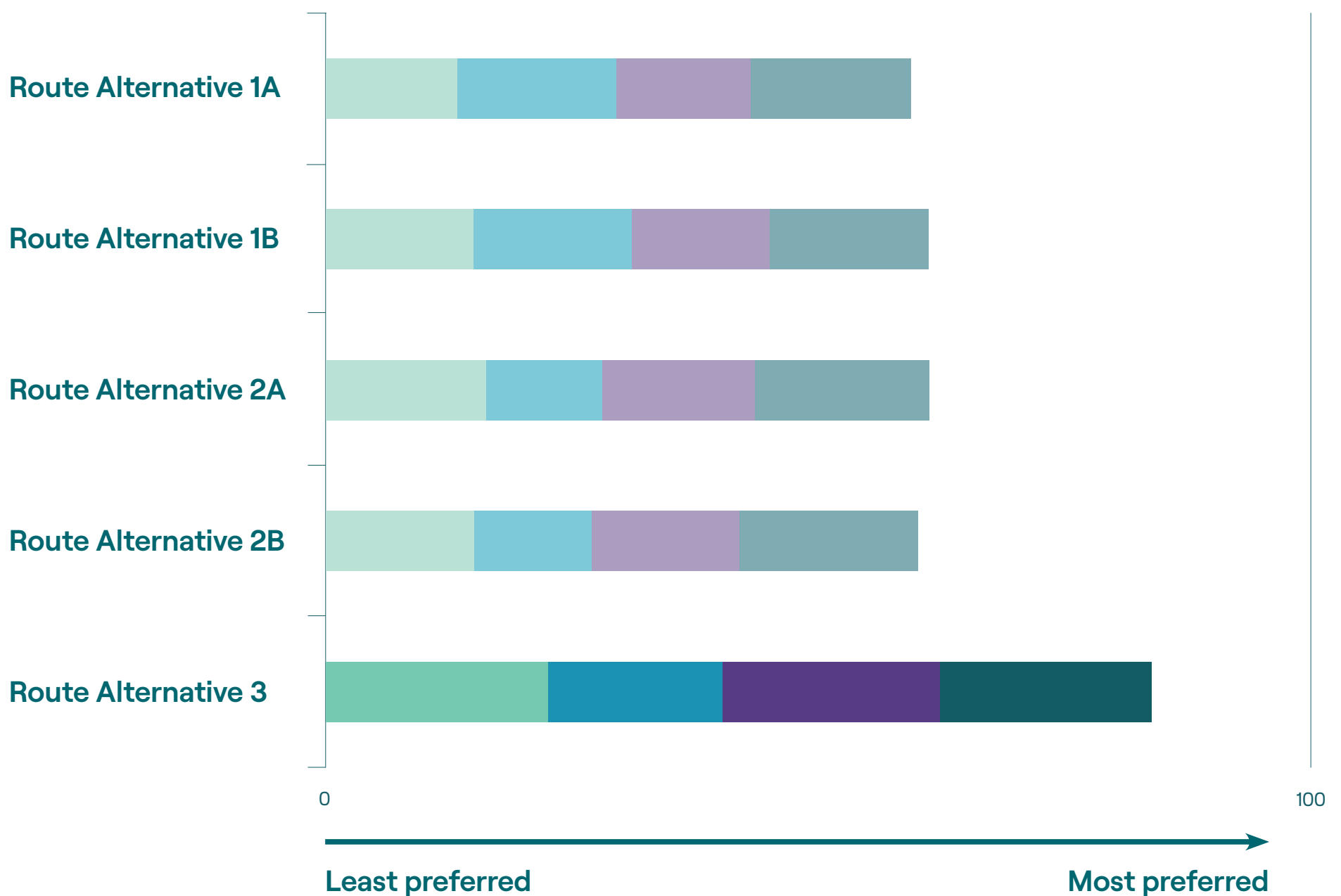
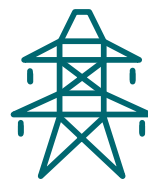
Route Alternative 3 scored the best overall in the Technical and Cost category

- Requires the least amount of pipeline crossings
- Impacts the least amount of properties
- Does not require bypasses, circuit modifications or outages



Evaluation results

The evaluation concluded Route Alternative 3 has overall more advantages compared to the other route alternatives identified through the environmental assessment.



Working with property owners

Hydro One is working closely with directly impacted property owners.



Property Owner Choice

Property owners have the choice between an easement or purchase



Independent Valuation

Offers are based on site-specific reports from independent third-party appraisers



Incentives

Monetary incentives will be offered in addition to market value compensation for voluntary property rights



Construction & Mitigation Physical Property Damages

Property owners will be reimbursed for project related losses such as out of production cropland during and after construction

Mitigation and restoration opportunities

Based on our experience building transmission lines in agricultural areas, the following mitigation measures are being considered for constructing the line.



Use existing access and watercourse crossings as much as possible



Apply erosion and sediment controls when needed



Avoid and protect tile drainage as much as possible and repair any damage resulting from construction



Retain compatible vegetation



Employ dust control measures



Restore temporary access roads and work areas after construction

We want to hear your continued feedback to further enhance the planning of this project.

Designing the transmission line

With the preferred route selected, detailed design for the transmission line will consider:

- Residential and business effects
- Structure heights and clearances
- Structure locations
- Environmental constraints
- Distance between structures
- Construction methodology
- Topography and soil conditions
- Right of way width

Over the next several months, we will complete more detailed environmental and technical studies to inform the design of the new line. We will also gather feedback from property owners on property specific features.

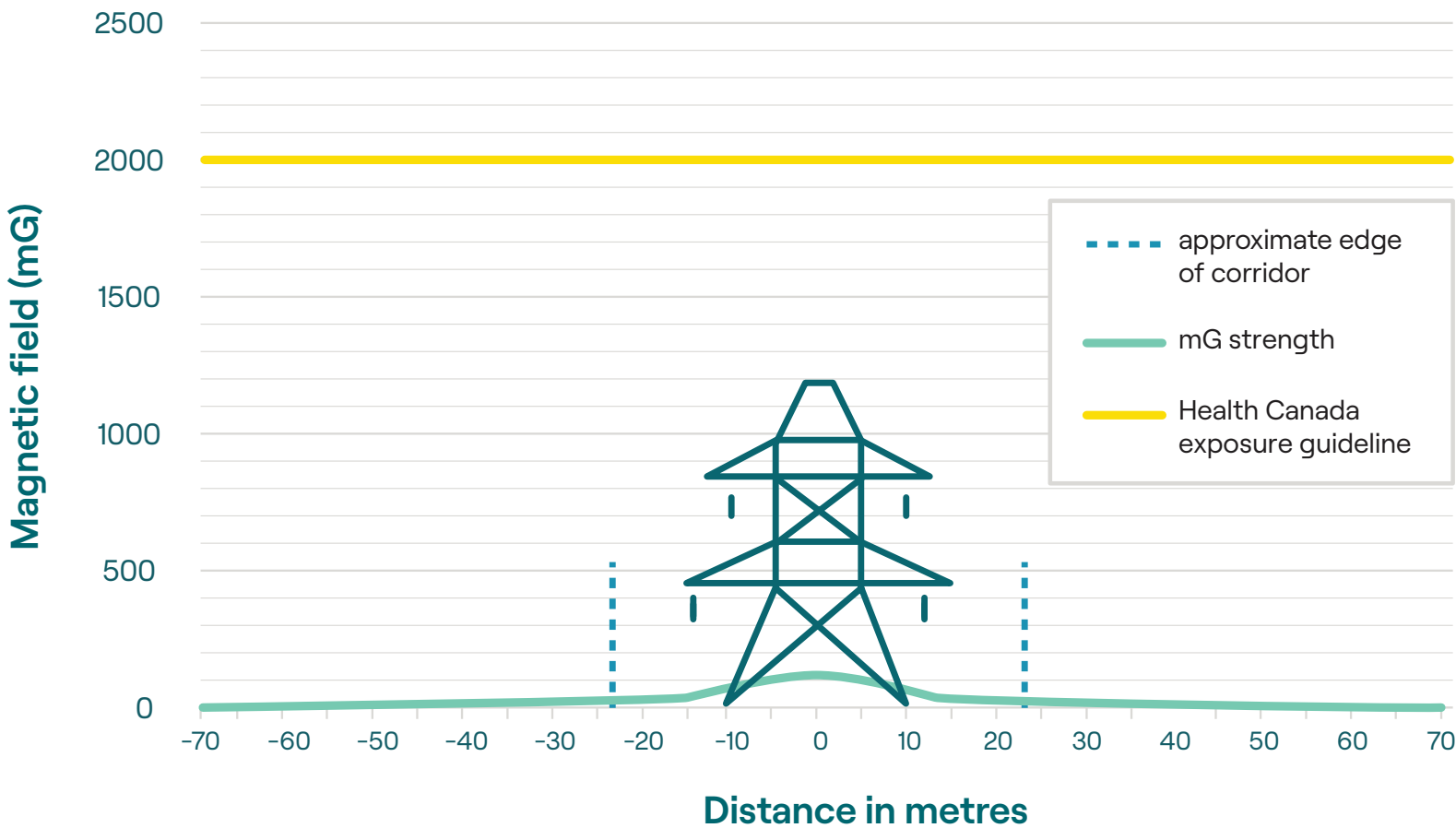
Electric and magnetic fields (EMF)

Hydro One is committed to meet safe EMF exposure levels to ensure members of the public are not exposed to elevated EMF levels. We look to scientific experts, like Health Canada, for guidance. Health Canada does not consider that any precautionary measures by the public are needed regarding daily exposure to EMFs at extremely low frequencies that are emitted from transmission lines.

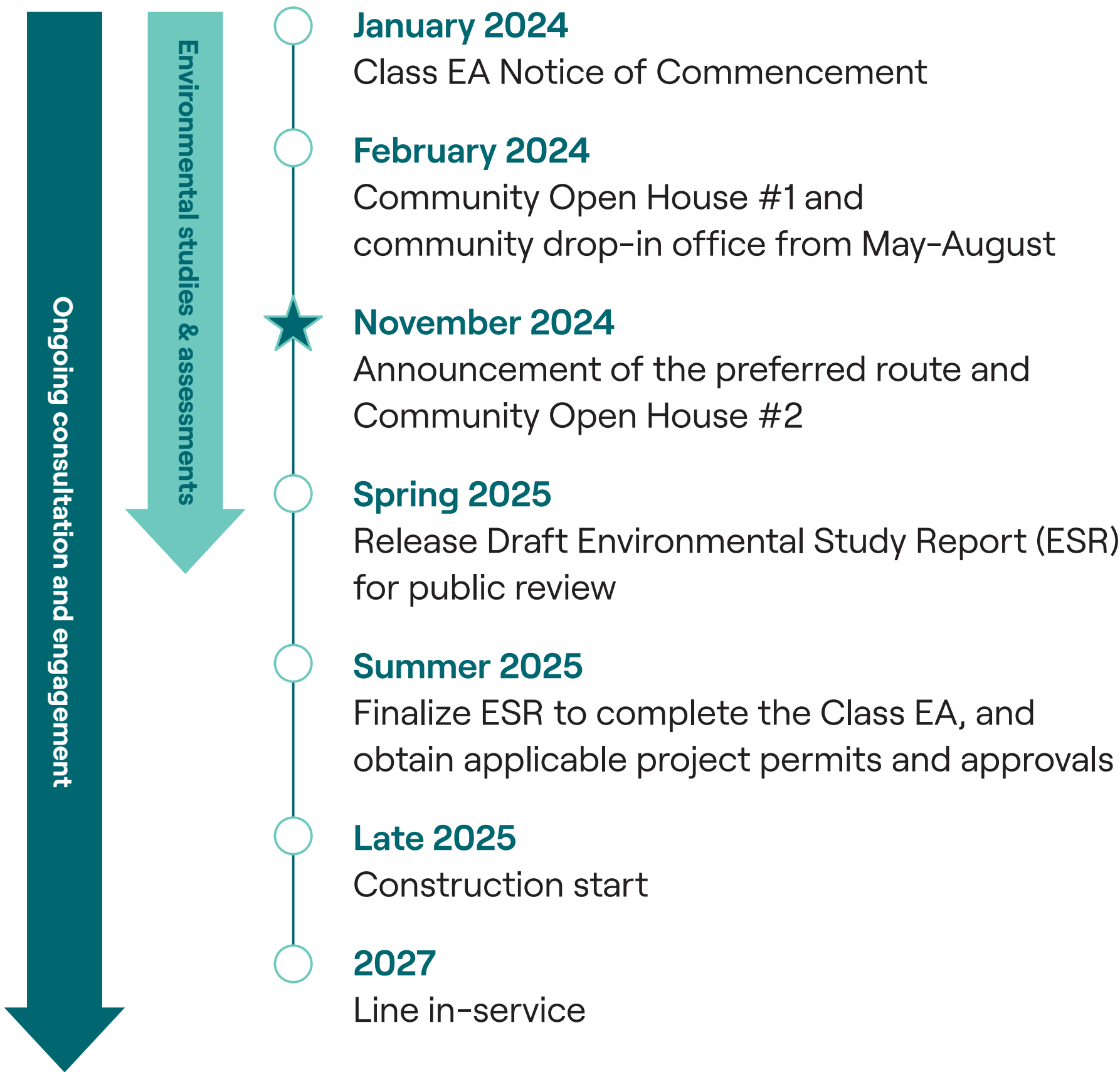
Below is an example chart that shows a double-circuit 230kV transmission line. The green line represents magnetic field modelling as it extends from under the wires and to the edge of the right of way. This modelling is compared against Health Canada’s recommended limit of 2000 mG (yellow horizontal line). The tower represents the middle of the transmission line.

mG of a typical double-circuit 230 kilovolt transmission line

Median magnetic field (mG) of common household appliances	
Vacuum cleaner	300 mG at 6 inches
Microwave	200 mG at 6 inches
Portable heater	100 mG at 6 inches
Washing machines	20 mG at 6 inches



Project timeline



*All dates are subject to change

Thank you!

Your input is important to us. Please share your feedback with our team and complete a comment form before you go. To provide comments or to be added to the project contact list, please call or email:



1.877.345.6799



Community.Relations@HydroOne.com

For the most up-to-date project information and project updates, visit our project website:



HydroOne.com/StThomasLine

Notice of Completion of draft Environmental Study Report

St. Thomas Line project

May 2025

Hydro One has completed the draft Environmental Study Report (ESR) for the St. Thomas Line project. Now, you're invited to provide feedback.

The proposed St. Thomas Line is a 230-kilovolt, double-circuit transmission line that will extend from an existing Hydro One transmission corridor north of Highway 401 in London to the planned Centennial Transformer Station in St. Thomas. Once built, the proposed line will connect to PowerCo Canada Inc.'s electric vehicle battery cell manufacturing facility.

As part of the Class Environmental Assessment (EA) for the project, Hydro One evaluated several route alternatives, to identify ways to reduce impact to the environment, businesses and property owners. We'll continue to work with landowners, as design and construction planning for our selected route continues.

For more information on the project and the Class EA process, please visit **HydroOne.com/StThomasLine**. For a map of the proposed line, please see the next page.

Next steps and providing your input

The draft ESR and Highlights document are available for a public review and comment period from May 28 to June 30, 2025. The report summarizes the Class EA process, which was conducted in accordance with the approved Class Environmental Assessment for Minor Transmission Facilities (July 2022) under Ontario's *Environmental Assessment Act*.

Please provide any comments by **4:30 p.m. on June 30, 2025**, addressed to:



Jennifer Trotman, Environmental Planner
Hydro One Networks Inc., 483 Bay Street, North Tower, 14th Floor,
Toronto, ON M5G 2P5

Comments can also be submitted to:



1.877.345.6799 (Community Relations hotline) or
Community.Relations@HydroOne.com

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

All personal information included in your request – such as name, address, telephone number and property location – is collected under the authority of Section 30 of the *Environmental Assessment Act* and maintained for the purpose of creating a record that is available to the general public.

As this information is collected for the purpose of a public record, the protection of personal information provided in the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FIPPA) does not apply (s.37). Personal information you submit will become part of the available public record unless you request that your personal information remain confidential.



Where to find the draft ESR:

The draft ESR and Highlights document can be viewed electronically on Hydro One's website at **HydroOne.com/StThomasLine**.

Printed copies are available at the following locations (please call ahead for operating hours):

Belmont Public Library
14134 Belmont Road
Belmont

St. Thomas City Hall
545 Talbot Street
St. Thomas

Pond Mills Public Library
1166 Commissioners Road E
London



**HydroOne.com/
StThomasLine**

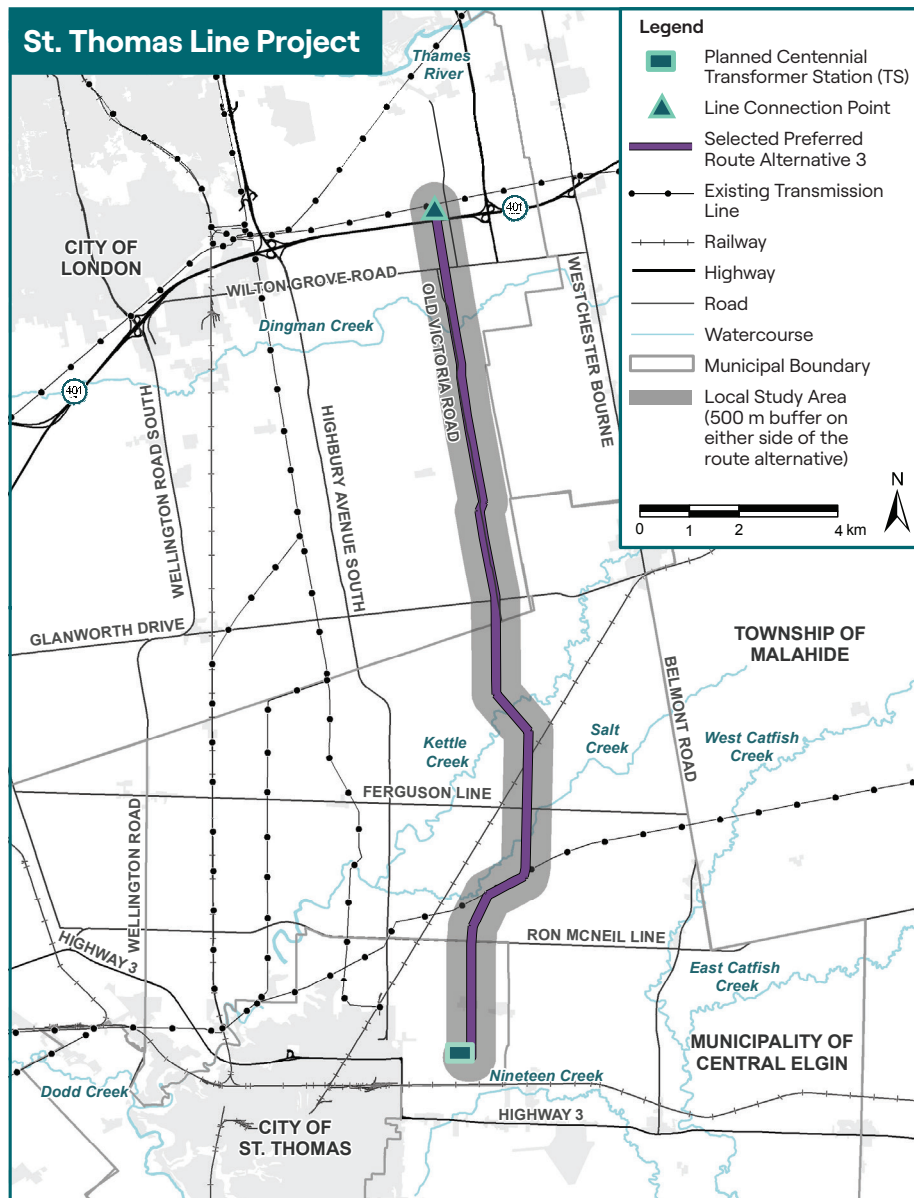


See reverse for map

Hydro One welcomes your feedback. We'll review and address all concerns brought to our attention before finalizing and submitting the ESR to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP). The project will then be considered acceptable to proceed as outlined in the ESR. We'll continue to work with community members as design and construction planning continue.

A request may be made to the MECP for an order requiring a higher level of study (i.e. a Comprehensive EA approval) or that conditions be imposed (e.g. require further studies) before the project can proceed. However, this request can only be made on the grounds that the requested order may prevent, mitigate or remedy adverse impacts on constitutionally protected Indigenous and treaty rights. The MECP will not consider requests on other grounds.

Requests should include the requester's contact information and specify what kind of order is being requested (request for conditions or Comprehensive EA); how an order may prevent, mitigate or remedy potential adverse impacts on Indigenous and treaty rights; and any information in support of the statements in the request.



The request should be sent in writing or by email to:

Minister
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
777 Bay Street, 5th Floor,
Toronto ON M7A 2J3
Minister.mecp@ontario.ca

Director, Environmental Assessment Branch
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
135 St. Clair Avenue West,
1st Floor, Toronto ON M4V 1P5
EABDirector@ontario.ca

Requests should also be copied to Hydro One at the address provided on the front page. Please visit the Ministry's website for more information on requests for orders under Section 16 of the *Environmental Assessment Act* at: ontario.ca/page/class-environmental-assessments-section-16-order.

If no Section 16 Order requests are submitted during the comment period, Hydro One will proceed with the project under the *Environmental Assessment Act*.

We're here to help

If you would like any further information on this project or have any questions or feedback, please contact us at:

 **1.877.345.6799**
 **Community.Relations@HydroOne.com**

Appendix B.3. Indigenous Communities Communications

From: DAWSON Erika <Erika.Dawson@hydroone.com>
Sent: July 17, 2023 6:13 PM
To: chief.plain@aamjiwnaang.ca
Cc: cobrien; environment@aamjiwnaang.ca; Matt Stone; GROL Christopher
Subject: Early Notification Hydro One Project Connect

Dear Chief Plain,

I am writing to provide you with an early advance notice of upcoming proposed Projects in the City of St. Thomas in which the public will be notified in August with a Notice of Commencement. As part of our commitments to being a trusted partner to First Nation communities, I wanted to provide this very preliminary notification on the details we now have. I will also deliver a copy of the formal Notice to you prior to the public as soon as we have more project details.

As you now know, in March 2023, Ontario and Canada announced that St. Thomas was selected as the preferred site for the new investment of the Volkswagen Group (VW) subsidiary, PowerCo SE's electric vehicle battery manufacturing facility. As a reliable energy transmitter, Hydro One is pleased to play a role in connecting the new manufacturing plant to Ontario's electricity system, but we are also committed to ensuring we continue to engage with you and your community to identify and resolve potential interests. To energize the future facility, Hydro One will build a new customer funded transmission station and (2) new transmission lines.

As mentioned, a Notice of Commencement will be issued next month for the first project, which includes a proposed approximately 2-kilometer 230-kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Edgeware Transmission Station and a new transmission station that will be built next to the facility's site on lands owned by the City of St. Thomas. It is anticipated that this project will be following a Class Environmental Assessment (EA) Screening process within the Class EA for Minor Transmission Facilities (2022). Upon the completion of the Class Environmental Assessment Screening process and required permits, the construction of the proposed project can start as early as April 2024 to help meet the target in-service date of Q4 2025.

The second Project will be announced next year by initiating a Full Class Environmental Assessment for a proposed approximately 16-kilometer 230 kV transmission line needed for the expected load requirements for the facility and area. A route selection process will determine the preferred route between the new station and the existing Buchanan Transmission Station located in the City of London. Following the successful completion of the Class EA process, construction could begin September 2025 for the requested in service date of December 2026.

Early, meaningful, and open consultation is a priority to Hydro One. I hope this preliminary notification is helpful in your planning, and we would be pleased to arrange an early briefing on the proposed project and how Aamjiwnaang can participate throughout the lifecycle of the project. Please kindly let me know if you would be interested in meeting by providing possible dates that you or your designate would be available between July 19th – August 2nd.

All the best and miigwetch,



Erika Dawson

Senior Advisor, Indigenous Relations

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: Erika.Dawson@HydroOne.com

483 Bay Street

Toronto, ON | M5G 2P5

[Indigenous Relations | Hydro One](#)

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From: DAWSON Erika <Erika.Dawson@hydroone.com>
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2023 6:07 PM
To: Daniel Miskokomon (drskoke@wifn.org)
Cc: janet.macbeth; Dean Jacobs; Alicia Blackeagle; Larissa Wrightman; GROL Christopher
Subject: Early Notification Hydro One Project Connect

Dear Chief Miskokomon,

I am writing to provide you with an early advance notice of upcoming proposed Projects in the City of St. Thomas in which the public will be notified in August with a Notice of Commencement. As part of our commitments to being a trusted partner to First Nation communities, I wanted to provide this very preliminary notification on the details we now have. I will also deliver a copy of the formal Notice to you prior to the public as soon as we have more project details.

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Early, meaningful, and open consultation is a priority to Hydro One. I hope this preliminary notification is helpful in your planning, and we would be pleased to arrange an early briefing on the proposed project and how Bkejwanong can participate throughout the lifecycle of the project. Please kindly let me know if you would be interested in meeting by providing possible dates that you or your designate would be available between July 19th – August 2nd.

All the best and miigwetch,



Erika Dawson

Senior Advisor, Indigenous Relations

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: Erika.Dawson@HydroOne.com

483 Bay Street

Toronto, ON | M5G 2P5

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From: GROL Christopher <Christopher.Grol@hydroone.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2023 3:05 PM
Subject: FW: Early Notification Hydro One Project Connect

From: DAWSON Erika <Erika.Dawson@HydroOne.com>
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2023 6:26 PM
To: ChiefMaryDuckworth@caldwellfirstnation.ca; soongikiniw@gmail.com
Cc: Mary-Jo Rusu <gov.exec@caldwellfirstnation.ca>; Allen Deleary (Other) <cao@caldwellfirstnation.ca>; GROL Christopher <Christopher.Grol@hydroone.com>
Subject: Early Notification Hydro One Project Connect

Dear/Aaniin Chief Duckworth,

I hope you are well. As previously mentioned, I am writing to provide you with an early advance notice of upcoming proposed Projects in the City of St. Thomas in which the public will be notified in August with a Notice of Commencement. As part of our commitments to being a trusted partner to First Nation communities, I wanted to provide this very preliminary notification on the details we now have. I will also deliver a copy of the formal Notice to you prior to the public as soon as we have more project details.

As you now know, in March 2023, Ontario and Canada announced that St. Thomas was selected as the preferred site for the new investment of the Volkswagen Group (VW) subsidiary, PowerCo SE's electric vehicle battery manufacturing facility. As a reliable energy transmitter, Hydro One is pleased to play a role in connecting the new manufacturing plant to Ontario's electricity system, but we are also committed to ensuring we continue to engage with you and your community to identify and resolve potential interests. To energize the future facility, Hydro One will build a new customer funded transmission station and (2) new transmission lines.

As mentioned, a Notice of Commencement will be issued next month for the first project, which includes a proposed approximately 2-kilometer 230-kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Edgeware Transmission Station and a new transmission station that will be built next to the facility's site on lands owned by the City of St. Thomas. It is anticipated that this project will be following a Class Environmental Assessment (EA) Screening process within the Class EA for Minor Transmission Facilities (2022). Upon the completion of the Class Environmental Assessment Screening process and required permits, the construction of the proposed project can start as early as April 2024 to help meet the target in-service date of Q4 2025.

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Early, meaningful, and open consultation is a priority to Hydro One. I hope this preliminary notification is helpful in your planning, and we would be pleased to arrange an early briefing with Larry Sault on

the proposed project and how Caldwell First Nation can participate throughout the lifecycle of the project. Larry, please kindly let me know if you would be interested in meeting by providing possible dates that you could be available between July 19th – August 2nd.

All the best and miigwetch,



Erika Dawson

Senior Advisor, Indigenous Relations

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: Erika.Dawson@HydroOne.com

483 Bay Street

Toronto, ON | M5G 2P5

[Indigenous Relations | Hydro One](#)

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From: GROL Christopher <Christopher.Grol@hydroone.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2023 3:09 PM
Subject: FW: Early Notification Hydro One Project Connect

From: DAWSON Erika <Erika.Dawson@HydroOne.com>
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2023 6:02 PM
To: kimberly.bressette@kettlepoint.org
Cc: consultation@kettlepoint.org; Claire Sault <Claire.Sault@kettlepoint.org>; GROL Christopher <Christopher.Grol@hydroone.com>; Philip Lee <philip.lee@threefires.com>; Don Richardson <Don.Richardson@threefires.com>
Subject: Early Notification Hydro One Project Connect

Dear Chief Bressette,

I am writing to provide you with an early advance notice of upcoming proposed Projects in the City of St. Thomas in which the public will be notified in August with a Notice of Commencement. As part of our commitments to being a trusted partner to First Nation communities, I wanted to provide this very preliminary notification on the details we now have. I will also deliver a copy of the formal Notice to you prior to the public as soon as we have more project details.

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Early, meaningful, and open consultation is a priority to Hydro One. I hope this preliminary notification is helpful in your planning, and we would be pleased to arrange an early briefing on the proposed project and how Kettle and Stony Point First Nation can participate throughout the lifecycle of the

project. Please kindly let me know if you would be interested in meeting by providing possible dates that you or your designate would be available between July 19th – August 2nd.

All the best and miigwetch,



Erika Dawson

Senior Advisor, Indigenous Relations

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: Erika.Dawson@HydroOne.com

483 Bay Street

Toronto, ON | M5G 2P5

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From: DAWSON Erika <Erika.Dawson@hydroone.com>
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2023 5:51 PM
To: Jacqueline French
Cc: Jennifer Mills; kriley@cottfn.com; Sheila Jaggard; Fallon Burch; GROL Christopher
Subject: Early Notification Hydro One Project Connect

Dear Chief French,

I am writing to provide you with an early advance notice of upcoming proposed Projects in the City of St. Thomas in which the public will be notified in August with a Notice of Commencement. As part of our commitments to being a trusted partner to First Nation communities, I wanted to provide this very preliminary notification on the details we now have. I will also deliver a copy of the formal Notice to you prior to the public as soon as we have more project details.

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Early, meaningful, and open consultation is a priority to Hydro One. I hope this preliminary notification is helpful in your planning, and we would be pleased to arrange an early briefing on the proposed project and how Deshkan Zibiing can participate throughout the lifecycle of the project. Please kindly let me know if you would be interested in meeting by providing possible dates that you or your designate would be available between July 19th – August 2nd.

I will be submitting subsequent communications through NationsConnect once we have a map that is required to submit a project on the platform.

All the best and miigwetch,



Erika Dawson

Senior Advisor, Indigenous Relations

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: Erika.Dawson@HydroOne.com

483 Bay Street

Toronto, ON | M5G 2P5

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From: DAWSON Erika <Erika.Dawson@hydroone.com>
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2023 6:17 PM
To: ohahokta@hotmail.com; info@hdi.land
Cc: Todd Williams; Sharann Martin; Raechelle Williams; GROL Christopher
Subject: Early Notification Hydro One Project Connect

She:kon Secretary Leroy Hill,

I am writing to provide you with an early advance notice of upcoming proposed Projects in the City of St. Thomas in which the public will be notified in August with a Notice of Commencement. As part of our commitments to being a trusted partner to First Nation communities, I wanted to provide this very preliminary notification on the details we now have. I will also deliver a copy of the formal Notice to you prior to the public as soon as we have more project details.

As you now know, in March 2023, Ontario and Canada announced that St. Thomas was selected as the preferred site for the new investment of the Volkswagen Group (VW) subsidiary, PowerCo SE's electric vehicle battery manufacturing facility. As a reliable energy transmitter, Hydro One is pleased to play a role in connecting the new manufacturing plant to Ontario's electricity system, but we are also committed to ensuring we continue to engage with you and your community to identify and resolve potential interests. To energize the future facility, Hydro One will build a new customer funded transmission station and (2) new transmission lines.

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Early, meaningful, and open consultation is a priority to Hydro One. I hope this preliminary notification is helpful in your planning, and we would be pleased to arrange an early briefing on the proposed project and how HCCC/HDI can participate throughout the lifecycle of the project. Please kindly let me know if you would be interested in meeting by providing possible dates that you or your designate would be available between July 19th – August 2nd.

All the best and nia:wen,



Erika Dawson

Senior Advisor, Indigenous Relations

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: Erika.Dawson@HydroOne.com

483 Bay Street

Toronto, ON | M5G 2P5

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From: DAWSON Erika <Erika.Dawson@hydroone.com>
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2023 5:22 PM
To: Chief Todd Cornelius
Cc: Brandon Doxtator; GROL Christopher; cao@oneida.on.ca; sandra.doxtator@oneida.on.ca
Subject: Early notification Hydro One Project Connect

Shekoli Chief Cornelius,

I am writing to provide you with an early advance notice of upcoming proposed Projects in the City of St. Thomas in which the public will be notified in August with a Notice of Commencement. As part of our commitments to being a trusted partner to First Nation communities, I wanted to provide this very preliminary notification on the details we now have. I will also deliver a copy of the formal Notice to you prior to the public as soon as we have more project details.

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Early, meaningful, and open consultation is a priority to Hydro One. I hope this preliminary notification is helpful in your planning, and we would be pleased to arrange an early briefing on the proposed project and how Oneida can participate throughout the lifecycle of the project. Please kindly let me know if you would be interested in meeting by providing possible dates that you or your designate would be available between July 19th – August 2nd.

All the best and Yaw^ko,



Erika Dawson

Senior Advisor, Indigenous Relations

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: Erika.Dawson@HydroOne.com

483 Bay Street

Toronto, ON | M5G 2P5

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From: DAWSON Erika <Erika.Dawson@hydroone.com>
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2023 5:12 PM
To: Mark B. Hill
Cc: Lonny Bomberry; Tammy Martin; Tayler Hill; Tanya Hill-Montour; LRCS@sixnations.ca; Dawn Russell; GROL Christopher
Subject: Early notification for Hydro One Project Connect

She:kon Chief Hill,

I am writing to provide you with an early advance notice of upcoming proposed Projects in the City of St. Thomas in which the public will be notified in August with a Notice of Commencement. As part of our commitments to being a trusted partner to First Nation communities, I wanted to provide this very preliminary notification on the details we now have. I will also deliver a copy of the formal Notice to you prior to the public as soon as we have more project details.

As you now know, in March 2023, Ontario and Canada announced that St. Thomas was selected as the preferred site for the new investment of the Volkswagen Group (VW) subsidiary, PowerCo SE's electric vehicle battery manufacturing facility. As a reliable energy transmitter, Hydro One is pleased to play a role in connecting the new manufacturing plant to Ontario's electricity system, but we are also committed to ensuring we continue to engage with you and your community to identify and resolve potential interests. To energize the future facility, Hydro One will build a new customer funded transmission station and (2) new transmission lines.

As mentioned, a Notice of Commencement will be issued next month for the first project, which includes a proposed approximately 2-kilometer 230-kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Edgeware Transmission Station and a new transmission station that will be built next to the facility's site on lands owned by the City of St. Thomas. It is anticipated that this project will be following a Class Environmental Assessment (EA) Screening process within the Class EA for Minor Transmission Facilities (2022). Upon the completion of the Class Environmental Assessment Screening process and required permits, the construction of the proposed project can start as early as April 2024 to help meet the target in-service date of Q4 2025.

The second Project will be announced next year by initiating a Full Class Environmental Assessment for a proposed approximately 16-kilometer 230 kV transmission line needed for the expected load requirements for the facility and area. A route selection process will determine the preferred route between the new station and the existing Buchanan Transmission Station located in the City of London. Following the successful completion of the Class EA process, construction could begin September 2025 for the requested in service date of December 2026.

Early, meaningful, and open consultation is a priority to Hydro One. I hope this preliminary notification is helpful in your planning, and we would be pleased to arrange an early briefing on the proposed project and how Six Nations can participate throughout the lifecycle of the project. Please kindly let me know if you would be interested in meeting by providing possible dates that you or your designate would be available between July 19th – August 2nd.

All the best and nia:wen



Erika Dawson

Senior Advisor, Indigenous Relations

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: Erika.Dawson@HydroOne.com

483 Bay Street

Toronto, ON | M5G 2P5

[Indigenous Relations | Hydro One](#)

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From: GROL Christopher <Christopher.Grol@hydroone.com>
Sent: August 27, 2024 10:54 AM
To: Courtney Jackson
Cc: Lynn Rosales; DAWSON Erika; TROTMAN Jennifer
Subject: Hydro One - Route Selection Update - St. Thomas Line Project
Attachments: StThomasLine_NOC.pdf

Good afternoon Courtney,

I hope you are doing well as the Summer comes to a close.

I'm reaching out to continue our engagement on the St. Thomas Line Project to energize the new PowerCo electric vehicle battery manufacturing facility. As a kind reminder, the scope of the Project is to construct a new 230-kilovolt double-circuit transmission line that will extend from our existing transmission corridor north of Highway 401 in the City of London to the new Centennial Transformer Station in St. Thomas. Please find the original notice of the Project attached for your convenience.

Part of the process of this Project is identifying a preferred route from 3 alternative routes with variations (see map within the attached notice). Our goal is to select a preferred route that balances and takes into consideration Indigenous land use and knowledge, natural environment, socio-economic environment and technical factors. We are now approaching the milestone of selecting the preferred route in September 2024. Your feedback, alongside the above considerations, is valued in the process of identifying the preferred route for the transmission line.

As such, I wanted to ensure Aamjiwnaang First Nation had another opportunity if there is interest to provide any comments regarding the alternative routes via email/letter or meeting before the route selection process concludes. The preferred route will be announced publicly mid-October.

I also wanted to inform you that Erika Dawson, Sr. Advisor Indigenous Relations has returned back from family care leave. Please expect her to continue engagement with you on the Project and other Hydro One matters with my continued support.

Thanks,

Chris Grol
Hydro **One** Networks Inc.
Coordinator | Indigenous Relations

A: 483 Bay Street | Toronto, ON | M5G 2P5
C: [REDACTED]
E: Christopher.grol@HydroOne.com

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From: GROL Christopher <Christopher.Grol@hydroone.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 27, 2024 10:54 AM
To: Daniel Miskokomon (drskoke@wifn.org)
Cc: Alicia Blackeagle; Dean Jacobs; Larissa Wrightman; DAWSON Erika; TROTMAN Jennifer
Subject: Hydro One - Route Selection Update - St. Thomas Line Project
Attachments: StThomasLine_NOC.pdf

Good afternoon Chief Miskokomon,

I hope you are doing well as the Summer comes to a close.

I'm reaching out to continue our engagement on the St. Thomas Line Project to energize the new PowerCo electric vehicle battery manufacturing facility. As a kind reminder, the scope of the Project is to construct a new 230-kilovolt double-circuit transmission line that will extend from our existing transmission corridor north of Highway 401 in the City of London to the new Centennial Transformer Station in St. Thomas. Please find the original notice of the Project attached for your convenience.

Part of the process of this Project is identifying a preferred route from 3 alternative routes with variations (see map within the attached notice). Our goal is to select a preferred route that balances and takes into consideration Indigenous land use and knowledge, natural environment, socio-economic environment and technical factors. We are now approaching the milestone of selecting the preferred route in September 2024. Your feedback, alongside the above considerations, is valued in the process of identifying the preferred route for the transmission line.

As such, I wanted to ensure Walpole Island First Nation had another opportunity if there is interest to provide any comments regarding the alternative routes via email/letter or meeting before the route selection process concludes. The preferred route will be announced publicly mid-October.

I also wanted to inform you that Erika Dawson, Sr. Advisor Indigenous Relations has returned back from family care leave. Please expect her to continue engagement with you on the Project and other Hydro One matters with my continued support.

Thanks,

Chris Grol
Hydro One Networks Inc.
Coordinator | Indigenous Relations

A: 483 Bay Street | Toronto, ON | M5G 2P5
C: [REDACTED]
E: Christopher.grol@HydroOne.com

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From: GROL Christopher <Christopher.Grol@hydroone.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 27, 2024 10:54 AM
To: Zack Hamm
Cc: Susan Sullivan; DAWSON Erika; TROTMAN Jennifer
Subject: Hydro One - Route Selection Update - St. Thomas Line Project
Attachments: StThomasLine_NOC.pdf

Good afternoon Zack,

I hope you are doing well as the Summer comes to a close.

I'm reaching out to continue our engagement on the St. Thomas Line Project to energize the new PowerCo electric vehicle battery manufacturing facility. As a kind reminder, the scope of the Project is to construct a new 230-kilovolt double-circuit transmission line that will extend from our existing transmission corridor north of Highway 401 in the City of London to the new Centennial Transformer Station in St. Thomas. Please find the original notice of the Project attached for your convenience.

Part of the process of this Project is identifying a preferred route from 3 alternative routes with variations (see map within the attached notice). Our goal is to select a preferred route that balances and takes into consideration Indigenous land use and knowledge, natural environment, socio-economic environment and technical factors. We are now approaching the milestone of selecting the preferred route in September 2024. Your feedback, alongside the above considerations, is valued in the process of identifying the preferred route for the transmission line.

As such, I wanted to ensure Caldwell First Nation had another opportunity if there is interest to provide any comments regarding the alternative routes via email/letter or meeting before the route selection process concludes. The preferred route will be announced publicly mid-October.

I also wanted to inform you that Erika Dawson, Sr. Advisor Indigenous Relations has returned back from family care leave. Please expect her to continue engagement with you on the Project and other Hydro One matters with my continued support.

Thanks,

Chris Grol
Hydro One Networks Inc.
Coordinator | Indigenous Relations

A: 483 Bay Street | Toronto, ON | M5G 2P5
C: [REDACTED]
E: Christopher.grol@HydroOne.com

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From: GROL Christopher <Christopher.Grol@hydroone.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 27, 2024 10:54 AM
To: Jessica.Wakefield@threefires.com
Cc: Consultation; Verna George; Michael George; Chief Kimberly Bressette; DAWSON Erika; TROTMAN Jennifer
Subject: Hydro One - Route Selection Update - St. Thomas Line Project
Attachments: StThomasLine_NOC.pdf

Good afternoon Jessica,

I hope you are doing well as the Summer comes to a close.

I'm reaching out to continue our engagement on the St. Thomas Line Project to energize the new PowerCo electric vehicle battery manufacturing facility. As a kind reminder, the scope of the Project is to construct a new 230-kilovolt double-circuit transmission line that will extend from our existing transmission corridor north of Highway 401 in the City of London to the new Centennial Transformer Station in St. Thomas. Please find the original notice of the Project attached for your convenience.

Part of the process of this Project is identifying a preferred route from 3 alternative routes with variations (see map within the attached notice). Our goal is to select a preferred route that balances and takes into consideration Indigenous land use and knowledge, natural environment, socio-economic environment and technical factors. We are now approaching the milestone of selecting the preferred route in September 2024. Your feedback, alongside the above considerations, is valued in the process of identifying the preferred route for the transmission line.

As such, I wanted to ensure Kettle and Stony Point First Nation had another opportunity if there is interest to provide any comments regarding the alternative routes via email/letter or meeting before the route selection process concludes. The preferred route will be announced publicly mid-October.

I also wanted to inform you that Erika Dawson, Sr. Advisor Indigenous Relations has returned back from family care leave. Please expect her to continue engagement with you on the Project and other Hydro One matters with my continued support.

Thanks,

Chris Grol
Hydro **One** Networks Inc.
Coordinator | Indigenous Relations

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From: GROL Christopher <Christopher.Grol@hydroone.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 27, 2024 10:54 AM
To: Todd Williams
Cc: Raechelle Williams; Sharann Martin; DAWSON Erika; TROTMAN Jennifer
Subject: Hydro One - Route Selection Update - St. Thomas Line Project
Attachments: StThomasLine_NOC.pdf

Good afternoon Todd,

I hope you are doing well as the Summer comes to a close.

I'm reaching out to continue our engagement on the St. Thomas Line Project to energize the new PowerCo electric vehicle battery manufacturing facility. As a kind reminder, the scope of the Project is to construct a new 230-kilovolt double-circuit transmission line that will extend from our existing transmission corridor north of Highway 401 in the City of London to the new Centennial Transformer Station in St. Thomas. Please find the original notice of the Project attached for your convenience.

Part of the process of this Project is identifying a preferred route from 3 alternative routes with variations (see map within the attached notice). Our goal is to select a preferred route that balances and takes into consideration Indigenous land use and knowledge, natural environment, socio-economic environment and technical factors. We are now approaching the milestone of selecting the preferred route in September 2024. Your feedback, alongside the above considerations, is valued in the process of identifying the preferred route for the transmission line.

As such, I wanted to ensure the Haudenosaunee Development Institute had another opportunity if there is interest to provide any comments regarding the alternative routes via email/letter or meeting before the route selection process concludes. The preferred route will be announced publicly mid-October.

I also wanted to inform you that Erika Dawson, Sr. Advisor Indigenous Relations has returned back from family care leave. Please expect her to continue engagement with you on the Project and other Hydro One matters with my continued support.

Thanks,

Chris Grol
Hydro One Networks Inc.
Coordinator | Indigenous Relations

A: 483 Bay Street | Toronto, ON | M5G 2P5
C: [REDACTED]
E: Christopher.grol@HydroOne.com

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From: GROL Christopher <Christopher.Grol@hydroone.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 27, 2024 10:54 AM
To: todd.cornelius@oneida.on.ca
Cc: environment@oneida.on.ca; brandon.doxator@oneida.on.ca; cao@oneida.on.ca; Sandra.doxator@oneida.on.ca; DAWSON Erika; TROTMAN Jennifer
Subject: Hydro One - Route Selection Update - St. Thomas Line Project
Attachments: StThomasLine_NOC.pdf

Good afternoon Chief Cornelius,

I hope you are doing well as the Summer comes to a close.

I'm reaching out to continue our engagement on the St. Thomas Line Project to energize the new PowerCo electric vehicle battery manufacturing facility. As a kind reminder, the scope of the Project is to construct a new 230-kilovolt double-circuit transmission line that will extend from our existing transmission corridor north of Highway 401 in the City of London to the new Centennial Transformer Station in St. Thomas. Please find the original notice of the Project attached for your convenience.

Part of the process of this Project is identifying a preferred route from 3 alternative routes with variations (see map within the attached notice). Our goal is to select a preferred route that balances and takes into consideration Indigenous land use and knowledge, natural environment, socio-economic environment and technical factors. We are now approaching the milestone of selecting the preferred route in September 2024. Your feedback, alongside the above considerations, is valued in the process of identifying the preferred route for the transmission line.

As such, I wanted to ensure the Oneida Nation of the Thames had another opportunity if there is interest to provide any comments regarding the alternative routes via email/letter or meeting before the route selection process concludes. The preferred route will be announced publicly mid-October.

I also wanted to inform you that Erika Dawson, Sr. Advisor Indigenous Relations has returned back from family care leave. Please expect her to continue engagement with you on the Project and other Hydro One matters with my continued support.

Thanks,

Chris Grol
Hydro **One** Networks Inc.
Coordinator | Indigenous Relations

A: 483 Bay Street | Toronto, ON | M5G 2P5
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E: Christopher.grol@HydroOne.com

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From: GROL Christopher <Christopher.Grol@hydroone.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 27, 2024 10:54 AM
To: lonnybomberry@sixnations.ca
Cc: dawnrussell@sixnations.ca; LRCS@sixnations.ca; Tammy Martin;
Tayler.hill@sixnations.ca; Tanya Hill-Montour; sncos@sixnations.ca; DAWSON Erika;
TROTMAN Jennifer
Subject: Hydro One - Route Selection Update - St. Thomas Line Project
Attachments: StThomasLine_NOC.pdf

Good afternoon Lonny,

I hope you are doing well as the Summer comes to a close.

I'm reaching out to continue our engagement on the St. Thomas Line Project to energize the new PowerCo electric vehicle battery manufacturing facility. As a kind reminder, the scope of the Project is to construct a new 230-kilovolt double-circuit transmission line that will extend from our existing transmission corridor north of Highway 401 in the City of London to the new Centennial Transformer Station in St. Thomas. Please find the original notice of the Project attached for your convenience.

Part of the process of this Project is identifying a preferred route from 3 alternative routes with variations (see map within the attached notice). Our goal is to select a preferred route that balances and takes into consideration Indigenous land use and knowledge, natural environment, socio-economic environment and technical factors. We are now approaching the milestone of selecting the preferred route in September 2024. Your feedback, alongside the above considerations, is valued in the process of identifying the preferred route for the transmission line.

As such, I wanted to ensure Six Nations of the Grand River had another opportunity if there is interest to provide any comments regarding the alternative routes via email/letter or meeting before the route selection process concludes. The preferred route will be announced publicly mid-October.

I also wanted to inform you that Erika Dawson, Sr. Advisor Indigenous Relations has returned back from family care leave. Please expect her to continue engagement with you on the Project and other Hydro One matters with my continued support.

Thanks,

Chris Grol
Hydro **One** Networks Inc.
Coordinator | Indigenous Relations

A: 483 Bay Street | Toronto, ON | M5G 2P5
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From: DAWSON Erika <Erika.Dawson@hydroone.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 24, 2024 5:58 PM
To: Courtney Jackson
Cc: Lynn Rosales; GROL Christopher
Subject: RE: Hydro One - Route Selection Update - St. Thomas Line Project
Attachments: StThomas_NOPR_COH2_Oct2024vF.pdf;
StThomasRoute_SelectionFactSheet_Oct2024vF.pdf

Good afternoon Courtney,

Hydro One has reached a milestone on the St. Thomas Line Project with the selection of a preferred route (Alternative 3).

Many rightsholders and stakeholders to date have helped shape this Project. We would be happy to meet to brief you on the Project, the details of the selection for the preferred route, and any other Hydro One matters. We will be in Aamjiwnaang on November 12th for the Community Information Forum, and happy to arrange a time to meet. The project will be at the Hydro One table at the forum to engage community members to learn more, hear about next steps, speak with our Project team, and provide feedback.

I have attached a notice and factsheet for details about the process to select a preferred route, a map of the preferred route, and a public open house invite details.

More information is also available at www.hydroone.com/StThomasLine.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Always happy to arrange a phone call to connect.

All the best and miigwetch,



Erika Dawson
Senior Advisor, Indigenous Relations
Phone: [REDACTED]
Email: Erika.Dawson@HydroOne.com

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Toronto, ON | M5G 2P5
[Indigenous Relations | Hydro One](#)

From: DAWSON Erika <Erika.Dawson@hydroone.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 24, 2024 5:29 PM
To: Larissa Wrightman; Alicia Blackeagle
Cc: GROL Christopher; Leela.Thomas@wifn.org; WILLIAMS Kelly
Subject: FW: Hydro One - Route Selection Update - St. Thomas Line Project
Attachments: StThomasLine_NOC.pdf; StThomas_NOPR_COH2_Oct2024vF.pdf; StThomasRoute_SelectionFactSheet_Oct2024vF.pdf

Aanii Alicia and Larissa,

I understand that you have been working with my colleague Kelly Williams on Hydro One's large capital projects and arranging for us to come to an open house in November. I'm on the Hydro One's Indigenous Relations Lifecycle team and is the long-term relationship holder for Walpole Island First Nation for Hydro One matters outside of capital projects (Kelly is the lead). However, I do consult on customer driven projects and other projects that do not meet the qualifications for equity partnership (such as refurbishments, smaller projects, etc).

Below is an email that I sent to the former Chief and yourselves regarding a project initiated earlier this year called St. Thomas Line— I have also attached the Notice of Commencement for your convenience.

I'm reaching out because Hydro One has reached a milestone on the St. Thomas Line Project with the selection of a preferred route (Alternative 3). I would be happy to meet to brief you on the Project, the details of the selection for the preferred route, and any other Hydro One matters.

I have attached a notice and factsheet for details about the process to select a preferred route, a map of the preferred route, and a public open house invite details. This project will be part of the open house in November with Kelly, and if convenient for you would be happy to arrange a briefing around then.

As always, I'm happy to arrange a phone call with you, and please let me know if you have any questions.

All the best and miigwetch,



Erika Dawson

Senior Advisor, Indigenous Relations

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: Erika.Dawson@HydroOne.com

483 Bay Street

Toronto, ON | M5G 2P5

[Indigenous Relations | Hydro One](#)

From: DAWSON Erika <Erika.Dawson@hydroone.com>
Sent: October 24, 2024 6:03 PM
To: Zack Hamm
Cc: Susan Sullivan; GROL Christopher
Subject: RE: Hydro One - Route Selection Update - St. Thomas Line Project
Attachments: StThomas_NOPR_COH2_Oct2024vF.pdf;
StThomasRoute_SelectionFactSheet_Oct2024vF.pdf

Hi Zack,

Hydro One has reached a milestone on the St. Thomas Line Project with the selection of a preferred route (Alternative 3).

Many rightsholders and stakeholders to date have helped shape this Project and we would like to hear from Caldwell. We would be happy to meet to brief you on the details of the selection for the preferred route and other project updates. I understand the capacity funding addendum is sitting with you and happy to discuss that as well if you wish.

I have attached a notice and factsheet for details about the process to select a preferred route, a map of the preferred route, and a public open house invite details. We would like to offer a community open house conveniently in Caldwell for community members to drop-in to learn more, hear about next steps, speak with our Project team, and provide feedback.

More information is also available at www.hydroone.com/StThomasLine.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Always happy to arrange a phone call to connect.

All the best and miigwetch,



Erika Dawson

Senior Advisor, Indigenous Relations

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: Erika.Dawson@HydroOne.com

483 Bay Street

Toronto, ON | M5G 2P5

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From: DAWSON Erika <Erika.Dawson@hydroone.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 24, 2024 5:04 PM
To: Jessica Wakefield; Consultation; Verna George; Michael George; Kimberly Bressette
Cc: GROL Christopher
Subject: Hydro One St. Thomas Line Notice of Preferred Route
Attachments: StThomas_NOPR_COH2_Oct2024vF.pdf;
StThomasRoute_SelectionFactSheet_Oct2024vF.pdf

Good afternoon,

As mentioned in my previous email, I wanted to formally announce to you of our milestone on the St. Thomas Line Project with the selection of a preferred route (Alternative 3).

We hope you feel that your feedback to date has helped shape this Project, and we want to continue to engage with you and brief you on the preferred route and how your feedback contributed to it.

Please see the attached notice and factsheet for details about the process to select a preferred route, a map of the preferred route, and a public open house invite details. Additionally, we would be happy to host an open house in Kettle and Stony Point First Nation for members to drop-in at to learn more, hear about next steps, continue to speak with our Project team and provide additional feedback into the preferred route.

More information is also available at www.hydroone.com/StThomasLine.

If you have any questions for us, please let me know.

All the best and miigwetch,



Erika Dawson

Senior Advisor, Indigenous Relations

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: Erika.Dawson@HydroOne.com

483 Bay Street

Toronto, ON | M5G 2P5

[Indigenous Relations | Hydro One](#)

From: DAWSON Erika <Erika.Dawson@hydroone.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 24, 2024 4:19 PM
To: Erna-Marie Leclair; Fallon Burch; Jennifer Mills
Cc: Kodi Deleary; GROL Christopher
Subject: Hydro One St. Thomas Line Notice of Preferred Route
Attachments: StThomas_NOPR_COH2_Oct2024vF.pdf;
StThomasRoute_SelectionFactSheet_Oct2024vF.pdf

Aanii Erna-Marie, Fallon, Jennifer and Kodi,

It was such a pleasure to be invited to the community last week to present on the Project and I think the open house went well. I wanted to formally announce to you of our milestone on the St. Thomas Line Project with the selection of a preferred route (Alternative 3).

We hope you feel that your feedback to date has helped shape this Project, and we want to continue to engage with you. I know we have already had an open house in the community last week but wanted to ensure that Deshkan Zibiing leadership and members are still invited to drop-in at our upcoming public open houses to learn more, hear about next steps, continue to speak with our Project team and provide additional feedback into the preferred route.

Please see the attached notice and factsheet for details about the process to select a preferred route, a map of the preferred route, and open house details. More information is also available at www.hydroone.com/StThomasLine.

If you have any questions for us, please let me know.

All the best and miigwetch,



Erika Dawson

Senior Advisor, Indigenous Relations

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: Erika.Dawson@HydroOne.com

483 Bay Street

Toronto, ON | M5G 2P5

[Indigenous Relations | Hydro One](#)

From: DAWSON Erika <Erika.Dawson@hydroone.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 24, 2024 4:52 PM
To: Todd Williams
Cc: Raechelle Williams; Sharann Martin; GROL Christopher
Subject: RE: Hydro One - Route Selection Update - St. Thomas Line Project
Attachments: StThomasRoute_SelectionFactSheet_Oct2024vF.pdf; StThomas_NOPR_COH2_Oct2024vF.pdf

She:kon Todd,

Hydro One has reached a milestone on the St. Thomas Line Project with the selection of a preferred route (Alternative 3).

We would be happy to meet to brief you on the Project and the details of the selection for the preferred route.

I have attached a notice and factsheet for details about the process to select a preferred route, a map of the preferred route, and a public open house details to drop-in to learn more, hear about next steps, speak with our Project team, and provide feedback.

More information is also available at www.hydroone.com/StThomasLine.

Please let me know if you have any questions and would like to meet.

All the best and nia:wen,



Erika Dawson

Senior Advisor, Indigenous Relations

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: Erika.Dawson@HydroOne.com

483 Bay Street

Toronto, ON | M5G 2P5

[Indigenous Relations](#) | [Hydro One](#)

From: DAWSON Erika <Erika.Dawson@hydroone.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 24, 2024 4:40 PM
To: environment@oneida.on.ca
Cc: brandon.doxator@oneida.on.ca; cao@oneida.on.ca; Sandra.doxator@oneida.on.ca; GROL Christopher; todd.cornelius@oneida.on.ca
Subject: RE: Hydro One - Route Selection Update - St. Thomas Line Project
Attachments: StThomas_NOPR_COH2_Oct2024vF.pdf;
StThomasRoute_SelectionFactSheet_Oct2024vF.pdf

She:kon/Good afternoon Jenelle,

Hydro One has reached a milestone on the St. Thomas Line Project with the selection of a preferred route (Alternative 3).

Many rightsholders and stakeholders to date have helped shape this Project. I understand that there are capacity restraints at Oneida but we would like to hear from you, and happy to provide capacity funding to meet and engage on the Project. We would be happy to meet to brief you on the Project, the details of the selection for the preferred route, and any other Hydro One matters.

I have attached a notice and factsheet for details about the process to select a preferred route, a map of the preferred route, and a public open house invite details. We would like to offer a community open house conveniently in Oneida for community members to drop-in to learn more, hear about next steps, speak with our Project team, and provide feedback.

More information is also available at www.hydroone.com/StThomasLine.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Always happy to arrange a phone call to connect.

All the best and nia:wen,



Erika Dawson
Senior Advisor, Indigenous Relations
Phone: [REDACTED]
Email: Erika.Dawson@HydroOne.com

483 Bay Street
Toronto, ON | M5G 2P5
[Indigenous Relations | Hydro One](#)

From: DAWSON Erika <Erika.Dawson@hydroone.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 24, 2024 5:37 PM
To: lonnybomberry@sixnations.ca; Tayler.hill@sixnations.ca; dawnrussell@sixnations.ca; LRCS@sixnations.ca; Tammy Martin; Tanya Hill-Montour; sncos@sixnations.ca
Cc: GROL Christopher
Subject: RE: Hydro One - Route Selection Update - St. Thomas Line Project
Attachments: StThomas_NOPR_COH2_Oct2024vF.pdf;
StThomasRoute_SelectionFactSheet_Oct2024vF.pdf

She:kon Lonny, Tayler, and the whole team,

I'm reaching out to you because Hydro One has reached a milestone on the St. Thomas Line Project with the selection of a preferred route (Alternative 3).

Many rightsholders and stakeholders to date have helped shape this Project and we would like to hear from you. We would be happy to meet to brief you on project updates like the details of the selection for the preferred route.

I have attached a notice and factsheet for details about the process to select a preferred route, a map of the preferred route, and a public open house invite details. We would like to offer a community open house conveniently in Six Nations for community members to drop-in to learn more, hear about next steps, speak with our Project team, and provide feedback.

More information is also available at www.hydroone.com/StThomasLine.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Always happy to arrange a phone call to connect.

All the best and nia:wen,



Erika Dawson

Senior Advisor, Indigenous Relations

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: Erika.Dawson@HydroOne.com

483 Bay Street

Toronto, ON | M5G 2P5

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Factsheet:

Route selection process

Hydro One has selected Route 3 as the preferred route

In January 2024, Hydro One commenced a Class Environmental Assessment and identified three route alternatives, along with variations, for the new transmission line.

The assessment considered four categories of evaluation criteria: natural environment, socio-economic environment, Indigenous culture, values and land use, as well as technical and cost. These criteria were applied in a balanced manner, and the results of the evaluation identified Route 3 as the preferred route.

About the preferred route and evaluation results



- The preferred route passes through the fewest environmentally sensitive features and involves the least disruption to species at risk and their habitats.
- Compared to all route alternatives, the preferred route has the least impact on residential properties within the right of way.
- Additionally, the preferred route won't require any network outages during construction and minimizes the need for complex changes to any existing transmission lines.

The evaluation concluded that Route 3 offers the most overall advantages compared to the other route alternatives identified through the environmental assessment. Route 3 ranked highest in all the categories including natural environment, socio-economic environment, Indigenous culture, values and land use, and technical and cost.

We're here to help



1.877.345.6799



Community.Relations
@HydroOne.com



HydroOne.com/
StThomasLine

Evaluation summary



Natural environment

Route 3 scored the best overall in the natural environment category.

- Minimizes vegetation removal
- Least effect to species at risk habitat
- Least effect to significant wildlife habitat
- Least effects to designated natural areas and identified restoration areas such as Significant Valleylands, Significant Woodlands, Provincially Significant Wetlands, Environmentally Sensitive Areas



Socio-economic environment

Route 3 scored the best overall in the socio-economic environment category.

- Least effects to residential properties and no buildings located in the right of way
- Least effects to Source Water Protection Areas
- Least effects to built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes
- Effects to agricultural resources and operations were similar to other alternatives



Indigenous culture, values and land use

Overall, Route 3 scored the best in the Indigenous culture, values and land use category.

- Least impacts to natural environment communities with the potential to support hunting, trapping and/or harvesting grounds
- Least effects to rare, undisturbed native habitats and ecosystems
- Least effects to rare/sensitive species regeneration potential



Technical and cost

Route 3 scored the best overall in the technical and cost category.

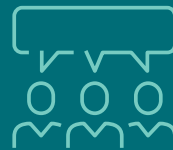
- Requires the least amount of pipeline crossings
- Impacts the least amount of properties
- Does not require bypasses, circuit modifications or outages



Welcome

St. Thomas Line Project Community Open House #2

November 2024

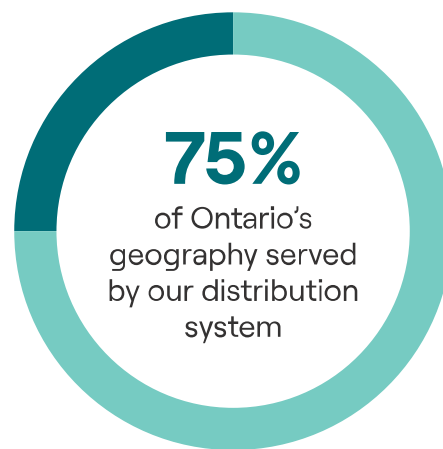
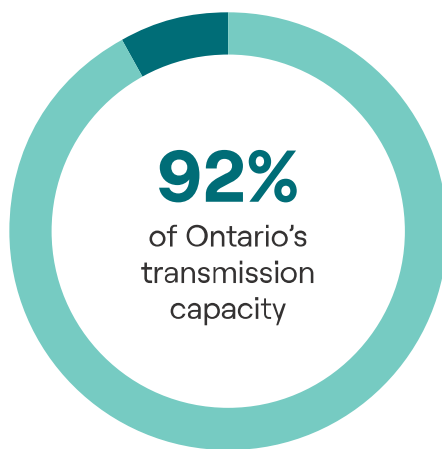


Why we're here

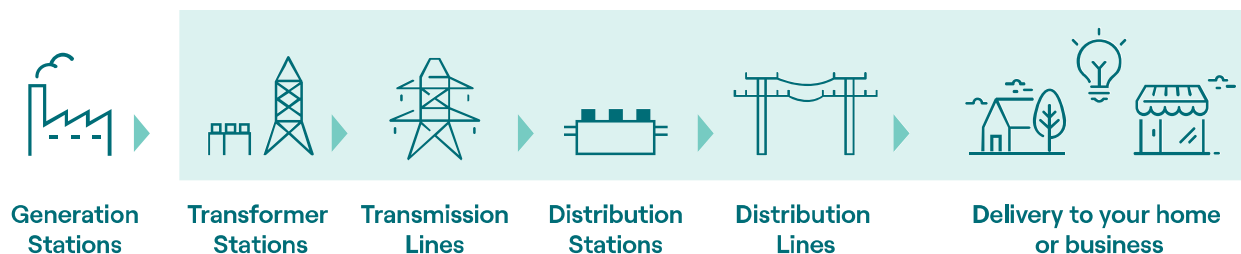
- Share the Preferred Route for the St. Thomas Line Project
- Provide an overview of the evaluation process and selection of the Preferred Route
- Present key milestones and next steps
- Answer questions and gather your feedback

How the system works

Our team of approximately 9,300 skilled and dedicated employees proudly build and maintain a safe and reliable electricity system which is essential to energizing life in communities across the province.



Hydro One's role in the Ontario electric system



Project overview

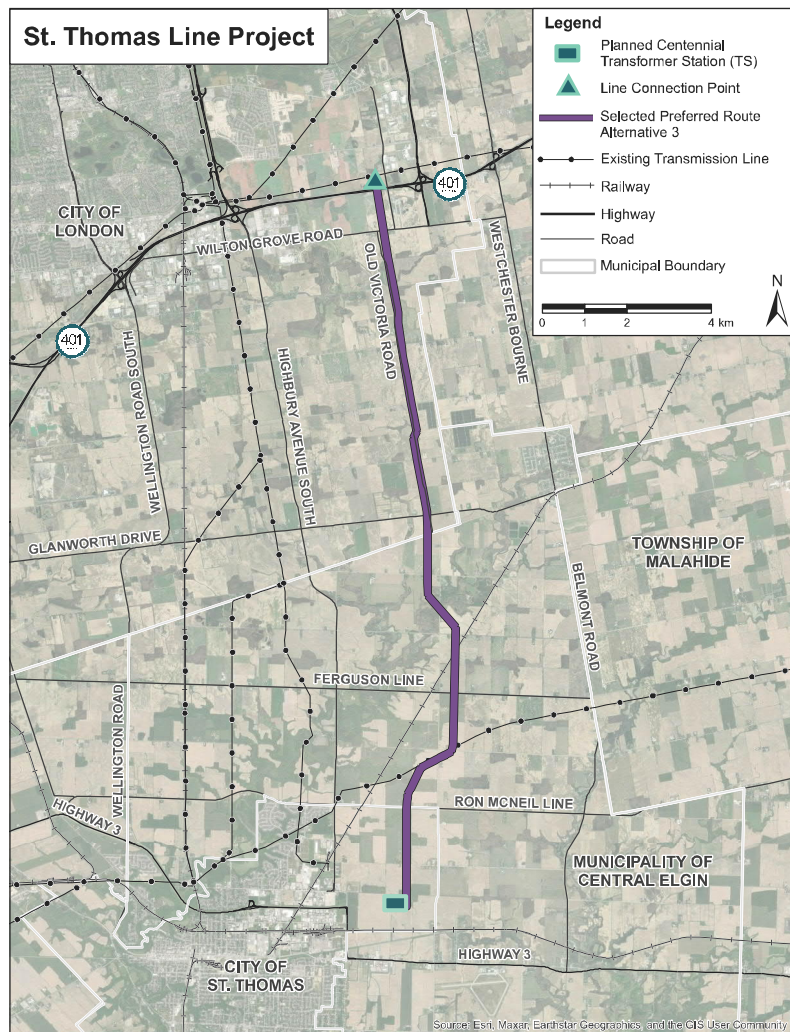
- As southwestern Ontario continues to attract large investment to the region, we are committed to providing the power needed to support economic growth while continuing to provide reliability for homes and businesses
- The St. Thomas Line Project will connect PowerCo Canada Inc. (owned by Volkswagen Group) electric vehicle battery cell manufacturing facility in the City of St. Thomas to Ontario's clean energy grid
- To energize the future facility, Hydro One will construct a 230-kilovolt (kV) double-circuit transmission line that will extend approximately 20 kilometres from the existing transmission line north of Highway 401 in the City of London to the planned Centennial Transformer Station (TS) in St. Thomas
- We are currently completing a Class Environmental Assessment for Minor Transmission Facilities (2022) for the project, under the Ontario *Environmental Assessment Act*



Preferred route alternative

Benefits of route alternative 3

- The preferred route passes through the fewest environmentally sensitive features and causes the least disruption to species at risk and their habitats.
- Compared to all route alternatives, the preferred route has the least impact on residential properties within the right of way.
- Additionally, the preferred route won't require any network outages during construction and minimizes the need for complex changes to any existing transmission lines.



Class Environmental Assessment

The Class Environmental Assessment (EA) for Minor Transmission Facilities (2022) is the first step towards completing the planning for this important project.

This process applies to transmission infrastructure projects that are carried out routinely and have predictable environmental effects that can be readily managed to ensure that potential effects are thoroughly considered before a project begins.

Steps of a Class EA:

- Consultation with Indigenous communities, property owners, community members, elected officials, interest groups and government agencies
- Collection of environmental (natural and socio-economic) data
- Identification and evaluation of alternative methods (ex. route alternatives)
- Identification of potential effects and mitigation measures
- ★ Selection of a preferred route alternative
- Preparation of a draft Environmental Study Report (ESR) that will be made available for a 30-day public review and comment period
- Submission of the Final ESR and Statement of Completion to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks

For more information, please see our handout or visit HydroOne.com/ClassEA

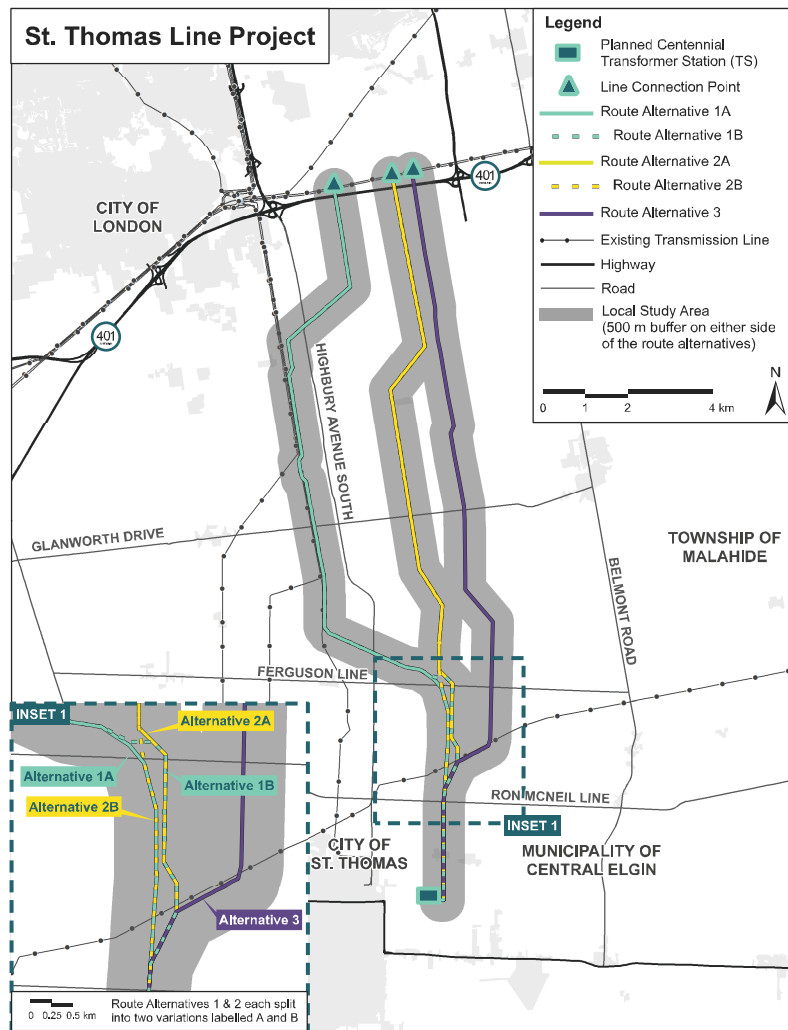


Route alternatives assessed

In January 2024, we identified three viable route alternatives, along with variations, to connect the new Centennial TS in St. Thomas to an existing Hydro One transmission line north of Highway 401 in the City of London.

Since January 2024, we have been collecting environmental and technical information, as well as holding a wide range of engagement opportunities to gather input and feedback.

In October 2024, following an evaluation of the route alternatives, Route 3 was announced as the preferred route.



Your feedback informed the route evaluation

Community outreach:



Open houses, community drop-in hours, and registered mail to potentially impacted property owners



Ongoing calls and emails



Interactive map



Notices, newspaper, and social media ads



Meetings with Indigenous communities, local elected officials and regional leaders

What we've heard:



Consider effects to agricultural lands and operations



Maximize the use of existing transmission and infrastructure corridors



Consider species at risk and ecological restoration areas



Minimize effects to homes

Evaluation of the route alternatives

The route alternatives were evaluated based on environmental field studies, research, and feedback received regarding the advantages and disadvantages of each option based on four evaluation categories, which were applied to all routes in a fair and transparent manner:

 Natural environment	 Socio-economic environment	 Indigenous culture, values and land use	 Technical & cost
• Surface water resources • Vegetation • Wildlife and wildlife habitat • Species At Risk • Wetlands, natural hazards and floodplain areas • Designated natural areas and identified habitat restoration areas	• Co-locating existing infrastructure • Agricultural resources and operations • Residential properties • Source water protection • Built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes • Archaeological resources	• Intersects areas of historical significance • Areas that support hunting, trapping and/or harvesting grounds • Areas that support fish bearing waters • Effects to rare, undisturbed native habitats or ecosystems	• Line length • Crossings of existing infrastructure • Co-location of existing transmission lines • Real estate considerations • System benefits and impacts • Construction complexity

The preferred route best balances the evaluation categories overall

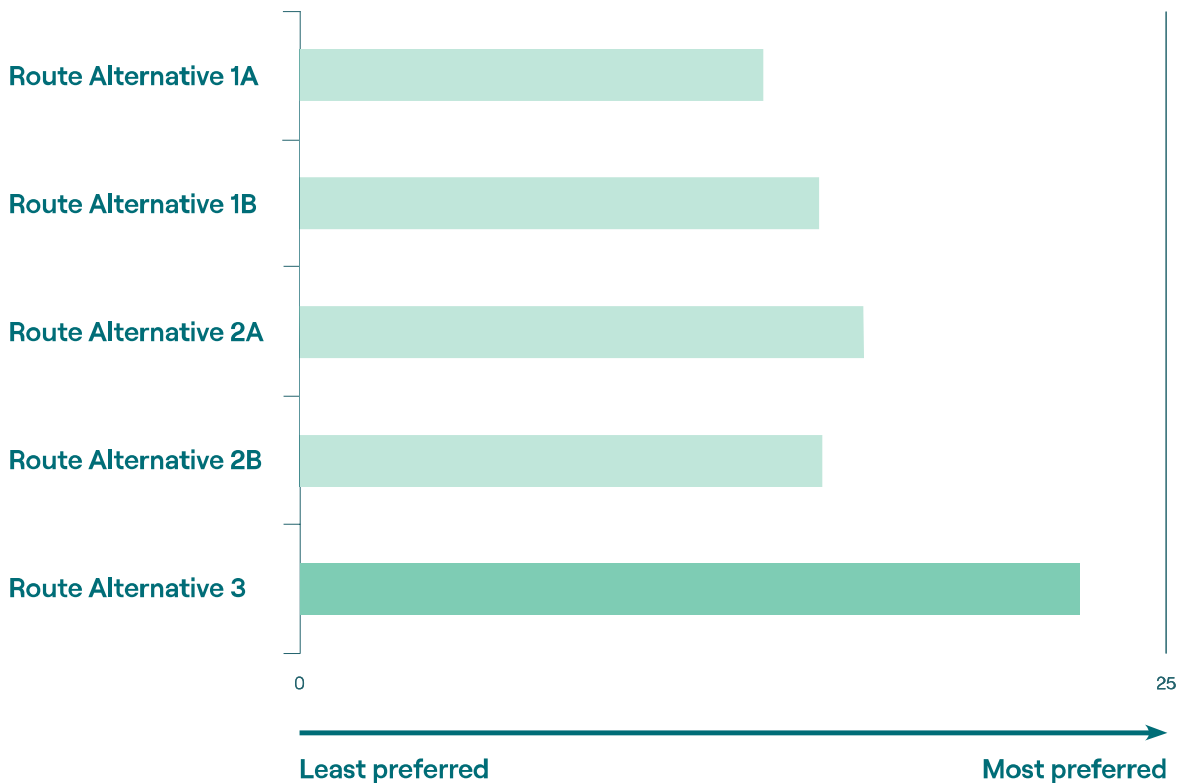


Evaluation summary

Natural environment

Route Alternative 3 scored the best overall in the Natural Environment category

- Minimizes vegetation removal
- Least effects to significant wildlife habitat and candidate significant wildlife habitat within the right of way
- Least effects to species at risk
- Least effects to significant valleylands, significant woodlands, provincially significant wetlands, environmentally sensitive areas, and restoration areas



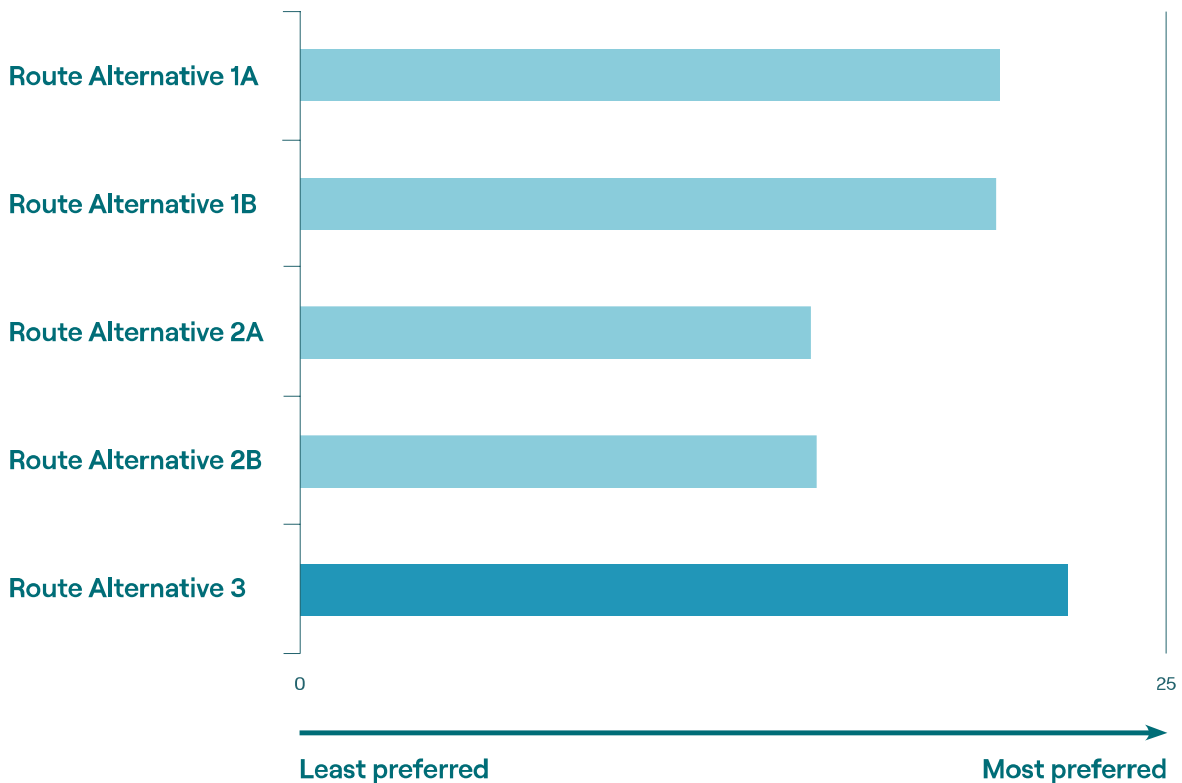


Evaluation summary

Socio-economic environment

Route Alternative 3 scored the best overall in the Socio-Economic Environment category

- Impacts the least amount of residential properties
- Least effects to source water protection areas
- Least effects to built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes
- Least effects to archaeological resources
- Effects to agricultural resources and operations were similar to other alternatives





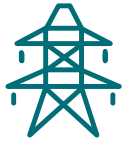
Evaluation summary

Indigenous culture, values and land use

Route Alternative 3 scored the best overall in the Indigenous Culture, Values and Land Use category

- Least impacts to areas with the potential to support hunting, trapping and/or harvesting grounds
- Least effects to rare, undisturbed habitats and ecosystems including species at risk habitat, and confirmed and candidate significant wildlife



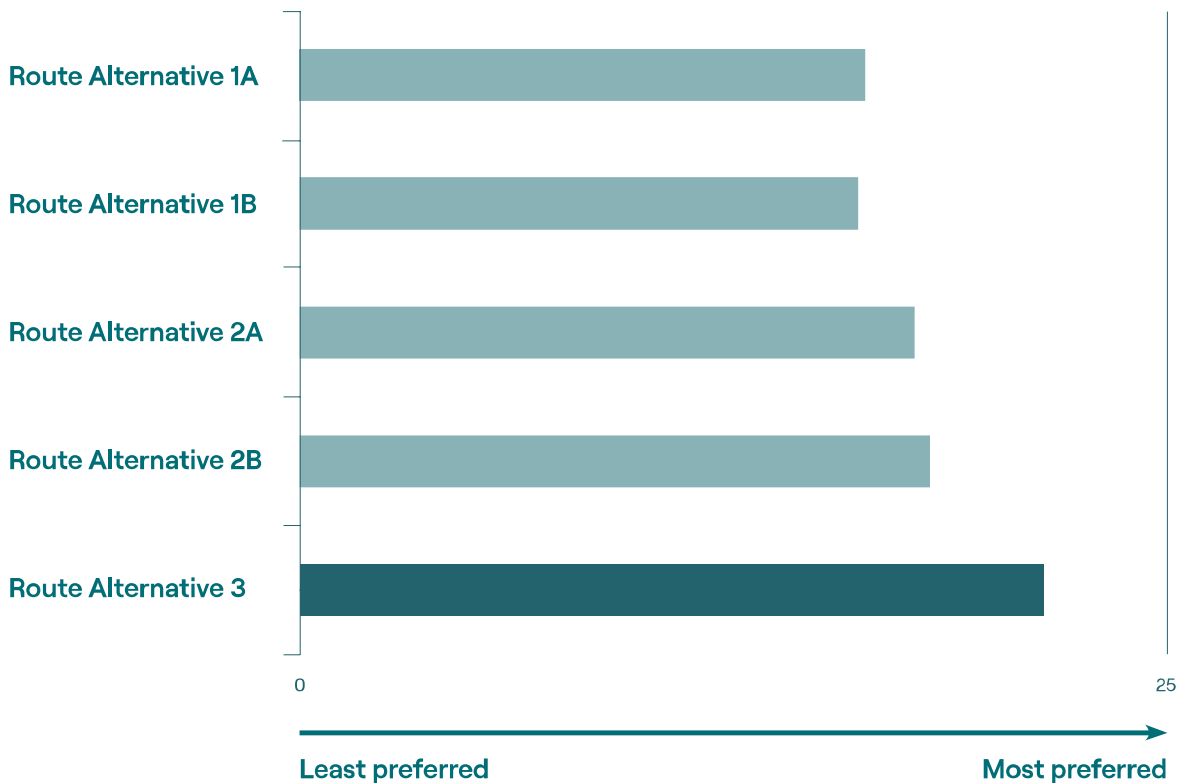


Evaluation summary

Technical and cost

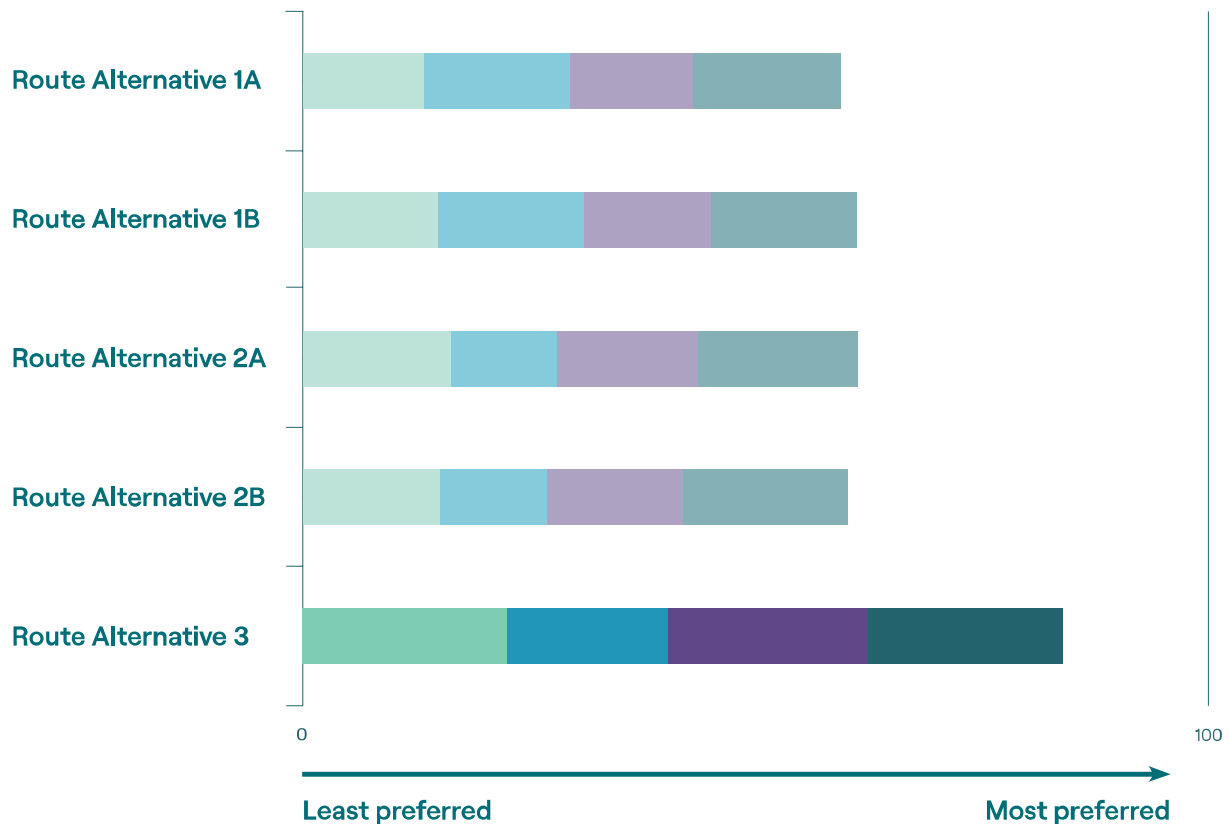
Route Alternative 3 scored the best overall in the Technical and Cost category

- Requires the least amount of pipeline crossings
- Impacts the least amount of properties
- Does not require bypasses, circuit modifications or outages



Evaluation results

The evaluation concluded Route Alternative 3 has overall more advantages compared to the other route alternatives identified through the environmental assessment.



Working with property owners

Hydro One is working closely with directly impacted property owners.



Property Owner Choice

Property owners have the choice between an easement or purchase



Independent Valuation

Offers are based on site-specific reports from independent third-party appraisers



Incentives

Monetary incentives will be offered in addition to market value compensation for voluntary property rights



Construction & Mitigation Physical Property Damages

Property owners will be reimbursed for project related losses such as out of production cropland during and after construction

Mitigation and restoration opportunities

Based on our experience building transmission lines in agricultural areas, the following mitigation measures are being considered for constructing the line.



Use existing access and watercourse crossings as much as possible



Apply erosion and sediment controls when needed



Avoid and protect tile drainage as much as possible and repair any damage resulting from construction



Retain compatible vegetation



Employ dust control measures



Restore temporary access roads and work areas after construction

We want to hear your continued feedback to further enhance the planning of this project.

Designing the transmission line

With the preferred route selected, detailed design for the transmission line will consider:

- Residential and business effects
- Structure heights and clearances
- Structure locations
- Environmental constraints
- Distance between structures
- Construction methodology
- Topography and soil conditions
- Right of way width

Over the next several months, we will complete more detailed environmental and technical studies to inform the design of the new line. We will also gather feedback from property owners on property specific features.

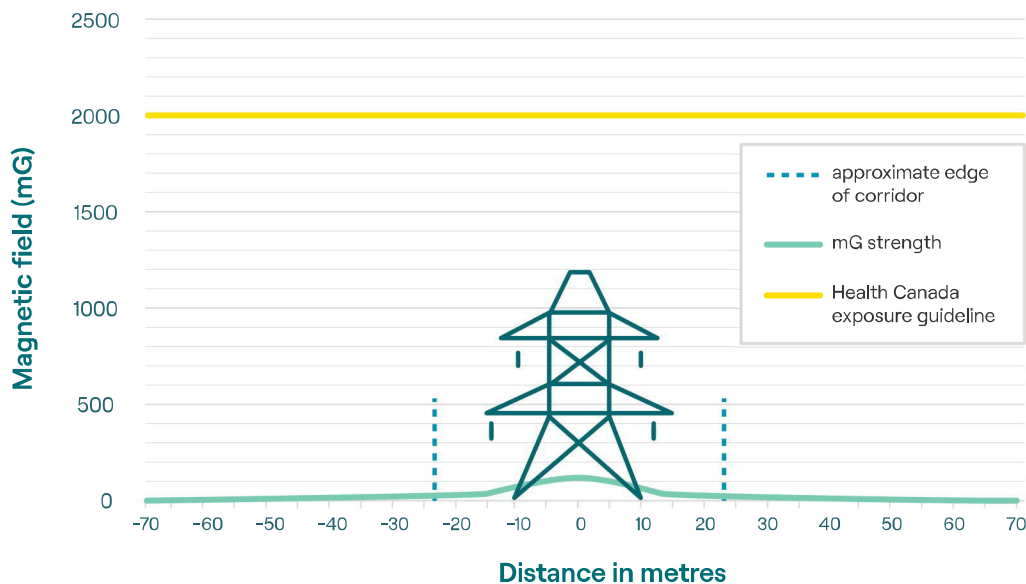
Electric and magnetic fields (EMF)

Hydro One is committed to meet safe EMF exposure levels to ensure members of the public are not exposed to elevated EMF levels. We look to scientific experts, like Health Canada, for guidance. Health Canada does not consider that any precautionary measures by the public are needed regarding daily exposure to EMFs at extremely low frequencies that are emitted from transmission lines.

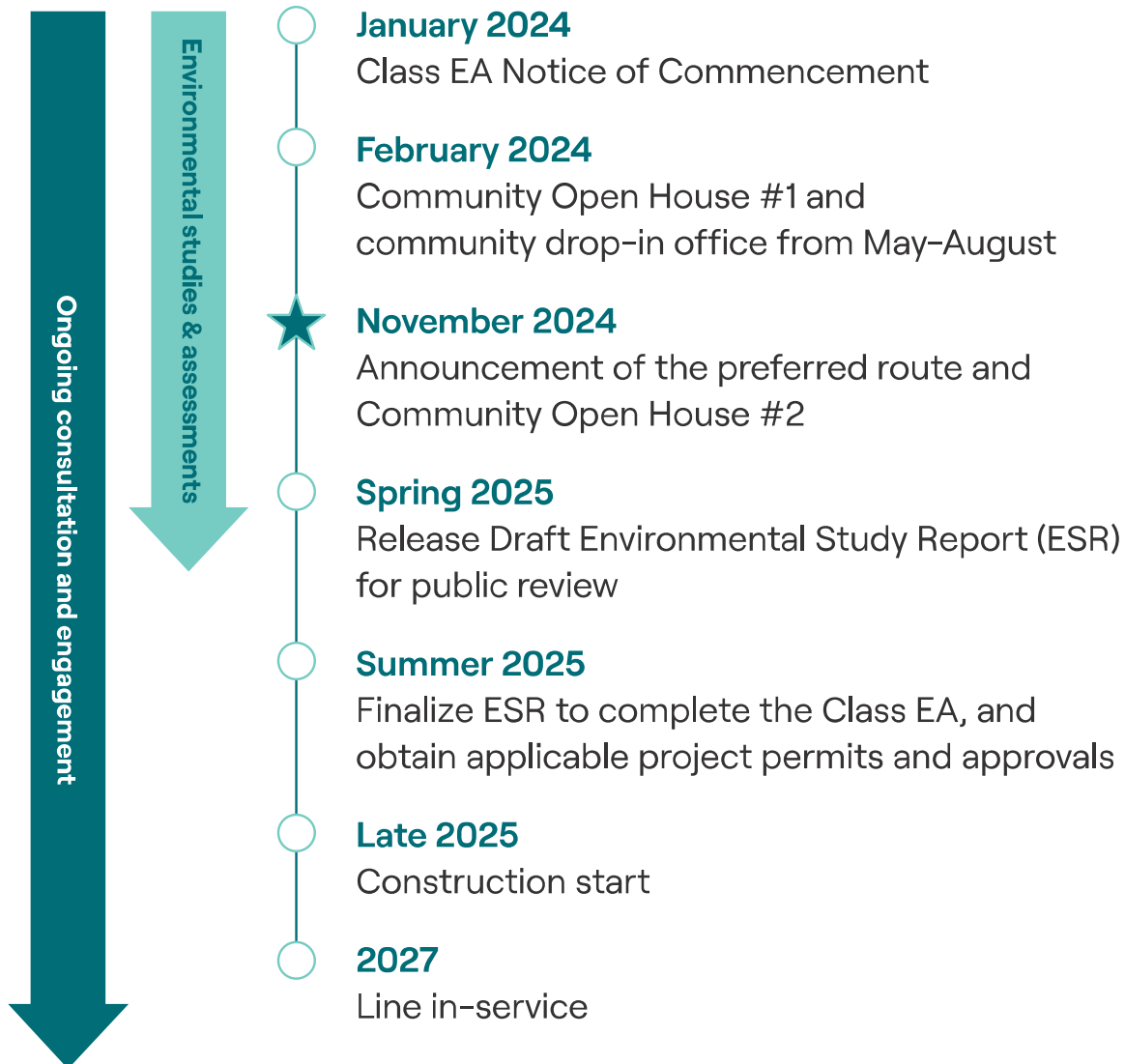
Below is an example chart that shows a double-circuit 230kV transmission line. The green line represents magnetic field modelling as it extends from under the wires and to the edge of the right of way. This modelling is compared against Health Canada's recommended limit of 2000 mG (yellow horizontal line). The tower represents the middle of the transmission line.

mG of a typical double-circuit 230 kilovolt transmission line

Median magnetic field (mG) of common household appliances	
Vacuum cleaner	300 mG at 6 inches
Microwave	200 mG at 6 inches
Portable heater	100 mG at 6 inches
Washing machines	20 mG at 6 inches



Project timeline



*All dates are subject to change



Thank you!

Your input is important to us. Please share your feedback with our team and complete a comment form before you go. To provide comments or to be added to the project contact list, please call or email:



1.877.345.6799



Community.Relations@HydroOne.com

For the most up-to-date project information and project updates, visit our project website:



HydroOne.com/StThomasLine

HydroOne.com/StThomasLine

Appendix B.4. Key Stakeholder Correspondence

Ministry of Energy

Energy Networks and Indigenous Policy
Branch

Indigenous Energy Policy

77 Grenville Street, 6th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 67C
Tel: (416) 315-8641

Ministère de l'Énergie

Direction Générale des Réseaux Énergétiques
et des Politiques Autochtones

Politique Énergétique Autochtones

77 Rue Grenville, 6^e Étage
Toronto, ON M7A 67C
Tel: (416) 315-8641



December 22, 2023

VIA EMAIL

Renée Pettigrew
Director, Environmental Services
Hydro One Networks Inc.
483 Bay Street
Toronto, Ontario M5G 2P5

Re: Centennial TS to Buchanan TS Transmission Line Project

Dear Renée Pettigrew:

Thank you for the letter dated August 25, 2023, and the follow up information provided in September and October 2023, notifying the Ministry of Energy (ENERGY) of Hydro One Networks Inc's (Hydro One) intention to commence a full Class Environmental Assessment for Minor Transmission Facilities (MTF Class EA) for the proposed Centennial Transformer Station (TS) to Buchanan TS Transmission Line Project ("Project").

I understand that the Project will consist of the proposed installation of an approximately 20-kilometer double-circuit 230 kV transmission line near London, Ontario, which will include the installation of transmission tower structures required to connect the subsidiary of Volkswagen (PowerCo SE's) planned Electric Vehicle (EV) Battery Manufacturing Facility to Ontario's electricity system. I also understand that the Project will require digging and that the Project Study Area has water crossings and contains some woodlots. A route selection process will determine the preferred route between the new Centennial TS to be located to the south of the battery manufacturing facility and the existing 230 kV transmission lines west of Buchanan TS in London. Construction could commence as early as September 2025 for the proposed in-service date of December 2026.

The Government of Ontario (the Crown) has a constitutional duty to consult and, where appropriate, accommodate Indigenous communities when it has knowledge of established or credibly asserted Aboriginal or treaty rights protected under section 35 of Canada's *Constitution Act 1982* (s. 35 rights) and contemplates conduct that might adversely affect those rights. This rights-based consultation with Indigenous communities is distinct from the requirement that may exist to consult with Indigenous communities as interested parties under the MTF Class EA. Nevertheless, these two processes can be integrated. Consultation done under the MTF Class EA may be a means by which the Crown can be satisfied that any concerns from Indigenous communities about adverse impacts to their s. 35 rights have been heard and, where appropriate, accommodated.

Although the legal duty to consult remains with the Crown, the Crown may delegate the procedural aspects of consultation to project proponents. The procedural aspects of the duty to consult are those portions of consultation related to the process of consultation, such as sharing information, holding meetings and/or receiving comments. Project proponents are typically best positioned to speak to the specific planning, technical and environmental aspects of projects and, where appropriate, to consider possible ways to address or mitigate any concerns raised by Indigenous communities about potential impacts of the project. The Crown remains responsible for providing oversight of the consultation process and ensuring the adequacy of consultation with communities to whom the duty to consult is owed.

ENERGY is the primary contact for Ontario's duty to consult under the MTF Class EA, while the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) retains overall responsibility for the MTF Class EA process. Accordingly, ENERGY may be involved early in the project planning process for facilities subject to the MTF Class EA to determine whether there may be a duty to consult, and if so, to identify the communities to consult and to delegate to proponents the procedural aspects of consultation.

Based on ENERGY's review of the information provided by Hydro One with respect to the Project, including the nature and location of the Project and anticipated environmental effects, and the Crown's current understanding of asserted or established s. 35 rights in the Project area, ENERGY has determined that the Crown owes a duty to consult with Indigenous communities in respect of the Project. On behalf of the provincial Crown, ENERGY is delegating the procedural aspects of any consultation owed in respect of the Project to Hydro One through this letter.

Please see the appendix for detailed information on the roles and responsibilities of the provincial Crown and Hydro One regarding the MTF Class EA. You should seek guidance from the ENERGY at any time if you are unclear about your roles and responsibilities under this process.

Based on the Crown's assessment of established and asserted s. 35 rights and potential Project impacts, Hydro One should consult with the following Indigenous communities:

Community	Mailing Address
Aamjiwnaang First Nation	978 Tashmoo Avenue Sarnia, ON N7T 7H5 T: (519) 336-8410 Web: Aamjiwnaang First Nation
Bkejwanong Territory (Walpole Island First Nation)	117 Tahgahoning Road Wallaceburg, ON N8A 4K9 T: (519) 627-1481 Web: Walpole Island First Nation
Caldwell First Nation	14 Orange Street Leamington, ON N8H 1P5 1-800-206-7522 T: 519-322-1766 Web: Caldwell First Nation

Community	Mailing Address
Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation	6247 Indian Lane Kettle Point, ON N0N 1J1 T: (519) 786-2125 Web: Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation
Chippewas of the Thames First Nation	320 Chippewa Road, RR1 Muncey, ON N0L 1Y0 T: (519) 289-5555 Web: Chippewas of the Thames First Nation
Six Nations of the Grand River First Nation (SNGRFN)	<i>Correspondence should be directed to Six Nations' Elected Council and the Haudenosaunee Confederacy Chiefs Council (HCCC). Please copy the Haudenosaunee Development Institute (HDI) on all correspondence to the HCCC.</i>
Six Nations of the Grand River Elected Council	1695 Chiefswood Road Ohsweken, ON N0A 1M0 T: (519) 445-2201 Web: https://www.sixnations.ca/
Haudenosaunee Confederacy Chiefs Council (HCCC)	c/o Haudenosaunee Development Institute 16 Sunrise Court, Suite 600 P.O. Box 714 Ohsweken, ON N0A 1M0 T: (519) 445-4222 info@hdi.land
Oneida Nation of the Thames	2212 Elm Avenue, Southwold, ON N0L 2G0 T: (519) 652-3244 Web: Oneida Nation of the Thames: https://oneida.on.ca/

ENERGY's preliminary assessment has determined, based on currently available information about the nature of the Project's anticipated impacts, Hydro One should consult at the low to medium range of the consultation spectrum for all the communities listed above. As the project progresses and is implemented, several factors such as route selection will inform the level of potential impacts to Aboriginal and treaty rights and the appropriate depth of consultation needed. Please contact ENERGY with any questions that arise about depth of consultation required as project development proceeds and final routing becomes clearer.

ENERGY requires the Proponent to notify the communities of the project; disclose information about the project; provide an opportunity for the communities to comment; and fairly considers the communities' views. Issues raised by the communities should be discussed and considered in light of the potential to impact rights, with mitigation or other forms of accommodation identified where appropriate. The initial notice of the project could include a request to confirm whether or not the community believes the project will impact their rights and accordingly whether they are interested in being consulted. In addition, the Proponent

should provide opportunities for the communities to share evidence or submissions about potential impacts should the communities so choose; and offer capacity funding to support meaningful participation by the communities in the consultation process, as appropriate. The proponent should also be able to demonstrate how any concerns were considered and responded to, and what impact they had on project decisions moving forward. More detailed information on the roles and responsibilities delegated to the Proponent is available in the appendix.

This consultation list may be subject to change based on new information becoming available or changes to the scope of the Project. For example, Indigenous communities may make new rights assertions at any time, and project-related developments may require additional Indigenous communities to be notified and/or consulted. A community may also indicate they are not interested in being consulted in respect of the Project. If any of the above should occur, Hydro One must notify ENERGY immediately so that updates to the consultation list can be made. We recommend that you contact ENERGY if you are unsure about how to deal with a concern raised by an Indigenous community, particularly if the concern relates to a potential adverse impact on established or asserted s.35 rights.

Acknowledgement

By accepting this letter, the Proponent acknowledges this Crown delegation and the procedural consultation responsibilities enumerated in the appendix. If you have any questions about this request, you may contact Farrah Ali-Khan, Senior Advisor (farrah.ali-khan@ontario.ca).

Should the Project be exempt from Ontario's *Environmental Assessment Act*, the delegation described in this letter is no longer in effect.

I trust that this information provides clarity and direction regarding the respective roles of the Crown and the Proponent. If you have any questions about this letter or require any additional information, please contact me directly.

Sincerely,



Amy Gibson, Manager
Indigenous Energy Policy

C: Renée Pettigrew, Director, Environmental Services, Hydro One Networks Inc.
Matthew Jackson, Director, Indigenous Partnerships, Hydro One Networks Inc.
Jennifer Trotman, Environmental Planner, Hydro One Networks Inc.

APPENDIX: ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PROPONENT AND THE CROWN RELATED TO CONSULTATION WITH INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

Roles and Responsibilities Delegated to the Proponent (Hydro One)

The consultation process must maintain sufficient flexibility to respond to new information. Generally, your delegated roles and responsibilities include:

- providing notice(s) of and plain language information about the Project to the Indigenous communities identified in the letter above, with sufficient detail and at a stage(s) in the process that allows the communities to prepare their views on the Project and, if appropriate, for changes to be made to the Project. Project information may include:
 - a detailed description of the nature and scope of the Project, textual or otherwise;
 - a description of the Project location;
 - maps or other visuals showing the Project location and any other affected area(s);
 - information about the Project lands (e.g., whether the Project is on privately-owned or Crown lands);
 - the potential effects of the Project, including any negative effects from an environmental standpoint (e.g., effects on ecologically sensitive areas, water bodies, wetlands, forests or the habitat of species at risk and habitat corridors), or on Aboriginal or treaty rights. Information on the severity, geographic scope and likely duration of Projects impacts may also be relevant to share;
 - a description of Project milestones and projected timing for the same (e.g., details about other provincial or federal approvals that may be required for the Project to proceed);
 - identification of any mechanisms to avoid, minimize or mitigate potential adverse impacts; and
 - any additional information that might be helpful to the community;
- indicating to Indigenous communities your contact information and availability to discuss the Project and consultation process in face-to-face or digital meetings (depending on the community's preference);
- providing a written request to Indigenous communities for their feedback on:
 - any potential adverse impacts on the community's Aboriginal or treaty rights;
 - any suggested measures for avoiding, minimizing or mitigating potential adverse impacts; and
 - how information provided as part of the consultation process will be collected, stored, used, and shared;
- identifying a requested timeline for response(s) from the Indigenous community;
- following up, as necessary, with Indigenous communities to ensure they received Project notices and information and are aware of the opportunity to comment, raise questions or concerns and identify potential adverse impacts on their established or asserted rights;

- If a community is unresponsive to efforts to notify and consult, you should nonetheless make attempts to update the community on the progress of the Project, the environmental assessment (if applicable) and any other regulatory approvals.
- bearing the reasonable costs associated with the procedural aspects of consultation (e.g., paying for meeting costs, making technical support available) and providing reasonable capacity funding to Indigenous communities to assist in their participation in the consultation process;
- considering and responding to comments and concerns raised by Indigenous communities and answering questions about the Project and its potential impacts on Aboriginal or treaty rights;
 - If you are unclear about the nature of a concern raised by an Indigenous community, you should seek clarification and further details from the community, provide opportunities to listen to community concerns and discuss options, and clarify any issues that fall outside the scope of the consultation process. These steps should be taken to ensure that the consultation process is meaningful and that concerns are heard and, where possible, addressed;
- as appropriate, discussing and implementing changes to the Project in response to concerns raised by Indigenous communities;
 - This could include modifying the Project to avoid or minimize an impact on an Aboriginal or treaty right (e.g., altering the season when construction will occur to avoid interference with mating or migratory patterns of wildlife); and
- informing Indigenous communities about how their concerns were taken into consideration and whether the Project proposal was altered in response.

Consultation should occur throughout the duration of the Project, including project development and design, approvals, construction, operation and decommissioning. You should make all reasonable efforts to build positive relationships with all Indigenous communities potentially affected by the Project. You may wish to consider translating communications with communities into Indigenous languages, or other languages, where appropriate.

The Crown reserves the right to participate in the consultation process as it sees fit, including but not limited to providing further instructions to proponents that are delegated procedural aspects of consultation.

Indigenous Consultation Record

- maintaining records of all of your consultation activities with Indigenous communities, which the Crown considers in determining whether consultation with Indigenous communities and any necessary accommodation is sufficient. The consultation record should include, at a minimum:
 - a list of the identified Indigenous communities that were contacted;
 - details of all attempts to notify or contact the community regarding the Project, all interactions with and feedback from the community, and all efforts to respond to community concerns, including:

- copies of correspondence (e.g., letters and electronic communications) sent and received
- any evidence that communications were distributed to, and received by, the Indigenous communities (e.g., courier slips);
- written accounts, including dates and contact information, related to discussions with Indigenous communities (e.g., summaries or notes of phone calls or meetings, including where the meeting took place and who attended) and any related meeting documentation (e.g., meeting notices, agenda);
- responses and information provided by Indigenous communities, including in relation to:
 - Aboriginal or treaty rights,
 - traditional lands, claims, or cultural heritage features; or
 - potential adverse impacts on such Aboriginal or treaty rights, or sites of cultural significance (e.g., burial grounds, archaeological sites), and measures for avoiding, minimizing or mitigating those potential adverse impacts; and
- how comments or concerns were considered or addressed, including any changes made to the Project as a result of consultation, such as:
 - changing the Project scope or design;
 - changing the timing of proposed activities;
 - minimizing or altering the site footprint or location of the proposed activity; or
 - environmental monitoring.

As part of its supervisory role, the Crown may, at any time during the consultation and approvals stage of the Project, request records from the Proponent relating to consultations with Indigenous communities. Any records provided to the Crown will be subject to the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. The records may be exempted from disclosure under section 15.1 (Relations with Aboriginal communities) of the Act. Additionally, please note that the information provided to the Crown may also be subject to disclosure where required under any other applicable laws or as part of litigation or other dispute resolution proceedings.

The nature of the contents of your consultation record should be shared at the onset with Indigenous communities and their permission for you sharing this information with the Crown should be obtained.

It is considered a best practice to share your consultation record with Indigenous communities prior to finalizing it to ensure it is a robust and accurate record of the consultation process.

MTF Class EA

While the Crown's Legal Duty to Consult takes precedence, the roles and responsibilities of the Proponent related to the Project under this letter are not intended to abrogate, derogate from, or supersede any of the Proponent's responsibilities under the MTF Class EA. For

example, in accordance with the portions of the MTF Class EA listed below, where applicable:

- the Proponent must submit the Notice of Commencement to the Ministry of Energy, among other groups or persons (section 3.3.2 and Appendix D)
- the Proponent must prepare a Draft Environmental Study Report (ESR) that will include information about the Proponent's consultations with Indigenous communities and other groups or persons, including "the schedule of events, methods used to consult, the list of consulted persons, the identification and resolution of concerns, commitments made by the proponent, and any outstanding concerns" (section 3.4.1); and
- the Proponent must issue a Notice of Completion to inform Indigenous communities, government officials, and other persons or groups that the comment period for the draft ESR is commencing and where the draft ESR can be viewed or obtained (section 3.4.2).

Roles and responsibilities of the Crown

The roles and responsibilities of the Crown include:

- identifying, and updating as appropriate, the list of Indigenous communities to consult;
- notifying Indigenous communities that they have been identified for consultation and that the procedural aspects of consultation have been delegated to the Proponent;
- carrying out, from time to time, any necessary assessment of the extent of consultation or, where appropriate, accommodation, required;
- supervising the aspects of the consultation process delegated to the Proponent; and
- determining the sufficiency of consultation and, where appropriate, accommodation of Indigenous communities.

If the Crown considers that there are outstanding issues related to consultation, the Crown may undertake additional consultation with Indigenous communities, which could result in delays to the Project.

January 2024



Re: Hydro One has identified that your property may potentially be intersected by the new St. Thomas Project and we want to hear from you

Dear Property Owner,

We are writing to share details on the new St. Thomas Line Project as it relates to your property.

Earlier this year, Volkswagen Group announced that PowerCo Canada Inc. will build its largest electric vehicle battery manufacturing plant in the City of St. Thomas. To meet the electricity demands for this facility and support future growth of the region, Hydro One is proposing to construct a new 230-kilovolt (kV) double-circuit transmission line that will extend from London to St. Thomas.

As part of the process to build the new line, Hydro One is beginning a Class Environmental Assessment (EA). Rooted in engagement and consultation, the Class EA ensures that potential natural, economic, social and cultural effects are thoroughly considered before a project begins. Through this assessment, we are studying three route alternatives and their variations. These routes were identified by mapping out local constraints and identifying opportunities to parallel linear infrastructure.

While the selection of the preferred route is planned for later this year, **it is important you know that one or more of the route alternatives being studied and evaluated intersects with your property**, as shown in the enclosed maps. An interactive map is also available to you on the project website at HydroOne.com/StThomasLine.

We Want to Hear From You

Feedback from landowners is an important part of our route selection process. In February, Hydro One will be hosting in-person Community Open Houses (details enclosed) to share further project information and listen to community input. We encourage you to attend and look forward to seeing you there. In the interim, please reach out to us if you have any questions or comments.

**Book a time for a virtual
chat with us via email or
our toll-free number**

**Email:
[Community.Relations@
HydroOne.com](mailto:Community.Relations@HydroOne.com)**

**Toll-free Number:
1-877-345-6799**

**Website and Interactive Map:
[HydroOne.com/
StThomasLine](https://HydroOne.com/StThomasLine)**

We look forward to connecting with you.

Sincerely,
Hydro One Community Relations

Enclosure: Notice of Commencement; Property Map; Property Pin Number

Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

Land Use Planning and Strategic Issues
Section
Southern Region

Regional Operations Division
300 Water Street
Peterborough, ON K9J 3C7
Tél.: 705 761-4839

Ministère des Richesses naturelles et des Forêts

Section de l'aménagement du territoire et des
questions stratégiques
Région du Sud

Division des opérations régionales
300, rue Water
Peterborough (ON) K9J 3C7
Tél. : 705 761-4839



January 31, 2024

Jennifer Trotman
Environmental Planner, Environmental Services
Hydro One Networks Inc.
647.525.3399
Jennifer.Trotman@HydroOne.com

SUBJECT: St. Thomas Line Class EA Notice of Commencement

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) received the Notice of Commencement on January 29, 2024. Thank you for circulating this to our office. Please note that we have not completed a screening of natural heritage or other resource values for the project at this time. This response, however, does provide information to guide you in identifying and assessing natural features and resources as required by applicable policies and legislation, as well as engaging with the Ministry for advice as needed.

Please also note that it is the proponent's responsibility to be aware of, and comply with, all relevant federal or provincial legislation, municipal by-laws or other agency approvals.

Natural Heritage

MNRF's natural heritage and natural resources GIS data layers can be obtained through the Ministry's [Land Information Ontario \(LIO\)](#) website. You may also view natural heritage information online (e.g., Provincially Significant Wetlands, ANSI's, woodlands, etc.) using the [Make a Map: Natural Heritage Areas](#) tool.

We recommend that you use the above-noted sources of information during the review of your project proposal.

Natural Hazards

A series of natural hazard technical guides developed by MNRF are available to support municipalities and conservation authorities implement the natural hazard policies in the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS). For example, standards to address flood risks and the potential impacts and costs from riverine flooding are addressed in the *Technical Guide River and Stream Systems: Flooding Hazard Limit (2002)*. We recommend that you consider these technical guides as you assess specific improvement projects that can be undertaken to reduce the risk of flooding.

Petroleum Wells & Oil, Gas and Salt Resources Act

There may be petroleum wells within the proposed project area. Please consult the Ontario Oil, Gas and Salt Resources Library website (www.ogsrlibrary.com) for the best-known data on any wells recorded by MNRF. Please reference the 'Definitions and Terminology Guide' listed in the publications on the library website to better understand the well information available. Any oil and gas wells in your project area are regulated by the *Oil, Gas and Salt Resource Act*, and the supporting regulations and operating standards. If any unanticipated wells are encountered during development of the project, or if the proponent has questions regarding petroleum operations, the proponent should contact the Petroleum Operations Section at POSRecords@ontario.ca or 519-873-4634.

Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act

Please note, that should the project require:

- The relocation of fish outside of the work area, a Licence to Collect Fish for Scientific Purposes under the *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act* will be required.
- The relocation of wildlife outside of the work area (including amphibians, reptiles, and small mammals), a Wildlife Collector's Authorization under the *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act* will be required.

Public Lands Act & Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act

Some Project may be subject to the provisions of the *Public Lands Act* or *Lakes and River Improvement Act*. Please review the information on MNRF's web pages provided below regarding when an approval is, or is not, required. Please note that many of the authorizations under the *Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act* are administered by the local Conservation Authority.

- For more information about the *Public Lands Act*: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/crown-land-work-permits>
- For more information about the *Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act*: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/lakes-and-rivers-improvement-act-administrative-guide>

After reviewing the information provided, if you have not identified any of MNRF's interests stated above, there is no need to circulate any subsequent notices to our office. If you have identified any of MNRF's interests and/or may require permit(s) or further technical advice, please direct your specific questions to the undersigned.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Best Regards,



Land Use Planning and Strategic Issues Section | Southern Region
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
Sarah.Bale@Ontario.ca | (613) 504-2254

February 5, 2023

Email: Community.Relations@HydroOne.com

DELIVERED BY EMAIL

RE: Hydro One - St.Thomas Line Class Environmental Assessment (EA)

Thank you for the opportunity for Kettle Creek Conservation Authority (KCCA) to review and comment on the Hydro One – St.Thomas Line Class Environmental Assessment.

It is our understanding that Hydro One is planning to construct a new double-circuit transmission line between the City of London and the City of St.Thomas that will connect Volkswagen Group's new electric vehicle battery manufacturing facility to Ontario's electricity system and support future growth in the region.

KCCA staff reviewed the Notice of Commencement and the accompanying documents along with the interactive mapping that was posted on the Hydro One website.

Our review was completed with regard to the Authority's mandatory programs and services related to the risk of natural hazards and Source Water Protection. Specifically, KCCA relied upon its delegated responsibility to represent 'provincial interest' on matters relating to natural hazard policies of the *Provincial Policy Statement* (PPS), its regulatory authority under Section 28 of the *Conservation Authorities Act*, and its duties, functions and responsibilities as a source protection authority under the *Clean Water Act, 2006*.

KCCA staff respectfully submit the following preliminary comments at this stage in the planning process:

Risk to Natural Hazards:

1. The primary objective for natural hazard policies within the Province of Ontario is to direct development away from hazardous lands that are subject to flooding or erosion hazards, where there is an unacceptable risk to public health and safety and property damage, and not to create new or aggravate existing hazards.
2. Pursuant to regulations (O.Reg.181/06) enacted under Section 28 of the *Conservation Authorities Act*, KCCA regulates development within or adjacent to watercourses, floodplain, valley slopes, shoreline, wetlands and hazardous lands. The regulation prohibits development within an area of the Authority's jurisdiction unless in its opinion, the control of flooding, erosion and dynamic beach will not be affected by the development.

Written permission of KCCA is required prior to undertaking any development, alteration to a watercourse or interference with a wetland within the Regulation Limit. Development generally includes construction, reconstruction or placement of a building or structure, site grading, and placement or removal of fill material.

3. The regulatory flood standard for the Kettle Creek watershed is the Hurricane Hazel Flood event. The limits of the regulatory flood hazard including associated flood elevations are provided within the attached Regulation Limit mapping.
4. In review of the proposed Route Alternatives, staff have identified the following number of areas where the routes being considered are affected by the Regulation Limit within the Kettle Creek watershed and consequently, areas where a permit may be required from KCCA prior to construction and/or alteration:
 - *Route Alternative 1* = Five (5) areas crossing features regulated by KCCA as shown on attached Regulation Limit Maps 1, 3, 4, 7 & 8.
 - *Route Alternative 2* = Four (4) areas crossing features regulated by KCCA as shown on attached Regulation Limit Maps 1, 4, 5 & 9.
 - *Route Alternative 3* = Two (2) areas crossing features regulated by KCCA as shown on attached Regulation Limit Maps 2 & 6.

Additional Regulation Limit mapping is available for review on KCCA's website at <https://www.kettlecreekconservation.on.ca/map-your-property/> . Limited digital mapping of KCCA's Regulation Limit and available hazard layers maybe provided upon request and fees apply.

5. KCCA would encourage that all associated construction and hydro tower locations avoid, where possible, hazardous lands that are subject to flooding or erosion hazards and maintain a minimum 30m setback from Provincially Significant Wetlands (PSW).

Preliminary comments on Proposed Alternative Routes:

Based on staff's preliminary review of the proposed route alternatives and in consideration of the above comments, Route Alternative 3 appears to have the least potential impact upon hazardous lands within the Kettle Creek watershed and the greater opportunity to avoid associated features.

KCCA staff appreciate the opportunity to provide comments at this stage and look forward to additional opportunities to review and comment on draft documents in regards to the Authority's regulatory jurisdiction for risks to natural hazards.

KCCA staff are happy to provide clarification and discuss any of the comments provided above. If you have any questions regarding the above, please contact the undersigned at extension 226.

Yours truly,
per KETTLE CREEK CONSERVATION AUTHORITY


(Digitally signed)

Joseph (Joe) Gordon
Manager of Planning and Development

**Ministry of the Environment,
Conservation and Parks**

**Ministère de l'Environnement,
de la Protection de la nature
et des Parcs**

Environmental Assessment
Branch

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February 14, 2024

Jennifer Trotman
Environmental Planner, Environmental Services
Hydro One Networks Inc.
jennifer.trotman@hydroone.com

BY EMAIL ONLY

Re: **St. Thomas Line Project
Hydro One Networks Inc.
Class Environmental Assessment for Minor Transmission Facilities
Acknowledgement of Notice of Commencement**

Dear Jennifer Trotman,

This letter is in response to the Notice of Commencement for the above noted project. The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) acknowledges that Hydro One Networks Inc. (proponent) has indicated that the study is following the approved environmental planning process under the Class Environmental Assessment for Minor Transmission Facilities (Class EA).

The **updated (August 2022)** attached "Areas of Interest" document provides guidance regarding the ministry's interests with respect to the Class EA process. Please address all areas of interest in the EA documentation at an appropriate level for the EA study. Proponents who address all the applicable areas of interest can minimize potential delays to the project schedule. **Further information is provided at the end of the Areas of Interest document relating to recent changes to the Environmental Assessment Act through Bill 197, Covid-19 Economic Recovery Act 2020.**

We understand that the proponent will, through the EA process, study and evaluate the alternative routes as shown on the Notice of Commencement to select a preferred route with the least overall effects to the environment and to assess the potential effects of the project, including incorporation of Indigenous Knowledge.

Please send a copy of the final notice to the MECP's South West Region EA notification email account (eanotification.swregion@ontario.ca) and a copy of the draft Environmental Study Report to me for download, if applicable. Should the proponent determine that the project qualifies to follow the Class EA Screening Process, the proponent must at a minimum advise the MECP if the project has been screened.

Should you or any members of your project team have any questions regarding the material above, please contact me at monika.macki@ontario.ca.

Yours truly,

Monika Macki

Monika Macki
Regional Environmental Planner/ Environmental Assessment Coordinator –South West Region
Project Review Unit, Environmental Assessment Branch

Enclosed: Areas of Interest

Attached: Client's Guide to Preliminary Screening for Species at Risk

AREAS OF INTEREST (v. August 2022)

It is suggested that you check off each section after you have considered / addressed it.

Planning and Policy

- Applicable plans and policies should be identified in the report, and the proponent should describe how the proposed project adheres to the relevant policies in these plans.
 - Projects located in MECP Central, Eastern or West Central Region may be subject to [A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe \(2020\)](#).
 - Projects located in MECP Central or Eastern Region may be subject to the [Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan \(2017\)](#) or the [Lake Simcoe Protection Plan \(2014\)](#).
 - Projects located in MECP Central, Southwest or West Central Region may be subject to the [Niagara Escarpment Plan \(2017\)](#).

- Projects located in MECP Central, Eastern, Southwest or West Central Region may be subject to the [Greenbelt Plan \(2017\)](#).
- Projects located in MECP Northern Region may be subject to the [Growth Plan for Northern Ontario \(2011\)](#).
- The [Provincial Policy Statement \(2020\)](#) contains policies that protect Ontario's natural heritage and water resources. Applicable policies should be referenced in the report, and the proponent should describe how the proposed project is consistent with these policies.
- In addition to the provincial planning and policy level, the report should also discuss the planning context at the municipal and federal levels, as appropriate.

Source Water Protection

The *Clean Water Act*, 2006 (CWA) aims to protect existing and future sources of drinking water. To achieve this, several types of vulnerable areas have been delineated around surface water intakes and wellheads for every municipal residential drinking water system that is located in a source protection area. These vulnerable areas are known as a Wellhead Protection Areas (WHPAs) and surface water Intake Protection Zones (IPZs). Other vulnerable areas that have been delineated under the CWA include Highly Vulnerable Aquifers (HVAs), Significant Groundwater Recharge Areas (SGRAs), Event-based modelling areas (EBAs), and Issues Contributing Areas (ICAs). Source protection plans have been developed that include policies to address existing and future risks to sources of municipal drinking water within these vulnerable areas.

Projects that are subject to the Environmental Assessment Act that fall under a Class EA, or one of the Regulations, have the potential to impact sources of drinking water if they occur in designated vulnerable areas or in the vicinity of other at-risk drinking water systems (i.e. systems that are not municipal residential systems). Class EA projects may include activities that, if located in a vulnerable area, could be a threat to sources of drinking water (i.e. have the potential to adversely affect the quality or quantity of drinking water sources) and the activity could therefore be subject to policies in a source protection plan. Where an activity poses a risk to drinking water, policies in the local source protection plan may impact how or where that activity is undertaken. Policies may prohibit certain activities, or they may require risk management measures for these activities. Municipal Official Plans, planning decisions, Class EA projects (where the project includes an activity that is a threat to drinking water) and prescribed instruments must conform with policies that address significant risks to drinking water and must have regard for policies that address moderate or low risks.

- The proponent should identify the source protection area and should clearly document how the proximity of the project to sources of drinking water (municipal or other) and any delineated vulnerable areas was considered and assessed. Specifically, the report should discuss whether or not the project is located in a vulnerable area and provide applicable details about the area.

- If located in a vulnerable area, proponents should document whether any project activities are prescribed drinking water threats and thus pose a risk to drinking water (this should be consulted on with the appropriate Source Protection Authority). Where an activity poses a risk to drinking water, the proponent must document and discuss in the report how the project adheres to or has regard to applicable policies in the local source protection plan. This section should then be used to inform and be reflected in other sections of the report, such as the identification of net positive/negative effects of alternatives, mitigation measures, evaluation of alternatives etc.
- While most source protection plans focused on including policies for significant drinking water threats in the WHPAs and IPZs it should be noted that even though source protection plan policies may not apply in HVAs, these are areas where aquifers are sensitive and at risk to impacts and within these areas, activities may impact the quality of sources of drinking water for systems other than municipal residential systems.
- In order to determine if this project is occurring within a vulnerable area, proponents can use this mapping tool: <http://www.applications.ene.gov.on.ca/swp/en/index.php>. Note that various layers (including WHPAs, WHPA-Q1 and WHPA-Q2, IPZs, HVAs, SGRAs, EBAs, ICAs) can be turned on through the “Map Legend” bar on the left. The mapping tool will also provide a link to the appropriate source protection plan in order to identify what policies may be applicable in the vulnerable area.
- For further information on the maps or source protection plan policies which may relate to their project, proponents must contact the appropriate source protection authority. **Please consult with the local source protection authority to discuss potential impacts on drinking water. Please document the results of that consultation within the report and include all communication documents/correspondence.**

More Information

For more information on the *Clean Water Act*, source protection areas and plans, including specific information on the vulnerable areas and drinking water threats, please refer to [Conservation Ontario’s website](#) where you will also find links to the local source protection plan/assessment report.

A list of the prescribed drinking water threats can be found in [section 1.1 of Ontario Regulation 287/07](#) made under the *Clean Water Act*. In addition to prescribed drinking water threats, some source protection plans may include policies to address additional “local” threat activities, as approved by the MECP.

Climate Change

The document "[Considering Climate Change in the Environmental Assessment Process](#)" (Guide) is now a part of the Environmental Assessment program's Guides and Codes of Practice. The

Guide sets out the MECP's expectation for considering climate change in the preparation, execution and documentation of environmental assessment studies and processes. The guide provides examples, approaches, resources, and references to assist proponents with consideration of climate change in EA. Proponents should review this Guide in detail.

- **The MECP expects proponents of projects under a Class EA or EA Act Regulation to:**

1. Consider during the assessment of alternative solutions and alternative designs, the following:
 - a. the project's expected production of greenhouse gas emissions and impacts on carbon sinks (climate change mitigation); and
 - b. resilience or vulnerability of the undertaking to changing climatic conditions (climate change adaptation).
2. Include a discrete section in the report detailing how climate change was considered in the EA.

How climate change is considered can be qualitative or quantitative in nature and should be scaled to the project's level of environmental effect. In all instances, both a project's impacts on climate change (mitigation) and impacts of climate change on a project (adaptation) should be considered.

- The MECP has also prepared another guide to support provincial land use planning direction related to the completion of energy and emission plans. The "[Community Emissions Reduction Planning: A Guide for Municipalities](#)" document is designed to educate stakeholders on the municipal opportunities to reduce energy and greenhouse gas emissions, and to provide guidance on methods and techniques to incorporate consideration of energy and greenhouse gas emissions into municipal activities of all types. We encourage you to review the Guide for information.

Air Quality, Dust and Noise

- If there are sensitive receptors in the surrounding area of this project, a quantitative air quality/odour impact assessment will be useful to evaluate alternatives, determine impacts and identify appropriate mitigation measures. The scope of the assessment can be determined based on the potential effects of the proposed alternatives, and typically includes source and receptor characterization and a quantification of local air quality impacts on the sensitive receptors and the environment in the study area. The assessment will compare to all applicable standards or guidelines for all contaminants of concern.
Please contact this office for further consultation on the level of Air Quality Impact Assessment required for this project if not already advised.
- If a quantitative Air Quality Impact Assessment is not required for the project, the MECP expects that the report contain a qualitative assessment which includes:

- A discussion of local air quality including existing activities/sources that significantly impact local air quality and how the project may impact existing conditions;
 - A discussion of the nearby sensitive receptors and the project's potential air quality impacts on present and future sensitive receptors;
 - A discussion of local air quality impacts that could arise from this project during both construction and operation; and
 - A discussion of potential mitigation measures.
- Dust and noise control measures should be addressed and included in the construction plans to ensure that nearby residential and other sensitive land uses within the study area are not adversely affected during construction activities.
 - The MECP recommends that non-chloride dust-suppressants be applied. For a comprehensive list of fugitive dust prevention and control measures that could be applied, refer to [Cheminfo Services Inc. Best Practices for the Reduction of Air Emissions from Construction and Demolition Activities](#) report prepared for Environment Canada. March 2005.
 - The report should consider the potential impacts of increased noise levels during the operation of the completed project. The proponent should explore all potential measures to mitigate significant noise impacts during the assessment of alternatives.
 - Noise associated with a proposed transformer station should be evaluated. Note that any noise monitoring and assessment should be conducted in accordance with the requirements of MECP guidelines, such as MECP Publication NPC-233, *"Information to be Submitted for Approval of Stationary Sources of Sound"*.
 - In order to address potential noise impacts of the transformer station, it may be necessary to first monitor ambient noise levels prior to the installation of the transformer station, and to then conduct a noise assessment after the transformer station is installed and operational. Depending on the results of these studies and the proximity to sensitive receptors, remedial measures may be needed to address noise generated by the transformer station.

Ecosystem Protection and Restoration

- Any impacts to ecosystem form and function must be avoided where possible. The report should describe any proposed mitigation measures and how project planning will protect and enhance the local ecosystem.
- Natural heritage and hydrologic features should be identified and described in detail to assess potential impacts and to develop appropriate mitigation measures. The following sensitive environmental features may be located within or adjacent to the study area:

- Key Natural Heritage Features: Habitat of endangered species and threatened species, fish habitat, wetlands, areas of natural and scientific interest (ANSIs), significant valleylands, significant woodlands; significant wildlife habitat (including habitat of special concern species); sand barrens, savannahs, and tallgrass prairies; and alvars.
- Key Hydrologic Features: Permanent streams, intermittent streams, inland lakes and their littoral zones, seepage areas and springs, and wetlands.
- Other natural heritage features and areas such as: vegetation communities, rare species of flora or fauna, Environmentally Sensitive Areas, Environmentally Sensitive Policy Areas, federal and provincial parks and conservation reserves, Greenland systems etc.

We recommend consulting with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF), Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and your local conservation authority to determine if special measures or additional studies will be necessary to preserve and protect these sensitive features.

Species at Risk

- The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks has now assumed responsibility of Ontario's Species at Risk program. Information, standards, guidelines, reference materials and technical resources to assist you are found at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/species-risk>.
- The Client's Guide to Preliminary Screening for Species at Risk (Draft May 2019) has been attached to the covering email for your reference and use. Please review this document for next steps.
- For any questions related to subsequent permit requirements, please contact SAROntario@ontario.ca.

Surface Water

- The report must include enough information to demonstrate that there will be no negative impacts on the natural features or ecological functions of any watercourses within the study area. Measures should be included in the planning and design process to ensure that any impacts to watercourses from construction or operational activities (e.g. spills, erosion, pollution) are mitigated as part of the proposed undertaking.
- Additional stormwater runoff from new pavement can impact receiving watercourses and flood conditions. Quality and quantity control measures to treat stormwater runoff should be considered for all new impervious areas and, where possible, existing surfaces. The ministry's [Stormwater Management Planning and Design Manual \(2003\)](#) should be referenced in the report and utilized when designing stormwater control methods. **A**

Stormwater Management Plan should be prepared as part of the Environmental Screening Process that includes:

- Strategies to address potential water quantity and erosion impacts related to stormwater draining into streams or other sensitive environmental features, and to ensure that adequate (enhanced) water quality is maintained
 - Watershed information, drainage conditions, and other relevant background information
 - Future drainage conditions, stormwater management options, information on erosion and sediment control during construction, and other details of the proposed works
 - Information on maintenance and monitoring commitments.
- Any potential approval requirements for surface water taking or discharge should be identified in the report. A Permit to Take Water (PTTW) under the *Ontario Water Resources Act* (OWRA) will be required for any water takings that exceed 50,000 L/day, except for certain water taking activities that have been prescribed by the Water Taking EASR Regulation – *O. Reg. 63/16*. These prescribed water-taking activities require registration in the EASR instead of a PTTW. Please review the [Water Taking User Guide for EASR](#) for more information. Additionally, an Environmental Compliance Approval under the OWRA is required for municipal stormwater management works.

Groundwater

- The status of, and potential impacts to any well water supplies should be addressed. If the project involves groundwater takings or changes to drainage patterns, the quantity and quality of groundwater may be affected due to drawdown effects or the redirection of existing contamination flows. In addition, project activities may infringe on existing wells such that they must be reconstructed or sealed and abandoned. Appropriate information to define existing groundwater conditions should be included in the report.
- If the potential construction or decommissioning of water wells is identified as an issue, the report should refer to Ontario Regulation 903, Wells, under the OWRA.
- Potential impacts to groundwater-dependent natural features should be addressed. Any changes to groundwater flow or quality from groundwater taking may interfere with the ecological processes of streams, wetlands or other surficial features. In addition, discharging contaminated or high volumes of groundwater to these features may have direct impacts on their function. Any potential effects should be identified, and appropriate mitigation measures should be recommended. The level of detail required will be dependent on the significance of the potential impacts. For example, where construction of

transmission towers is proposed, any pile driving into the subsurface that is required for steel pile type tower foundations, particularly to the bedrock surface at depth, may have an adverse effect on local groundwater resources.

- Any potential approval requirements for groundwater taking or discharge should be identified in the report. A Permit to Take Water (PTTW) under the OWRA will be required for any water takings that exceed 50,000 L/day, with the exception of certain water taking activities that have been prescribed by the Water Taking EASR Regulation – *O. Reg. 63/16*. These prescribed water-taking activities require registration in the EASR instead of a PTTW. Please review the [Water Taking User Guide for EASR](#) for more information.
- Consultation with the railroad authorities is necessary wherever there is a plan to use construction dewatering in the vicinity of railroad lines or where the zone of influence of the construction dewatering potentially intercepts railroad lines.
- Groundwater should be protected from the potential for spills, dewatering and wood pole preservative during construction. A plan should be in place for preventing and dealing with spills. All spills that could potentially cause damage to the environment should be reported to the Spills Action Centre of the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks at 1-800-268-6060.

Excess Materials Management

- In December 2019, MECP released a new regulation under the Environmental Protection Act, titled “[On-Site and Excess Soil Management](#)” (O. Reg. 406/19) to support improved management of excess construction soil. This regulation is a key step to support proper management of excess soils, ensuring valuable resources don’t go to waste and to provide clear rules on managing and reusing excess soil. New risk-based standards referenced by this regulation help to facilitate local beneficial reuse which in turn will reduce greenhouse gas emissions from soil transportation, while ensuring strong protection of human health and the environment. The new regulation is being phased in over time, with the first phase in effect on January 1, 2021. For more information, please visit <https://www.ontario.ca/page/handling-excess-soil>.
- The report should reference that activities involving the management of excess soil should be completed in accordance with O. Reg. 406/19 and the MECP’s current guidance document titled “[Management of Excess Soil – A Guide for Best Management Practices](#)” (2014).
- All waste generated during construction must be disposed of in accordance with ministry requirements.

Contaminated Sites

- Any current or historical waste disposal sites should be identified in the report. The status of these sites should be determined to confirm whether approval pursuant to Section 46 of the EPA may be required for land uses on former disposal sites. We recommend referring to the [MECP's D-4 guideline](#) for land use considerations near landfills and dumps.
 - Resources available may include regional/local municipal official plans and data; provincial data on [large landfill sites](#) and [small landfill sites](#); Environmental Compliance Approval information for waste disposal sites on [Access Environment](#).
- Other known contaminated sites (local, provincial, federal) in the study area should also be identified in the report (Note – information on federal contaminated sites is found on the Government of Canada's [website](#)).
- The location of any underground storage tanks should be investigated in the report. Measures should be identified to ensure the integrity of these tanks and to ensure an appropriate response in the event of a spill. The ministry's Spills Action Centre must be contacted in such an event.
- Since the removal or movement of soils may be required, appropriate tests to determine contaminant levels from previous land uses or dumping should be undertaken. If the soils are contaminated, you must determine how and where they are to be disposed of, consistent with *Part XV.1 of the Environmental Protection Act* (EPA) and Ontario Regulation 153/04, Records of Site Condition, which details the new requirements related to site assessment and clean up. Consideration of potential environmental contamination should be given following regulatory guidance where the project involves decommissioning of facilities. Please contact the appropriate MECP District Office for further consultation if contaminated sites are present.
- Where poles are being removed that have been chemically treated, we recommend that the proponent consider soil testing to determine the extent of any related soil contamination. Soil testing may be contingent on factors such as proximity to water bodies or wetlands, proximity to wells, locations where poles are being removed but not replaced, and the treatment chemicals used (i.e. chromated copper arsenate (CCA) or creosote). In the case of poles which have been treated with CCA or creosote, testing for arsenic, copper and creosote should be completed.

Servicing, Utilities and Facilities

- The report should identify any above or underground utilities in the study area such as transmission lines, telephone/internet, oil/gas etc. The owners should be consulted to discuss impacts to this infrastructure, including potential spills.
- The report should identify any servicing infrastructure in the study area such as wastewater, water, stormwater that may potentially be impacted by the project.
- Any facility that releases emissions to the atmosphere, discharges contaminants to ground or surface water, provides potable water supplies, or stores, transports or disposes of waste must have an Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA) before it can operate lawfully. Please consult with MECP's Environmental Permissions Branch to determine whether a new or amended ECA will be required for any proposed infrastructure.
- We recommend referring to the ministry's [environmental land use planning guides](#) to ensure that any potential land use conflicts are considered when planning for any infrastructure or facilities related to wastewater, pipelines, landfills or industrial uses.

Mitigation and Monitoring

- Contractors must be made aware of all environmental considerations so that all environmental standards and commitments for both construction and operation are met. Mitigation measures should be clearly referenced in the report and regularly monitored during the construction stage of the project. In addition, we encourage proponents to conduct post-construction monitoring to ensure all mitigation measures have been effective and are functioning properly.
- Design and construction reports and plans should be based on a best management approach that centres on the prevention of impacts, protection of the existing environment, and opportunities for rehabilitation and enhancement of any impacted areas.
- The proponent's construction and post-construction effects monitoring strategies and programs must be documented in the report.
- The proponent must consider cumulative effects when planning projects. The assessment will include the proposed undertaking and any other proposed undertakings in the immediate project area where documentation is available (e.g. other environmental assessments).

Consultation

- The report must demonstrate how the consultation provisions of the Environmental Screening Process have been fulfilled, including documentation of all stakeholder consultation efforts undertaken during the planning process. This includes a discussion in the report that identifies concerns that were raised and **describes how they have been addressed by the proponent** throughout the planning process. The report should also include copies of comments submitted on the project by interested stakeholders, and the proponent's responses to these comments (as directed by the Guide to Environmental Assessment Requirements for Electricity Projects to include full documentation).
- Please include the full stakeholder distribution/consultation list in the documentation.

Environmental Screening Process

- The report should provide clear and complete documentation of the planning process in order to allow for transparency in decision-making.
- The Environmental Screening Process requires the consideration of the effects of each alternative on all aspects of the environment (including planning, natural, social, cultural, economic, technical). The report should include a level of detail (e.g. hydrogeological investigations, terrestrial and aquatic assessments, cultural heritage assessments) such that all potential impacts can be identified, and appropriate mitigation measures can be developed. Any supporting studies conducted during the Environmental Screening Process should be referenced and included as part of the report.
- Please include in the report a list of all subsequent permits or approvals that may be required for the implementation of the preferred alternative, including but not limited to, MECP's PTTW, EASR Registrations and ECAs, conservation authority permits, species at risk permits, MTO permits and approvals under the *Impact Assessment Act*, 2019.
- Ministry guidelines and other information related to the issues above are available at <http://www.ontario.ca/environment-and-energy/environment-and-energy>. We encourage you to review all the available guides and to reference any relevant information in the report.

Amendments to the EAA through the Covid-19 Economic Recovery Act, 2020

Once the report is finalized, the proponent must issue a Notice of Completion providing a minimum 30-day period during which documentation may be reviewed and comment and input can be submitted to the proponent. The Notice of Completion must be sent to the appropriate MECP Regional Office email address.

The public has the ability to request a higher level of assessment on a project if they are concerned about potential adverse impacts to constitutionally protected Aboriginal and treaty rights. In addition, the Minister may issue an order on his or her own initiative within a specified time period. The Director (of the Environmental Assessment Branch) will issue a Notice of Proposed Order to the proponent if the Minister is considering an order for the project within 30 days after the conclusion of the comment period on the Notice of Completion. At this time, the Director may request additional information from the proponent. Once the requested information has been received, the Minister will have 30 days within which to make a decision or impose conditions on your project.

Therefore, the proponent cannot proceed with the project until at least 30 days after the end of the comment period provided for in the Notice of Completion. Further, the proponent may not proceed after this time if:

- a Section 16 Order request has been submitted to the ministry regarding potential adverse impacts to constitutionally protected Aboriginal and treaty rights, or
- the Director has issued a Notice of Proposed order regarding the project.

Please ensure that the Notice of Completion advises that outstanding concerns are to be directed to the proponent for a response, and that in the event there are outstanding concerns regarding potential adverse impacts to constitutionally protected Aboriginal and treaty rights, Section 16 Order requests on those matters should be addressed in writing to:

Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
777 Bay Street, 5th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 2J3
minister.mecp@ontario.ca

and

Director, Environmental Assessment Branch
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
135 St. Clair Ave. W, 1st Floor
Toronto ON, M4V 1P5
EABDirector@ontario.ca

Client's Guide to Preliminary Screening for Species at Risk

***Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Species at Risk Branch, Permissions and Compliance
DRAFT - May 2019***

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1.0 Purpose, Scope, Background and Context

1.1 Purpose of this Guide

This guide has been created to:

- help clients better understand their obligation to gather information and complete a preliminary screening for species at risk before contacting the ministry,
- outline guidance and advice clients can expect to receive from the ministry at the preliminary screening stage,
- help clients understand how they can gather information about species at risk by accessing publicly available information housed by the Government of Ontario, and
- provide a list of other potential sources of species at risk information that exist outside the Government of Ontario.

It remains the client's responsibility to:

- carry out a preliminary screening for their projects,
- obtain best available information from all applicable information sources,
- conduct any necessary field studies or inventories to identify and confirm the presence or absence of species at risk or their habitat,
- consider any potential impacts to species at risk that a proposed activity might cause, and
- comply with the *Endangered Species Act* (ESA).

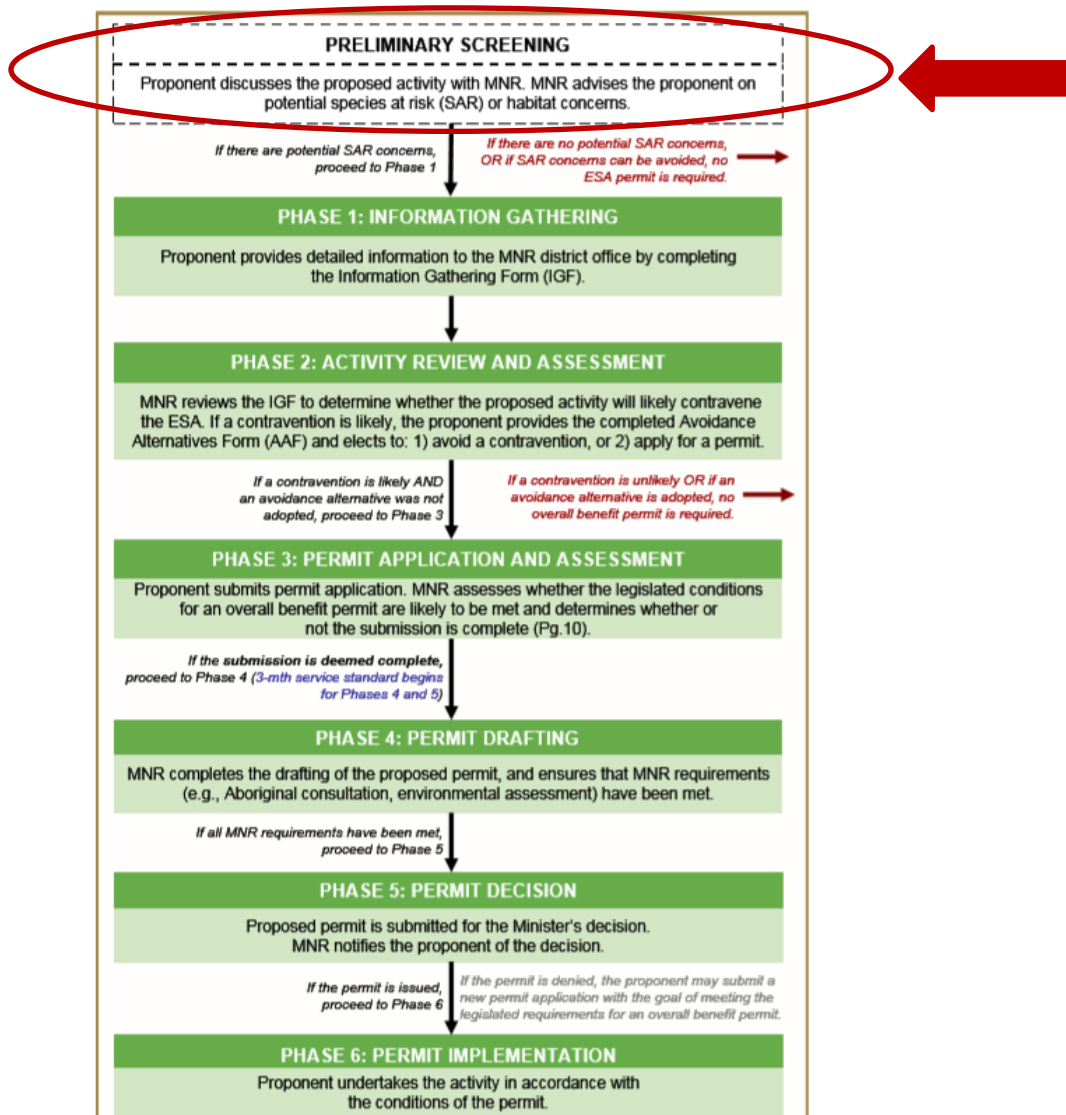
To provide the most efficient service, clients should initiate species at risk screenings and seek information from all applicable information sources identified in this guide, at a minimum, prior to contacting Government of Ontario ministry offices for further information or advice.

1.2 Scope

This guide is a resource for clients seeking to understand if their activity is likely to impact species at risk or if they are likely to trigger the need for an authorization under the ESA. It is not intended to circumvent any detailed site surveys that may be necessary to document species at risk or their habitat nor to circumvent the need to assess the impacts of a proposed activity on species at risk or their habitat. This guide is not an exhaustive list of available information sources for any given area as the availability of information on species at risk and their habitat varies across the province. This guide is intended to support projects and activities carried out on Crown and private land, by private landowners, businesses, other provincial ministries and agencies, or municipal government.

1.3 Background and Context

To receive advice on their proposed activity, clients must first determine whether any species at risk or their habitat exist or are likely to exist at or near their proposed activity, and whether their proposed activity is likely to contravene the ESA. Once this step is complete, clients may contact the ministry at SAROntario@ontario.ca to discuss the main purpose, general methods, timing and location of their proposed activity as well as information obtained about species at risk and their habitat at, or near, the site. At this stage, the ministry can provide advice and guidance to the client about potential species at risk or habitat concerns, measures that the client is considering to avoid adverse effects on species at risk or their habitat and whether additional field surveys are advisable. This is referred to as the “Preliminary Screening” stage. For more information on additional phases in the diagram below, please refer to the *Endangered Species Act Submission Standards for Activity Review and 17(2)(c) Overall Benefit Permits* policy available online at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/species-risk-overall-benefit-permits>



2.0 Roles and Responsibilities

To provide the most efficient service, clients should initiate species at risk screenings and seek information from all applicable information sources identified in this guide prior to contacting Government of Ontario ministry offices for further information or advice.

Step 1: Client seeks information regarding species at risk or their habitat that exist, or are likely to exist, at or near their proposed activity by referring to all applicable information sources identified in this guide.

Step 2: Client reviews and consider guidance on whether their proposed activity is likely to contravene the ESA (see section 3.4 of this guide for guidance on what to consider).

Step 3: Client gathers information identified in the checklist in section 4 of this guide.

Step 4: Client contacts the ministry at SAROntario@ontario.ca to discuss their preliminary screening. Ministry staff will ask the client questions about the main purpose, general methods, timing and location of their proposed activity as well as information obtained about species at risk and their habitat at, or near, the site. Ministry staff will also ask the client for their interpretation of the impacts of their activity on species at risk or their habitat as well as measures the client has considered to avoid any adverse impacts.

Step 5: Ministry staff will provide advice on next steps.

Option A: Ministry staff may advise the client they can proceed with their activity without an authorization under the ESA where the ministry is confident that:

- no protected species at risk or habitats are likely to be present at or near the proposed location of the activity; or
- protected species at risk or habitats are known to be present but the activity is not likely to contravene the ESA; or
- through the adoption of avoidance measures, the modified activity is not likely to contravene the ESA.

Option B: Ministry staff may advise the client to proceed to Phase 1 of the overall benefit permitting process (i.e. Information Gathering in the previous diagram), where:

- there is uncertainty as to whether any protected species at risk or habitats are present at or near the proposed location of the activity; or
- the potential impacts of the proposed activity are uncertain; or
- ministry staff anticipate the proposed activity is likely to contravene the ESA.

3.0 Information Sources

Land Information Ontario (LIO) and the Natural Heritage Information Centre (NHIC) maintain and provide information about species at risk, as well as related information about fisheries, wildlife, crown lands, protected lands and more. This information is made available to organizations, private individuals, consultants, and developers through online sources and is often considered under various pieces of legislation or as part of regulatory approvals and planning processes.

The information available from LIO or NHIC and the sources listed in this guide should not be considered as a substitute for site visits and appropriate field surveys. Generally, this information can be regarded as a starting point from which to conduct further field surveys, if needed. While this data represents best available current information, it is important to note that a lack of information for a site does not mean that species at risk or their habitat are not present. There are many areas where the Government of Ontario does not currently have information, especially in more remote parts of the province. The absence of species at risk location data at or near your site does not necessarily mean no species at risk are present at that location. On-site assessments can better verify site conditions, identify and confirm presence of species at risk and/or their habitats.

Information on the location (i.e. observations and occurrences) of species at risk is considered sensitive and therefore publicly available only on a 1km square grid as opposed to as a detailed point on a map. This generalized information can help you understand which species at risk are in the general vicinity of your proposed activity and can help inform field level studies you may want to undertake to confirm the presence, or absence of species at risk at or near your site.

Should you require specific and detailed information pertaining to species at risk observations and occurrences at or near your site on a finer geographic scale; you will be required to demonstrate your need to access this information, to complete data sensitivity training and to obtain a Sensitive Data Use License from the NHIC. Information on how to obtain a license can be found online at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/get-natural-heritage-information>.

Many organizations (e.g. other Ontario ministries, municipalities, conservation authorities) have ongoing licensing to access this data so be sure to check if your organization has this access and consult this data as part of your preliminary screening if your organization already has a license.

3.1 Make a Map: Natural Heritage Areas

The Make a Natural Heritage Area Map (available online at http://www.gisapplication.lrc.gov.on.ca/mamnh/Index.html?site=MNR_NHLUPS_NaturalHeritage&viewer=NaturalHeritage&locale=en-US) provides public access to natural heritage information, including species at risk, without the user needing to have Geographic Information System (GIS) capability. It allows users to view and identify generalized species at risk information, mark areas of interest, and create and print a custom map directly from the web application. The tool also shows topographic information such as roads, rivers, contours and municipal boundaries.

Users are advised that sensitive information has been removed from the natural areas dataset and the occurrences of species at risk has been generalized to a 1-kilometre grid to mitigate the risks to the species (e.g. illegal harvest, habitat disturbance, poaching).

The web-based mapping tool displays natural heritage data, including:

- Generalized Species at risk occurrence data (based on a 1-km square grid),
- Natural Heritage Information Centre data.

Data cannot be downloaded directly from this web map; however, information included in this application is available digitally through Land Information Ontario (LIO) at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/land-information-ontario>.

3.2 Land Information Ontario (LIO)

Most natural heritage data is publicly available. This data is managed in a large provincial corporate database called the LIO Warehouse and can be accessed online through the LIO Metadata Management Tool at <https://www.javacoeapp.lrc.gov.on.ca/geonetwork/srv/en/main.home>. This tool provides descriptive information about the characteristics, quality and context of the data. Publicly available geospatial data can be downloaded directly from this site.

While most data are publicly available, some data may be considered highly sensitive (i.e. nursery areas for fish, species at risk observations) and as such, access to some data maybe restricted.

3.3 Additional Species at Risk Information Sources

- The Breeding Bird Atlas can be accessed online at <http://www.birdsontario.org/atlas/index.jsp?lang=en>
- eBird can be accessed online at <https://ebird.org/home>
- iNaturalist can be accessed online at <https://www.inaturalist.org/>
- The Ontario Reptile and Amphibian Atlas can be accessed online at <https://ontarionature.org/programs/citizen-science/reptile-amphibian-atlas>
- Your local Conservation Authority. Information to help you find your local Conservation Authority can be accessed online at <https://conservationontario.ca/conservation-authorities/find-a-conservation-authority/>

Local naturalist groups or other similar community-based organizations

- Local Indigenous communities
- Local land trusts or other similar Environmental Non-Government Organizations
- Field level studies to identify if species at risk, or their habitat, are likely present or absent at or near the site.
- When an activity is proposed within one of the continuous caribou ranges, please be sure to consider the caribou Range Management Policy. This policy includes figures and maps of the continuous caribou range, can be found online at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/range-management-policy-support-woodland-caribou-conservation-and-recovery>

3.4 Information Sources to Support Impact Assessments

- Guidance to help you understand if your activity is likely to adversely impact species at risk or their habitat can be found online at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/policy-guidance-harm-and-harass-under-endangered-species-act> and <https://www.ontario.ca/page/categorizing-and-protecting-habitat-under-endangered-species-act>
- A list of species at risk in Ontario is available online at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/species-risk-ontario>. On this webpage, you can find out more about each species, including where it lives, what threatens it and any specific habitat protections that apply to it by clicking on the photo of the species.

4.0 Check-List

Please feel free to use the check list below to help you confirm you have explored all applicable information sources and to support your discussion with Ministry staff at the preliminary screening stage.

- ✓ Land Information Ontario (LIO)
- ✓ Natural Heritage Information Centre (NHIC)
- ✓ The Breeding Bird Atlas
- ✓ eBird
- ✓ iNaturalist
- ✓ Ontario Reptile and Amphibian Atlas
- ✓ List Conservation Authorities you contacted: _____

- ✓ List local naturalist groups you contacted: _____

- ✓ List local Indigenous communities you contacted: _____

- ✓ List any other local land trusts or Environmental Non-Government Organizations you contacted: _____

- ✓ List and field studies that were conducted to identify species at risk, or their habitat, likely to be present or absent at or near the site: _____

- ✓ List what you think the likely impacts of your activity are on species at risk and their habitat (e.g. damage or destruction of habitat, killing, harming or harassing species at risk): _____

**Ministry of Citizenship
and Multiculturalism**

Heritage Planning Unit
Heritage Branch
Citizenship, Inclusion and
Heritage Division
5th Flr, 400 University Ave
Tel.: 613-242-3743

**Ministère des Affaires civiques
et du Multiculturalisme**

Unité de la planification relative au
patrimoine
Direction du patrimoine
Division des affaires civiques, de
l'inclusion et du patrimoine
Tél.: 613-242-3743



February 28, 2024

EMAIL ONLY

Jennifer Trotman
Environmental Planner, Environmental Services
Hydro One Networks Inc.
jennifer.trotman@hydroone.com

MCM File : 0020997
Proponent : Hydro One Networks Inc.
Subject : Class Environmental Assessment for Minor Transmission Facilities
– Notice of Commencement and Community Open House #1
Project : St. Thomas Line
Location : City of St. Thomas, Elgin County

Dear Jennifer Trotman:

Thank you for providing the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism (MCM) with the Notice of Commencement and Community Open House #1 for the above-referenced project.

MCM's interest in this project relates to its mandate of conserving Ontario's cultural heritage, which includes:

- archaeological resources, including land and marine;
- built heritage resources, including bridges and monuments; and
- cultural heritage landscapes.

Under the Environmental Assessment (EA) process, the proponent is required to determine a project's potential impact on known (previously recognized) and potential cultural heritage resources.

Project Summary

In 2023, Volkswagen Group announced that PowerCo Canada Inc. will build its largest electric vehicle battery cell manufacturing plant in the City of St. Thomas. To meet the electricity demands for this facility and support future growth in the region, Hydro One is proposing to construct a new 230-kilovolt double-circuit transmission line that will extend from the existing transmission corridor north of Highway 401 in the City of London to the new Centennial Transformer Station in St.

Thomas. The proposed project will follow the “Class EA for Minor Transmission Facilities” (2002) established in accordance with the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act.

Identifying Cultural Heritage Resources

While some cultural heritage resources may have already been formally identified, others may be identified through screening and evaluation.

Provincial Heritage Properties

Please note that the [Standards and Guidelines for Conservation of Provincial Heritage Properties](#) (S&Gs), prepared pursuant to Section 25.2 of the *Ontario Heritage Act* (OHA), came into effect on July 1, 2010. All Ontario government ministries and public bodies that are prescribed under Ontario Regulation 157/10, including Hydro One Network Inc., must comply with the S&Gs. They apply to property that is owned or controlled by the Crown in right of Ontario or by a prescribed public body.

Archaeological Resources

This EA project may impact archaeological resources. Please advise whether the study area has been screened for archaeological potential and/or is the subject of an archaeological assessment. If an archaeological assessment has been previously undertaken, please send us the Project Information Form (PIF) number.

If the study area, including any temporary roads, detours or work areas associated with the project, has not been previously screened or assessed, the Ministry’s [Criteria for Evaluating Archaeological Potential](#) can assist you to determine if an archaeological assessment is needed. If it is determined that the project area exhibits archaeological potential, then an archaeological assessment (AA) will be undertaken during the planning phase. If further AA(s) are recommended, then MCM recommends that further stages of AA be completed as early as possible during the detailed design phase and prior to any ground disturbing activities.

AAs are required to be undertaken by an archaeologist licenced under the OHA, who is responsible for submitting the report directly to MCM for review.

The results of the AA will be summarized in the EA report, i.e., the Executive Summary of each AA report provides a brief summary of the work completed and the recommendations for next steps, whether for further archaeological assessment, in which case the report will include a map that identifies those areas, or for no further assessment. The EA report must also include clear commitments to undertake any further AA stages recommended, and a timeline for their completion.

Built Heritage Resources and Cultural Heritage Landscapes

This EA project may impact built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes. Please advise whether the study area has been screened for built heritage resources or cultural heritage landscapes and/or is the subject of a cultural heritage assessment. If technical cultural heritage studies have been previously undertaken for this study area, please send us an electronic copy of the study(ies).

If the study area, including any temporary roads, detours or work areas associated with the project, has not been previously screened or assessed, the Ministry’s [Criteria for Evaluating Potential for Built Heritage Resources and Cultural Heritage Landscapes](#) should be completed to help determine whether this EA project may impact known or potential built heritage resources and/or cultural heritage landscapes.

If there is potential for built heritage resources and/or cultural heritage landscapes within the project area, then a Cultural Heritage Report: Existing Conditions and Preliminary Impact Assessment should be undertaken for the entire study area during the planning phase and will be summarized in the EA Report. This study will:

1. Describe the existing baseline cultural heritage conditions within the study area by identifying all known or potential built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes, including a historical summary of the study area. The Ministry has developed a screening checklist that may assist with this exercise: [Criteria for Evaluating for Potential Built Heritage Resources and Cultural Heritage Landscapes](#).
2. Identify preliminary potential project-specific impacts on the known and potential built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes that have been identified. The report should include a description of the anticipated impact to each known or potential built heritage resource or cultural heritage landscape that has been identified.
3. Recommend measures to avoid or mitigate potential negative impacts to known or potential built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes. The proposed mitigation measures are to inform the next steps of project planning and design.

Given that this project covers a large study area, MCM recommends that the Cultural Heritage Report is carried out so that step 1 described above is undertaken early in the planning process and for all the alternatives' study areas. Then, steps 2 and 3 can be undertaken once the preferred alternative has been selected.

Cultural Heritage Reports will be undertaken by a qualified person who has expertise, recent experience, and knowledge relevant to the type of cultural heritage resources being considered and the nature of the activity being proposed.

Community input should be sought to identify locally recognized and potential cultural heritage resources. Sources include, but are not limited to, municipal heritage committees, historical societies and other local heritage organizations.

Cultural heritage resources are often of critical importance to Indigenous communities. Indigenous communities may have knowledge that can contribute to the identification of cultural heritage resources, and we suggest that any engagement with Indigenous communities includes a discussion about known or potential cultural heritage resources that are of value to them.

Environmental Assessment Reporting

All technical cultural heritage studies and their recommendations are to be addressed and incorporated into EA projects. Please advise MCM whether any technical cultural heritage studies will be completed for this EA project, and provide them to MCM before issuing a Notice of Completion or commencing any work on the site. If screening has identified no known or potential cultural heritage resources, or no impacts to these resources, please include the completed checklists and supporting documentation in the EA report or file.

Please note that the responsibility for administration of the *Ontario Heritage Act* and matters related to cultural heritage have been transferred from the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport (MTCS) to the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism (MCM). Individual staff roles and contact information remain unchanged. Please continue to send any notices, report and/or documentation **via email only** to both Karla Barboza and Joseph Harvey.

- Karla Barboza, Team Lead - Heritage | Heritage Planning Unit (Citizenship and Multiculturalism) | 416-660-1027 | karla.barboza@ontario.ca
- Joseph Harvey, Heritage Planner | Heritage Planning Unit (Citizenship and Multiculturalism) | 613-242-3743 | joseph.harvey@ontario.ca

Thank you for consulting MCM on this project and please continue to do so throughout the EA process. If you have any questions or require clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Erika Leclerc
On behalf of

Joseph Harvey
Heritage Planner
Joseph.harvey@ontario.ca

Copied to: Hydro One Community Relations, Community.Relations@HydroOne.com

Karla Barboza, Team Lead – Heritage Planning Unit, MCM

Laura Hatcher, Heritage Advisor, MCM

It is the sole responsibility of proponents to ensure that any information and documentation submitted as part of their EA report or file is accurate. The Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism (MCM) makes no representation or warranty as to the completeness, accuracy or quality of the any checklists, reports or supporting documentation submitted as part of the EA process, and in no way shall MCM be liable for any harm, damages, costs, expenses, losses, claims or actions that may result if any checklists, reports or supporting documents are discovered to be inaccurate, incomplete, misleading or fraudulent.

Should previously undocumented archaeological resources be discovered, they may be a new archaeological site and therefore subject to Section 48(1) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. The proponent or person discovering the archaeological resources must cease alteration of the site immediately and engage a licensed consultant archaeologist to carry out an archaeological assessment, in compliance with Section 48(1) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

The *Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002, S.O. 2002, c.33* requires that any person discovering human remains must cease all activities immediately and notify the police or coroner. If the coroner does not suspect foul play in the disposition of the remains, in accordance with *Ontario Regulation 30/11* the coroner shall notify the Registrar, Ontario Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery, which administers provisions of that Act related to burial sites. In situations where human remains are associated with archaeological resources, the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism should also be notified (at archaeology@ontario.ca) to ensure that the archaeological site is not subject to unlicensed alterations which would be a contravention of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.



MEMO

To: Hydro One – Community Relations

From: Chris McIntosh, P.Eng

Date: March 1, 2024

Re: St. Thomas Line Project EA

The City of London is encouraged to support the regional benefit that comes with the PowerCo/Volkswagen announcement to construct a new battery facility in nearby St. Thomas. This development will have a massive impact throughout the region. As expected with this sort of announcement, a series of Teir 1 and Teir 2 manufacturers and suppliers are now also looking to setup in the nearby surrounding area. Further spinoffs would include all those that support to construct and serve all these supply chain companies unique needs. The City has experienced an influx of inquiries and commitments for our industrial lands as a result of this announcement. Typically, potential suppliers are looking at our City owned and developed Innovation Industrial Park, situated generally around the Bradley Ave and Veteran's Memorial Parkway (VMP) intersection, due to the diverse property sizes available, proximity to the 400 series highways, and distance to the future PowerCo facility.

Each supplier has their own unique servicing characteristics, however, the one demand that is often reoccurring is their need for large amounts of electricity in order to create their components. While London Hydro, the city's Local Distribution Company, has some capacity at Buchanan Transformer Station (TS), if several of these suppliers choose to locate in London, then we will be constrained on what we can offer. Other suppliers clearly need direct transmission connection.

The City does recognize that there is a Bulk Planning Study Update for the Central-West region by IESO. We will also be echoing similar support and comments based on our experiences to date. Our hope would be that these projects, and the regional growth opportunities, can align to create a successful outcome for London and surrounding area.

The City of London is pleased to provide the following comments in from serval divisions regarding the Hydro One St. Thomas Line Project EA from. These are in no way exhaustive and further comments may be provided as this process continues and routes are more closely evaluated. The City would like to remain circulated in this project and looks to be a supporting partner where it can.

Planning and Development:

In relation to Option 1, these lands are within the Urban Growth Boundary and are likely to be future employment lands. A corridor through these lands would effectively sterilize a large portion of these lands from usable development. We see this as counterintuitive to the overall goal of the PowerCo project as this may limit development opportunities for suppliers.

Water Engineering:

The proposed alignment of Option 1 would run adjacent to a 900mm trunk watermain along Cheese Factory Rd and crossing under Highway 401. The trunk watermain is a concrete/steel composite and there is a concern if any grounding systems, lightning protection systems, or stray current from the line could adversely effect the watermain and its longevity. Also, consideration should be given to effects of repair and maintenance of this pipeline may have for both the City and Hydro One. We would ask that Hydro One evaluate these hazards and demonstrate that they will not adversely effect the watermain.

Municipal Drains and the Drainage Act:

All the proposed alignments are over lands that are serviced by Municipal Drains and thus fall under the Drainage Act. Given the proposed land acquisition, Engineer's Reports and Assessment Schedules will need to be updated. Can Hydro One confirm that this will be completed, and provided to the City, prior to energization of this corridor?

Stormwater Engineering:

The Dingman Creek EA is in progress. The current flood model for Dingman doesn't extent far enough east to capture this area. The pending Dingman floodplain update will include the areas of the alternatives. That information can be provide that when it's

available. Consideration should be given for potential flooding of tower bases in these areas in the meantime.

Heritage:

Alternative 1 has the greatest potential impact to recognized heritage resources including properties that are on the Register of Cultural Heritage Resources, as well as a known historic cemetery and registered archaeological sites. A detailed list can be provided upon request.

The City typically requests any landowner looking to change land usage would complete a Heritage Impact Assessments to provincial standards and Archaeological Assessments, including Indigenous consultation. Can Hydro One confirm that these will be undertaken and if the results can be shared with the City.

Parks and Forestry:

We would highlight that existing parkland (woodland/open space blocks) exist both north and south of Wilton Grove Road (east of Highbury Ave). Alternative 1 appears to cross a Provincially Significant Wetland. The City would request these blocks be considered during the EA process and remain protected. Currently, there are no identified cycling routes as per Map 4 of the City's Official Plan but we may be interested in working with Hydro One to incorporate multi-use pathways along a hydro corridor if appropriate.

Municipal Housing:

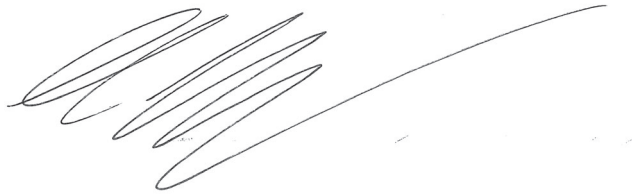
The City has committed to providing 47,000 units by 2031, aligning with the Province's commitment to housing. This will add further loading on existing electrical infrastructure supplied by London Hydro, the city's Local Distribution Company (LDC). It's requested that this EA take a holistic approach and consider the implications that these new units will have on electricity demands and what implications this may have on the supply and infrastructure requirements.

In reviewing the three alternatives, the City's preference would be Alternative 3. It is outside the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB), generally follows a road allowance, and is in close proximity to existing and future industrial lands. This alignment may be

beneficial if future suppliers are looking for lands near the existing HONI corridor and in proximity to the 401. The City does not support Alternative 1. We see this alternative as having significant impacts on future and existing employment lands, is situated within the UGB, and traverses through a Provincially Significant Wetland.

The City would like to remain circulated on this project and looks forward to being a supporting partner to this exciting development.

Thanks,



Chris McIntosh, P.Eng.

Manager, Strategic Lands Engineering

Economic Services and Supports

Planning and Economic Development

City of London

300 Dufferin Ave., London, ON N6A 4L9

P: 519.661.CITY (2489) x5862

cmcintosh@london.ca | www.london.ca



JENNIFER TROTMAN

Environmental Planner
Environmental Services
Hydro One Networks Inc.

April 3, 2024

Chris McIntosh

Manager, Strategic Lands Engineering
City of London

Sent via email

Re: St. Thomas Line Project

Dear Mr. McIntosh,

Thank you for providing comments on behalf of the City of London for the St. Thomas Line Project. The information you have shared is important to understanding the natural, economic, social and cultural landscape of the project study area as we complete our Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA).

Hydro One is committed to working with industry partners and government agencies to accommodate future growth opportunities, and we appreciate your comments on the potential development in your community. To address current and future electricity demand, we are working closely with the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) as they assess and plan for the future of Ontario's energy transmission system. This includes advancing the start of the regional planning process for the London area - a full year ahead of schedule – and advocating for the region's needs as the IESO currently completes the Bulk Planning Study Update for the Central-West region, which is expected to be released in the coming weeks, and the upcoming Southern and Central Ontario Bulk Study, which is expected to commence this year. If you have any questions on direct transmission connections, we'd be happy to put you in touch with our large customer accounts team.

With regards to the department comments you have provided for the St. Thomas Line Project Class EA, we appreciate the opportunity to respond to them below:

Planning and Development

Thank you for sharing the comment on Route Alternative 1's proximity to the City's Urban Growth Boundary. Feedback on land use plans is essential for accurately understanding existing conditions in the Study Area. Hydro One would be interested in receiving copies of any available land use and zoning maps as they relate to lands impacted by all of the Route Alternatives for the project. Please let us know if this would be available in digital format for use in the comparative evaluation for the project. Additionally, knowledge of filed development applications can be helpful in understanding future development plans in the Study Area of each Route Alternative. Would the City be able to provide information on parcels with current development applications filed?

St. Thomas Line Project

Water Engineering

We appreciate learning more about the watermain along Cheese Factory Rd and crossing under Highway 401. Through the Class EA, Hydro One will be evaluating the environmental, socio-economic, and technical factors that may impact or be impacted by construction of the new transmission line. This evaluation will include concerns around constructability, access, maintenance and impacts to adjacent infrastructure operations. As part of the Class EA process, avoidance and mitigation measures will be identified to address potential impacts to local infrastructure and utilities should they be impacted by the preferred alternative. Do you have a digital file of the location of this watermain that can be shared with Hydro One?

Municipal Drains and the *Drainage Act*

We understand that all of the proposed Route Alternatives cross over lands serviced by Municipal Drains and therefore fall under the *Drainage Act*. In terms of land acquisition, it is Hydro One's intention to obtain easement agreements with existing landowners for the proposed transmission corridor. With that said, our understanding is that updates to Engineer's Reports and Assessment Schedules will not be required.

The locations of Municipal Drains will be included in the existing conditions for each of the Route Alternatives and their analyses. Hydro One is committed to working closely with the city to discuss appropriate tower setbacks and whether temporary crossings will be required during construction.

Stormwater Engineering

Thank you for notifying us of the Dingman Creek Environmental Assessment and the upcoming Dingman Creek floodplain update, which would include portions of our Study Area. Landscape considerations such as floodplains and hazards lands are essential to the evaluation process of our Class EA and tower design. Is there an estimated date for when the floodplain mapping will become available? In addition to receiving the updated floodplain mapping, we would like to request that Jennifer Trotman at Hydro One (jennifer.trotman@hydroone.com) and Brandon Fox at Dillon Consulting Limited (bfox@dillon.ca) be added to the Dingman Creek EA contact list to receive projects updates as your study continues.

Heritage

Thank you for your feedback advising that Route Alternative 1 has the greatest potential to impact City of London registered heritage resources, including properties on the Register of Cultural Heritage Resources, a known historic cemetery, and registered archaeological sites.

Hydro One is committed to follow applicable legislation, including those that apply to cultural heritage and archaeological resources. Hydro One is actively consulting with the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism (MCM) regarding cultural heritage and archaeological resources and will complete applicable Heritage Impact and Archaeological Assessments prior to construction.

St. Thomas Line Project

To assist Hydro One with a comprehensive dataset, we would like to request the City of London's detailed list of recognized heritage resources within the Study Area of all three route alternatives.

Parks and Forestry

Thank you for providing the information pertaining to the existing parkland on both the north and south side of Wilton Grove Road and the Provincially Significant Wetland that Route Alternative 1 proposes to cross a portion of. We understand that Parks and Forestry has requested that these blocks be considered during the Class EA and that they remain protected. We would like to confirm that these natural features will be included in the existing conditions of the Study Area, as well as listed as existing features in the evaluation process. Our goal is to minimize our impacts to the environment in the selection of a Preferred Route.

Hydro One will work closely with relevant government agencies to follow applicable legislation and acquire any permits, approvals, and authorizations prior to any work that would impact natural heritage. A comment received from a member of the public noted that the City of London recently purchased portions of the Westminster Wetland Complex to be used for future environmentally impacted compensation lands. We would like to request any details on future plans related to the Westminster Wetland Complex that may be available to assist with understanding long-range planning for this area.

We also understand that the City of London may be interested in working with Hydro One to incorporate multi-use pathways along a transmission line corridor. Once a preferred route has been selected, Hydro One and the City of London can have further discussions on the potential to develop a trail in that location.

Municipal Housing

Hydro One understands the importance of providing new housing units to southern Ontario residents as well as the energy demands that come with these new housing units. However, the St. Thomas Line project is being completed as a customer connection for the Volkswagen Battery Manufacturing Plant in the City of St. Thomas. While Hydro One is working closely with the IESO as they assess and plan for energy needs of the region, as mentioned above, the City of London is encouraged to proactively contact the provincial agency to discuss long-range planning needs for increased electricity capacity.

In summary, we would like to thank the City of London for your detailed comments on Hydro One's St. Thomas Line Project and preference for Route Alternative 3. The information that you have provided will be included in the Class EA and assist in the selection of the Preferred Route.

As a next step in the Class EA process, Hydro One will be planning a Technical Advisory Committee Session later this spring to discuss the criteria to be included in the comparative route evaluation. Once we have scheduled a date for this session, we will send the City of London an invitation to participate in this discussion.

St. Thomas Line Project

Prior to this, if interested, I would welcome the opportunity to set up a meeting to discuss some of these items in more detail.

I look forward from hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Trotman

Environmental Planner
Environmental Services
Hydro One Networks Inc.
Tel: 647-525-3399
Email: jennifer.trotman@hydroone.com

April 4, 2024

Hydro One Networks Inc.
483 Bay Street
South Tower, 8th Floor
Toronto, Ontario
M5G 2P5

Attention: Jennifer Trotman, Environmental Planner (via email – jennifer.trotman@hydroone.com)

Re: UTRCA Comments
Class Environmental Assessment - St. Thomas Line Project
Notice of Commencement

Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA) staff are in receipt of your email (dated January 29, 2024) and attached Notice of Commencement for the St. Thomas Line Project Class EA.

Please see the enclosed UTRCA Regulation Limit mapping, including an overview map of the study areas within the Upper Thames River watershed, as well as maps 1 to 4 which show a greater level of detail for the same area. Approximate alignments of the three alternative routes are included on the mapping based on the routes shown on the interactive mapping tool on Hydro One's project website.

As shown on the enclosed mapping, sections of the project area are regulated by the UTRCA in accordance with Ontario Regulation 41/24, made pursuant to Section 28 of the *Conservation Authorities Act*. The regulation limit is comprised of:

- Riverine flood and erosion hazard lands associated with multiple watercourses within the Dingman Creek subwatershed; and,
- Multiple wetlands and the surrounding area of interference.

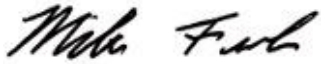
The UTRCA has jurisdiction over lands within the regulated area and requires that landowners obtain written approval from the Authority prior to undertaking any site alteration or development within this area including filling, grading, construction, alteration to a watercourse and/or interference with a wetland.

The UTRCA maintains interest in receiving further information on the study and subsequent documents that will be prepared in support of the work to be completed.

If you have any further questions regarding this information, please contact the undersigned.

UTRCA Comments
Hydro One Class EA – St. Thomas Line Project

Yours truly,
UPPER THAMES RIVER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Funk".

Michael Funk
Land Use Regulations Officer

Encl. Regulation Limit mapping – Maps 1 to 4 and Overview Map

c.c. Jessica Schnaithmann, UTRCA (via email – schnaithmannj@thamesriver.on.ca)

From: BALDESARRA Julia <Julia.Baldesarra@hydroone.com>
Sent: April 24, 2024 1:22 PM
To: Carol.Verstraete@ofa.on.ca
Cc: FAIR Aaron
Subject: St. Thomas Line Questions

Hi Carol –

Apologies for the delay! With Aaron off, I wanted to circle back directly on the questions you raised. Below you can find your original questions in blue and the response below. Let me know if you'd like me to share this with Laura and Karen directly as well, and whether you have any further questions.

All the best,
Julia

1. Distance between the towers? How big is the base of the towers? What is the height of the new towers?

Depending on the design:

- The typical span length between towers can range from 300 ft. to 1100 ft.,
- The typical tower footprint can range between 26 ft. by 26 ft. to 46 ft. by 46 ft., and;
- The typical height of a tower for this project can range between 130ft tall to 180ft tall.

It is important to note that the design of the transmission line can vary depending on a number of factors, such as land topography, road crossings, and environmental constraints among others, and there could be variances and adjustments required to the typical footprint, spacing and heights.

We are in the early stages of the project and will have a greater understanding of the specifics around tower structure design once we begin detailed design.

2. Why can't hydro bury the lines?

When burying power lines in a tunnel or a duct bank there are many factors that need to be taken into consideration. This includes technical practicality, disruption to the surface environment, and cost. Burying transmission lines can be highly disruptive to the environment given the magnitude of construction work that would be required. It comes at significantly higher costs, presents maintenance challenges as it takes significantly more time than overhead equipment to repair in case of an emergency, and has a shorter lifespan.

3. Landowners would like more of a defined fall date (Fall 2024) on when the announcement will be made. Fall is a busy time for farmers with harvesting crops.

Planning for a new transmission line requires coordination of different activities such as environmental studies, consultation, and technical assessments. A general timeline has been provided to allow for flexibility to accommodate these activities. As we get closer to the selection of the preferred route, we will be able to share a more defined date.

We are committed to better understand the farming calendar to minimize disruptions during critical periods. By working closely with the OFA and other associations, we aim to coordinate our activities more effectively where possible, especially during busy seasons when farmers are heavily engaged in their work.

4. Explain why the different colours of lines on maps are not always the same? i.e. big table map from open houses different line colours from interactive map and different line colours from individual maps.

We acknowledge that different colours were used between the Notice of Commencement/open house map, interactive map, and individual maps. We appreciate the feedback and, in the future, will be more mindful of the colours being used on the various project materials.

5. Is there a chance that a 4th line option could appear?

The preliminary work to identify the route alternatives is a comprehensive process where careful consideration goes into looking at environmental impacts, land use, and technical feasibility. Through this process, we map out local features and constraints and look for opportunities to follow existing linear infrastructure such as transmission corridors where feasible.

At this stage in the project, our focus is on learning more and evaluating the three route alternatives and their variations to select a preferred route. If there are concerns, our team is available to answer your questions. We encourage you to share any feedback as early in the process as possible so that we can work together to try to address them.

It is important to note that there are technical challenges when building linear transmission infrastructure spanning such distances – limiting our ability to weave and turn around individual properties. That said, Hydro One will investigate questions around specific local route refinements and impacts to individual properties.

6. Is there an option for an annual payment?

Hydro One compensates upfront and one-time for land occupation rights similar to many provincial infrastructure providers. Our transmission infrastructure is designed to be long lasting, with numerous assets having an average life expectancy of 75 years and beyond. Given the long-term occupation of our assets, our compensation model is based on making a one-time payment.

7. Easement rights – are they transferrable to another company i.e. railway, gas, etc.?

While the details of Hydro One's standard easement agreement will be shared with property owners during the formal offer presentation stage, the easement is specific in nature to construct, operate and maintain electricity transmission infrastructure. The rights are assignable but can only be used for electricity transmission infrastructure. Therefore, a use such as a gas pipeline installation would not be permitted under Hydro One's standard easement agreement.

8. What happens if your property is next to a property that has a line on it? Can you get injurious affection?

We want to hear any specific concerns that adjacent landowners have and would encourage them to contact us. At this point in the project, we are learning more about the local project area and once a preferred route is selected, we will continue to have conversations to address issues to every extent that is feasible and practical. Landowners who have the new transmission infrastructure directly on

their property are eligible for injurious affection, which will be determined by an independent third-party appraisal.

9. What point are you allowed to get legal advice about the paperwork received?

Landowners are always welcomed to work with legal counsel to make informed decisions on any agreements presented to them. With respect to this project, we've currently been attaining early access agreements to support the Class Environment Assessment. For legal review of this agreement, Hydro One will cover all reasonable legal fees associated with advice upon receipt of legal billings.

10. If someone has already signed the early assessment documents and didn't realize that they should have had the legal counsel review it, are they stuck with that agreement?

If this individual would like independent legal advice to review the agreement and ask questions regarding this matter, we encourage them to do so and contact their dedicated real estate representative for further discussion.

11. How do you get an appraisal? Are there certain criteria that appraisers have to follow?

A land appraisal will be advanced to property owners that are on the preferred route, which is expected to be announced Fall 2024. At that time, property owners will be contacted by a dedicated real estate representative to discuss a third-party independent appraisal among other project specific items.

12. How does MPAC tie into the value of the land?

The treatment of a property's MPAC assessment and the overall value of the land would be something an independent third-party appraiser may utilize as part of the valuation of land rights. Hydro One contracts third-party appraisers whom would make this determination as part of a voluntary land right offer.

13. Can you get a total buy out on your property?

As part of this project, a set of principles will be created to set out the process between Hydro One and property owners to attain voluntary property settlements. Currently we are developing these specific principles, as they take into consideration the local area and characteristics. Included, will be a principle that speaks to when we would offer the option for a property buy out.

Julia Baldesarra
Community Relations

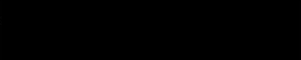
Hydro One Networks Inc.
483 Bay Street | Toronto, ON | M5G 2P5
Telephone: 416-553-6495
Email: Julia.Baldesarra@HydroOne.com

October 2024

Hydro One Networks Inc.

483 Bay Street
6th Floor South Tower
Toronto, Ontario M5G 2P5

Re: Important information about the proposed St. Thomas Line Project preferred route selection and your property

Dear 

We are writing to you as you are a property owner affected by the preferred route for the St. Thomas Line project. This proposed project includes the construction of a new double-circuit 230kV transmission line between our electricity grid and a new electric vehicle battery cell manufacturing facility in the City of St. Thomas. When complete, the new line will power Ontario's growing electric vehicle industry, support future economic growth, and help bring thousands of jobs to southwestern Ontario.

Since January 2024, Hydro One has been conducting a Class Environmental Assessment for the proposed St. Thomas Line Project. Alongside detailed field studies, we've gathered feedback from Indigenous communities, property owners, residents, community members, elected officials, municipal staff, and key stakeholders, including the agricultural community. After a thorough review and evaluation, **Route 3** has been selected as the preferred route for the proposed transmission line, **which will affect your property** (see map enclosed). The decision was based on environmental field studies, research, and feedback regarding the advantages and disadvantages of each option across four evaluation categories. For more information on why Route 3 was chosen, please refer to the enclosed factsheet.

We understand that changes to your property can be concerning, and we want to work with you to address any questions you may have. As we continue to study Route 3, it's important you understand the potential effects to your property and have an opportunity to provide feedback.

As a next step, a dedicated Hydro One Representative from our Real Estate team will be reaching out to you to arrange an introductory meeting at your earliest convenience. We want to take the time to discuss the project, learn more about your property and review the Land Acquisition Compensation Principles ("LACP") booklet enclosed together.

The LACP is designed to guide the voluntary land rights agreements for the project and to inform property owners directly affected by the project about the compensation principles we will apply. Hydro One aims to build positive relationships with property owners along the preferred route by establishing voluntary land rights agreements. We prioritize open, fair, transparent, and consistent for all affected property owners while respecting your unique property interests.

We understand that this process can raise questions and concerns, and we are here to support you every step of the way. If you have immediate questions regarding your property, please do not hesitate to contact **your dedicated Hydro One Real Estate Representative:**

Dan White

519-318-2810

Dan.White@Hydroone.com

Hydro One will also be hosting in-person community open houses from November 13-14 (see Community Open House Invitation enclosed) to give you a thorough overview of the route selection process and gather your feedback on the preferred route.

Should you have general questions about the St. Thomas Line project, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Community Relations

Email: Community.Relations@HydroOne.com

Tel: 1-877-345-6799

Enclosed:

- Route Selection Factsheet
- Notice of Preferred Route and Community Open House Invitation
- Map of your property
- Land Acquisition and Compensation Principles Booklet

Factsheet:

Route selection process

Hydro One has selected Route 3 as the preferred route

In January 2024, Hydro One commenced a Class Environmental Assessment and identified three route alternatives, along with variations, for the new transmission line.

The assessment considered four categories of evaluation criteria: natural environment, socio-economic environment, Indigenous culture, values and land use, as well as technical and cost. These criteria were applied in a balanced manner, and the results of the evaluation identified Route 3 as the preferred route.

About the preferred route and evaluation results



- The preferred route passes through the fewest environmentally sensitive features and involves the least disruption to species at risk and their habitats.
- Compared to all route alternatives, the preferred route has the least impact on residential properties within the right of way.
- Additionally, the preferred route won't require any network outages during construction and minimizes the need for complex changes to any existing transmission lines.

The evaluation concluded that Route 3 offers the most overall advantages compared to the other route alternatives identified through the environmental assessment. Route 3 ranked highest in all the categories including natural environment, socio-economic environment, Indigenous culture, values and land use, and technical and cost.

We're here to help



1.877.345.6799



Community.Relations
@HydroOne.com



HydroOne.com/
StThomasLine

Evaluation summary



Natural environment

Route 3 scored the best overall in the natural environment category.

- Minimizes vegetation removal
- Least effect to species at risk habitat
- Least effect to significant wildlife habitat
- Least effects to designated natural areas and identified restoration areas such as Significant Valleylands, Significant Woodlands, Provincially Significant Wetlands, Environmentally Sensitive Areas



Socio-economic environment

Route 3 scored the best overall in the socio-economic environment category.

- Least effects to residential properties and no buildings located in the right of way
- Least effects to Source Water Protection Areas
- Least effects to built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes
- Effects to agricultural resources and operations were similar to other alternatives



Indigenous culture, values and land use

Overall, Route 3 scored the best in the Indigenous culture, values and land use category.

- Least impacts to natural environment communities with the potential to support hunting, trapping and/or harvesting grounds
- Least effects to rare, undisturbed native habitats and ecosystems
- Least effects to rare/sensitive species regeneration potential



Technical and cost

Route 3 scored the best overall in the technical and cost category.

- Requires the least amount of pipeline crossings
- Impacts the least amount of properties
- Does not require bypasses, circuit modifications or outages



Appendix B.5. Technical Advisory Committee Materials

TAC Workshop #1 Invitees and Attendees

Federal Organizations	Attended	Did Not Attend
Fisheries and Oceans Canada		X
Canadian National Railway		X
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – Liana McLachlan (Integrated Services Manager)		X
Ontario Southland Railway		X
Provincial Ministries	Attended	Did Not Attend
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks – Clarissa Whitelaw (Species at Risk Manager)		X
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks – Kathleen Buck (Regional Species at Risk Specialist)		X
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks – Zeljko Romic (Manager [A])		X
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks – Jayme Cameron (Species at Risk Branch, Permissions Unit)	X	
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks – Katy Hynes (Species at Risk Specialist)	X	
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks – Mark Badali (Senior Project Evaluator)		X
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks – Monika Macki (Environmental Resources Planner)		X
Ministry of Transportation -Michael Nadeau (Manager, Engineering Program Delivery West)		X
Ministry of Transportation – Deanna Pizycki (Project Engineer)	X	
Ministry of Transportation – Sophia Elali (Environmental Planner)	X	
Ministry of Energy – Amy Gibson (Manager – Indigenous Energy Policy)		X
Ministry of Energy – Farrah Ali-Khan (Senior Advisor - Indigenous Energy Policy)		X
Ministry of Energy - Shannon McCabe (Indigenous Energy Policy)	X	
Ministry of Indigenous Affairs – Lise Chabot (Manager, Ministry Partnership Unit)		X
Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism – Joseph Harvey (Heritage Planner)	X	
Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism – Karla Barboza (Team Lead – Heritage [A])	X	

Provincial Ministries	Attended	Did Not Attend
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs – Ken Mott (Rural Planner)		X
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry – Sarah Bale (Regional Planner)		X
Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade – Beatrice D’Angelo		X
Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade – Kirby Dier (Manager, Project Implementation)		X
Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade – Lauren Maguire (Senior Policy Advisor)	X	
Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade – Tim Sim (Senior Policy Advisor)	X	
Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport - Josh Wilson (Senior Policy Advisor [A])	X	
Infrastructure Ontario – Ainsley Davidson (Director – Land Use Planning)		X
Infrastructure Ontario – Kate Lorriman (Project Manager, Government Services)		X
Infrastructure Ontario – Aidan Sawyers (Senior Project Coordinator)	X	
Kettle Creek Conservation Authority – Joe Gordon (Manager of Planning and Development)	X	
Catfish Creek Conservation Authority – Gerrit Kramers (Resource Planning Coordinator)	X	
Upper Thames River Conservation Authority – Michael Funk (Land Use Regulations Officer)	X	
Municipal Agencies and Officials	Attended	Did Not Attend
County of Elgin – Paul Clarke (Planning Technician)	X	
County of Elgin – Andrew Parker (Manager of Roads)	X	
County of Elgin – Peter Dutchak (Director, Engineering Services)		X
City of St. Thomas – Jim McCoomb (Manager of Planning Services)	X	
City of St. Thomas – Nathan Bokma (Senior Project Manager, Industrial Development)		X
City of London – Chris McIntosh (Manager, Strategic Lands Engineering)	X	
Municipality of Central Elgin – Kevin McClure (Planner)	X	

Indigenous Communities	Attended	Did Not Attend
Aamjiwnaang First Nation (Chippewas of Sarnia) – Cathleen O’Brien (Environment Coordinator)		X
Aamjiwnaang First Nation (Chippewas of Sarnia) – Lynn Rosales		X
Bkejwanong (Walpole Island First Nation) – Dean Jacobs (Consultation Manager)		X
Caldwell First Nation – Zack Hamm (Environment and Consultation Department Manager)		X
Caldwell First Nation – Susan Sullivan (Community Energy Champion)		X
Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation – Verna George (Manager/CAO)	X	
Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation – Consultation Inbox		X
Chippewas of the Thames First Nation – Jennifer Mills (Energy Sector Consultation Coordinator)		X
Chippewas of the Thames First Nation – Erna-Marie Leclair (Consultation Analyst)	X	
Haudenosaunee Development Institute – Todd Williams (Environment Coordinator)		X
Oneida Nation of the Thames – Brandon Doxtator (Environment and Consultation Coordinator)		X
Oneida Nation of the Thames – Environment and Consultation Box		X
Six Nations of the Grand River – Peter Graham (Environmental Consultation Lead)		X
Three Fires Group – Jessica Wakefield (Executive Director, Major Projects & IBAs)	X	

Interest Groups	Attended	Did Not Attend
Carolinian Canada Coalition – Michelle Kanter (Executive Director)		X
Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario – Mackenna Roth (Marketing Communications Coordinator)		X
Ecological Farmers of Ontario		X
Elgin Federation of Agriculture – Mary-Anne Van De Gevel	X	
Enbridge Gas Inc. – Lisa Dumond (Account Executive)		X
Grain Farmers of Ontario – Rachel Telford (Manager of Member Relations)		X
Kettle Creek Environmental Trust		X
London Environmental Network		X
Middlesex Federation of Agriculture – Jason O’Neil (President)		X
National Farmers Union – Max Hansgen (Ontario President and Region 3 Coordinator)		X
Nature London		X
Ontario Federation of Agriculture – Angela Cammaert (Director at Large)	X	
Ontario Federation of Agriculture – Tracey Arts (Zone 4 Director)	X	
Ontario Federation of Agriculture – Laura Fraser (Zone 4 Member Service Representative)		X
Ontario Federation of Agriculture – Crispin Colvin (Zone 6 Director)	X	
Ontario Federation of Agriculture – Karen McLean (Zone 6 Member Service Representative)	X	
Ontario Federation of Agriculture – Ethan Wallace (Executive Member)	X	
St. Thomas Field Naturalist Club		X



Technical Advisory Committee Workshop #1

St. Thomas Line Project . May 30, 2024

Land acknowledgment

Safety moment



Agenda

- Introductions
- Project overview and Class Environmental Assessment
- Comparative evaluation process discussion
- Weighting survey
- Next steps



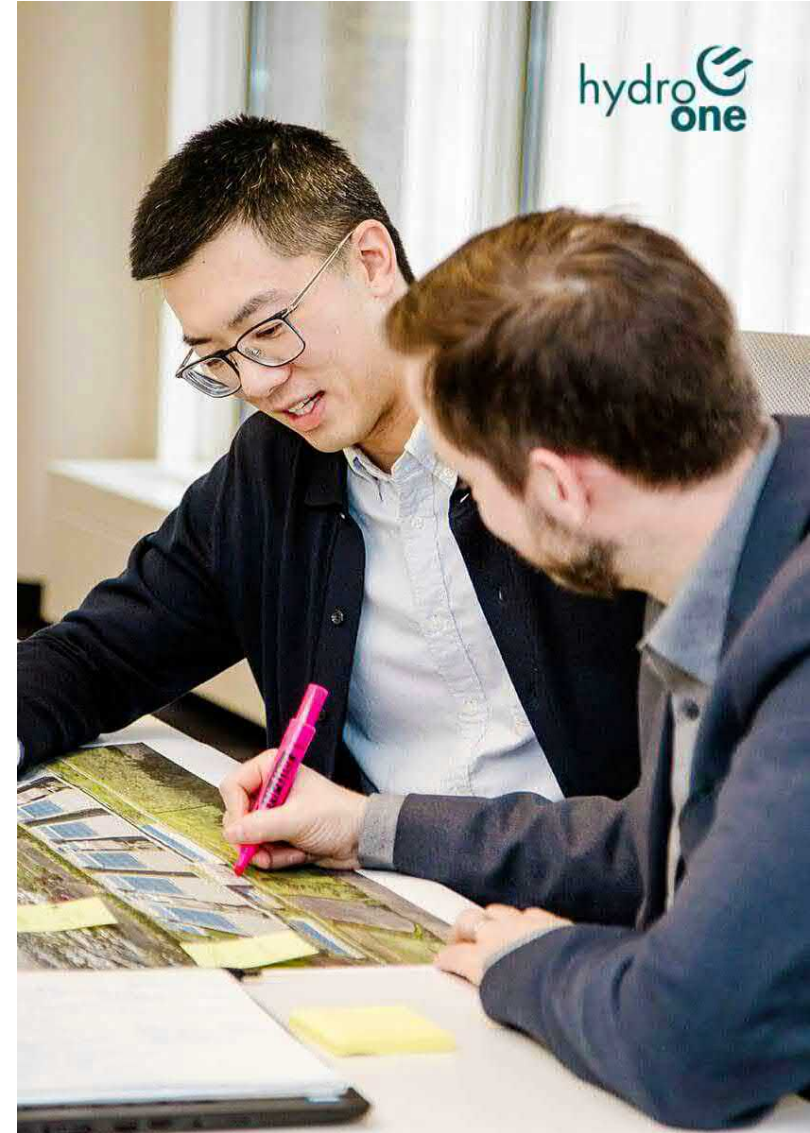
Project team introductions

Hydro One

- Environmental Services - Jennifer Trotman, Katrina Wynne
- Project Delivery - Scott Bennett
- Indigenous Relations - Chris Grol, Natalie Hanson
- Community Relations - Julia Baldesarra, Scott McNair, Jessica McGrath

Dillon Consulting

- Brandon Fox, Sydney Tasfi



Technical Advisory Committee invitees

Aamjiwnaang First Nation	Enbridge Gas Inc.	Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) – Environmental Assessment
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC)	Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)	Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) – Species at Risk
Bkejwanong (Walpole Island First Nation)	Grain Farmers of Ontario	Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport (MTCS)
Caldwell First Nation	Haudenosaunee Development Institute (HDI)	Ministry of Transportation (MTO)
Canadian National Railway	Infrastructure Ontario (IO)	Municipality of Central Elgin
Carolinian Canada Coalition	Kettle Creek Conservation Authority (KCCA)	National Farmers Union
Catfish Creek Conservation Authority (CCCA)	Kettle Creek Environmental Trust	Nature London
Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation	London Environmental Network	Oneida Nation of the Thames
Chippewas of the Thames First Nation	Middlesex Federation of Agriculture	Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA)
Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario	Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA)	Ontario Southland Railway
City of London	Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism (MCM)	Six Nations of the Grand River
City of St. Thomas	Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade (MEDJCT)	St. Thomas Field Naturalist Club
County of Elgin	Ministry of Energy	Three Fires Group
Ecological Farmers of Ontario	Ministry of Indigenous Affairs (MIA)	Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA)
Elgin Federation of Agriculture	Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)	



Project overview and Class Environmental Assessment

St. Thomas Line Project



Project details

- To energize the new Volkswagen electric vehicle battery cell manufacturing facility, Hydro One is proposing to build an approximately 20-kilometer, 230-kilovolt double-circuit transmission line that will extend from our existing transmission lines north of Highway 401 in the City of London to the new Centennial Transformer Station in the City of St. Thomas.
- In January, we began a Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) for the project.
- Construction is expected to begin in late 2025.
- The line is anticipated to be in-service by 2027.

Class Environmental Assessment

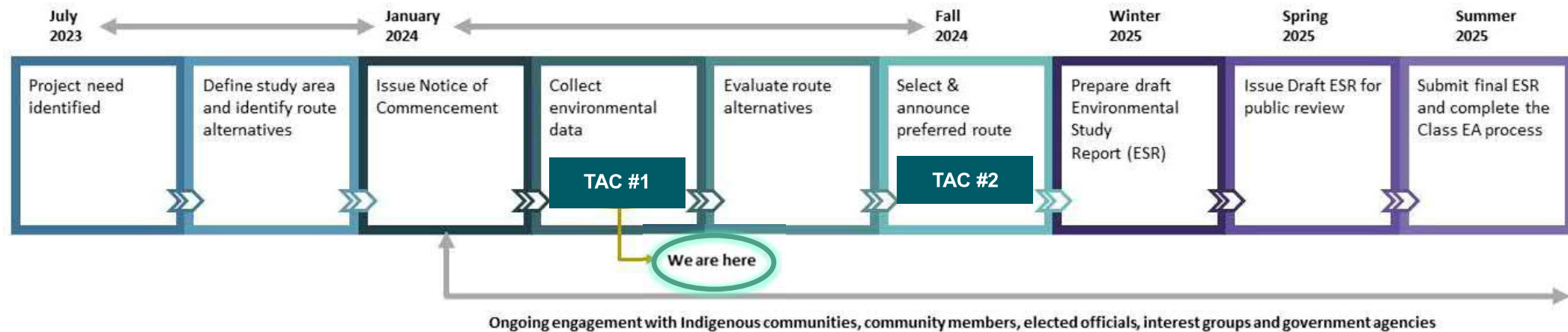
The Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) for Minor Transmission Facilities (2022) sets out a planning and decision-making process for projects with predictable environmental effects that can be mitigated.

Key Components

- Consultation with Indigenous communities, property owners, community members, elected officials, interest groups and government agencies
- Collection of environmental (natural and socio-economic) data
- Identification and evaluation of alternative methods (ex. Route alternatives)
- Identification of potential effects and mitigation measures
- Selection of a preferred alternative (ex. Preferred route)
- A draft Environmental Study Report (ESR) made available for public review and comment period
- Submission of Final ESR and Statement of Completion to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks



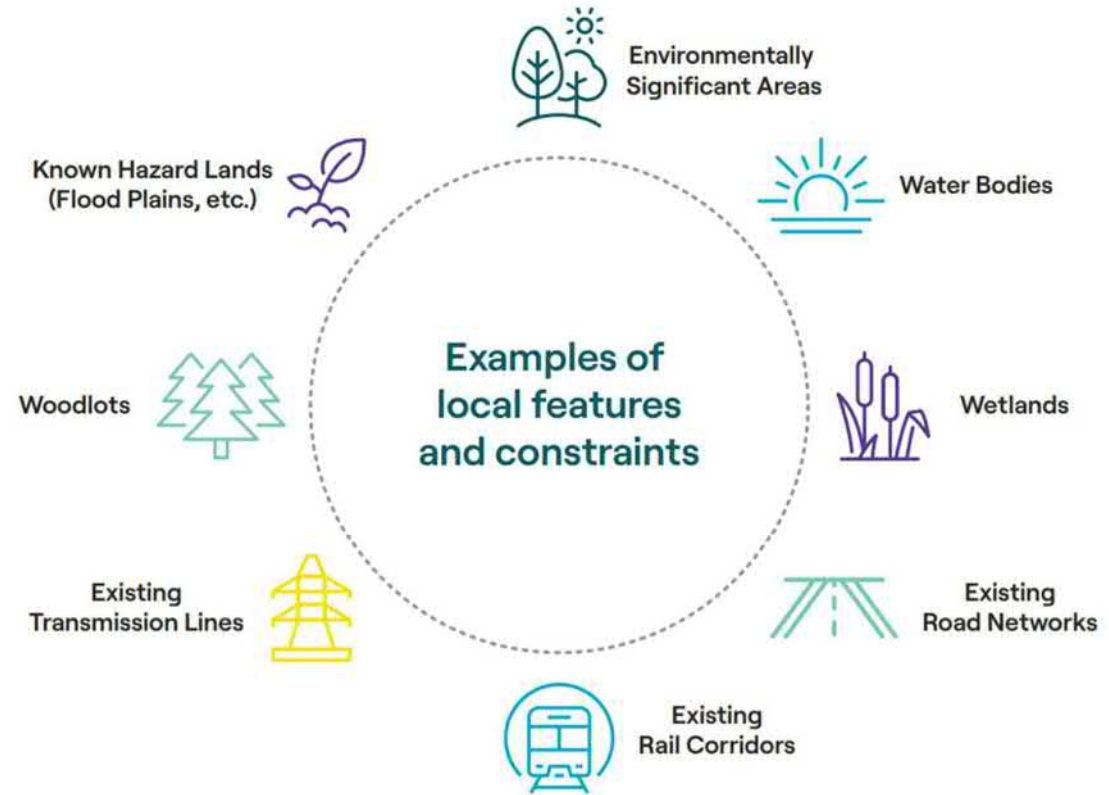
Class Environmental Assessment process



For More Information on Hydro One's Class Environmental Assessment Process visit:
www.HydroOne.com/ClassEA

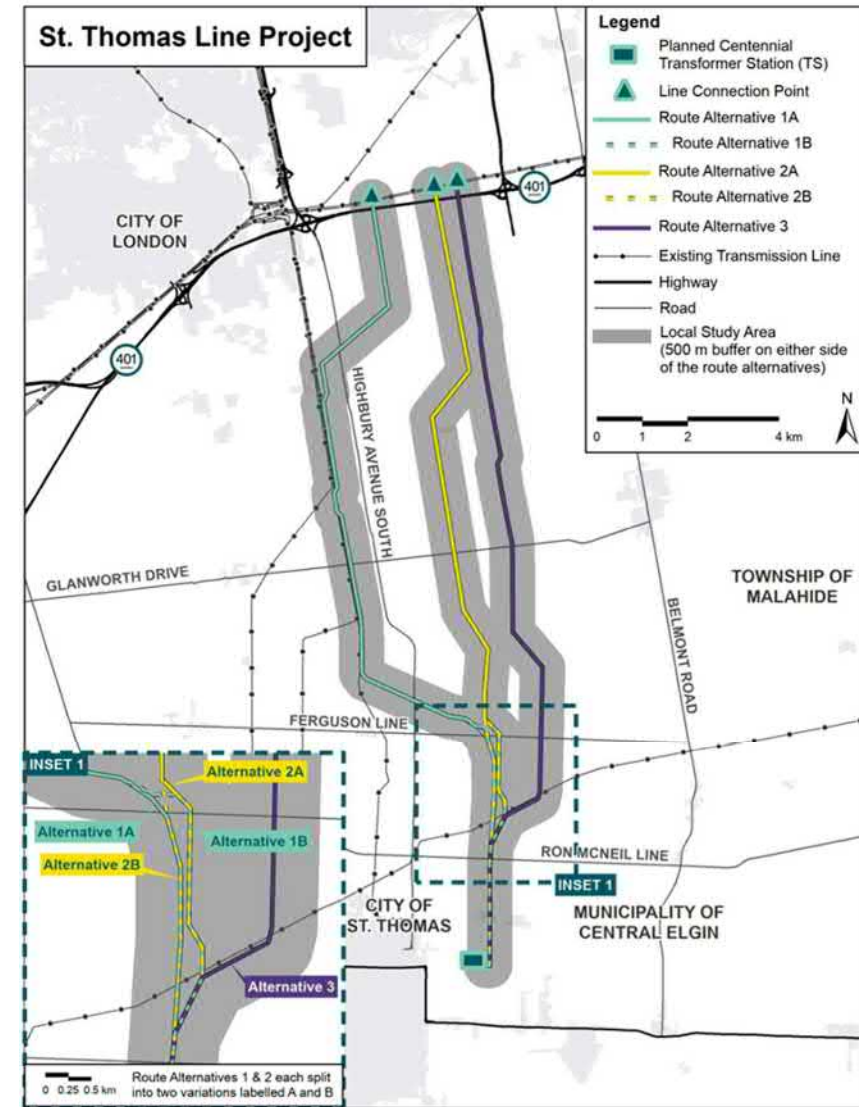
Developing the route alternatives

- Hydro One conducted a preliminary assessment to identify feasible route alternatives for the new transmission line.
- This involved mapping out known environmental and technical features and constraints and identifying opportunities to parallel existing linear infrastructure where feasible.



Route alternatives

- Three route alternatives and their variations have been identified for the new transmission line.
- Route Alternatives 1 and 2 each split into two variations labelled A and B.





Comparative evaluation process review

Weighted multi-criteria decision-making analysis

Step 1: Establish Need

Step 2: [Route Alternatives](#)

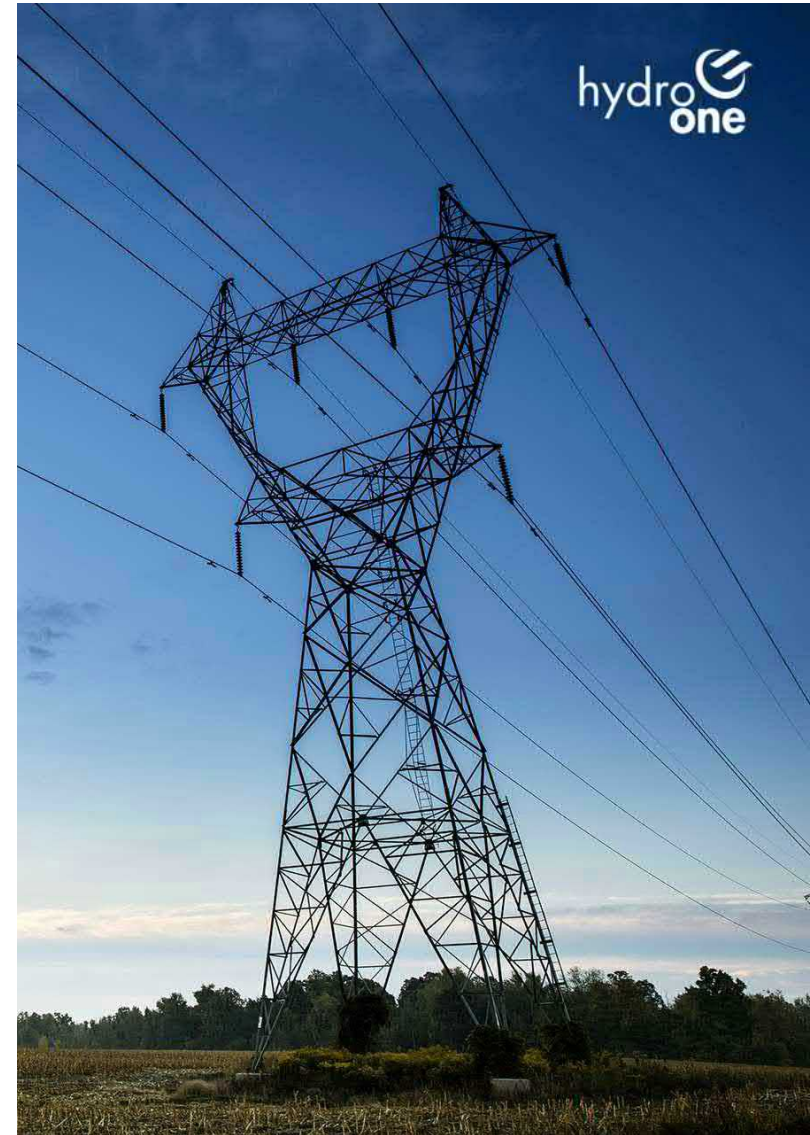
Step 3: Evaluation Criteria

Step 4: Weight What's Important

Step 5: Evaluate and Select



- Following Step 5, TAC Workshop #2 will be held to present the preferred route alternative.



Natural environment criteria and measures

Natural environment criteria and metrics for measure

Criteria	Proposed Comparative Evaluation Metric
Surface Water Resources and Aquatic Habitat	Evaluate based on: - Number of watercourse crossings that overlap with the route centerline [COUNT] - Total length of identified water crossings/municipal drains in the ROW [km]
Vegetation and Vegetation Communities	Evaluate based on: - Long-term changes to incompatible vegetation [ha in ROW]

Natural environment criteria and metrics for measure

Criteria	Proposed Comparative Evaluation Metric
Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat	Evaluate based on: - Significant Wildlife Habitat and Candidate SWH in the ROW and in the PSA
Species at Risk	Evaluate based on: - Temporary and Permanent impacts to SAR and/or Potential SAR Habitat within the ROW and PSA

Natural environment criteria and metrics for measure

Criteria	Proposed Comparative Evaluation Metric
Wetlands, Natural Hazards and Floodplain Areas	Evaluate based on: - Wetlands [ha in ROW] - Conservation Authority Regulated Areas [ha in ROW]
Designated Natural Areas and Identified Habitat Restoration Areas	Evaluate based on: - Impacts to designated features in the ROW. Features include: Enhanced Management Areas, Significant Valleylands, Significant Woodland, PSWs, Conservation Areas, Environmentally Sensitive Areas

Socio-economic environment criteria and measures

Socio-economic environment criteria and metrics for measure

Criteria	Proposed Comparative Evaluation Metric
Co-Location of Existing Infrastructure	Evaluate based on the ability of each route to: - Parallel an existing transmission corridor
Future Land Use Designations	Evaluate based on: - Future land use designations within the ROW and PSA

Socio-economic environment criteria and metrics for measure

Criteria	Proposed Comparative Evaluation Metric
Agricultural Resources and Operations	Evaluate based on: - Agricultural land impacted in the ROW - Number of agricultural buildings impacted in the ROW
Residential Properties	Evaluate based on: - Number of residential buildings in the ROW - Number of residential properties overlapping the ROW and PSA

Socio-economic environment criteria and metrics for measure

Criteria	Proposed Comparative Evaluation Metric
Commercial, Industrial, Institutional, Recreational, Business and Facilities	Evaluate based on: - Number of commercial, industrial, institutional, recreational and business/facility buildings in the ROW - Number of commercial, industrial, institutional, recreational and business/facility properties overlapping the ROW and PSA
Source Water Protection and Groundwater Wells	Evaluate based on: - Proximity of route to a significant groundwater recharge area - Number of private wells within the ROW and PSA

Socio-economic environment criteria and metrics for measure

Criteria	Proposed Comparative Evaluation Metric
Cultural Resources	Evaluate based on: - Number of built heritage resources within 25m of route centre line - Number of known Cultural Heritage landscapes within 25m of route centre line - Number of potential resources within 60m of ROW

Socio-economic environment criteria and metrics for measure

Criteria	Proposed Comparative Evaluation Metric
Archaeological Resources	Evaluate based on: - Number of areas identified with archaeological potential
Aggregate Resource Extraction Areas / Operations (Pits/Quarries)	Evaluate based on: - Size [ha] of active sites within ROW - Size [ha] of inactive sites within ROW

Criteria weighting

Criteria weighting discussion and survey



Natural Environment

Criteria	Preliminary Weighting (%)
Surface Water Resources and Aquatic Habitat	16.0
Vegetation and Vegetation Communities	16.0
Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat	16.0
Species at Risk	20.0
Wetlands, Natural Hazards and Floodplain Areas	16.0
Designated Natural Areas and Identified Habitat Restoration Areas	16.0
Total	100.0

Socio-Economic Environment

Criteria	Preliminary Weighting (%)
Co-Location of Existing Infrastructure	15.0
Future Land Use Designations	10.0
Agricultural Resources and Operations	17.0
Residential Properties	17.0
Commercial, Industrial, Institutional, Recreational, Business and Facilities	10.0
Source Water Protection	10.0
Cultural Resources	6.0
Archaeological Resources	10.0
Aggregate Resource Extraction Areas / Operations (Pits/ Quarries)	5.0
Total	100.0



Next steps

Project timeline*

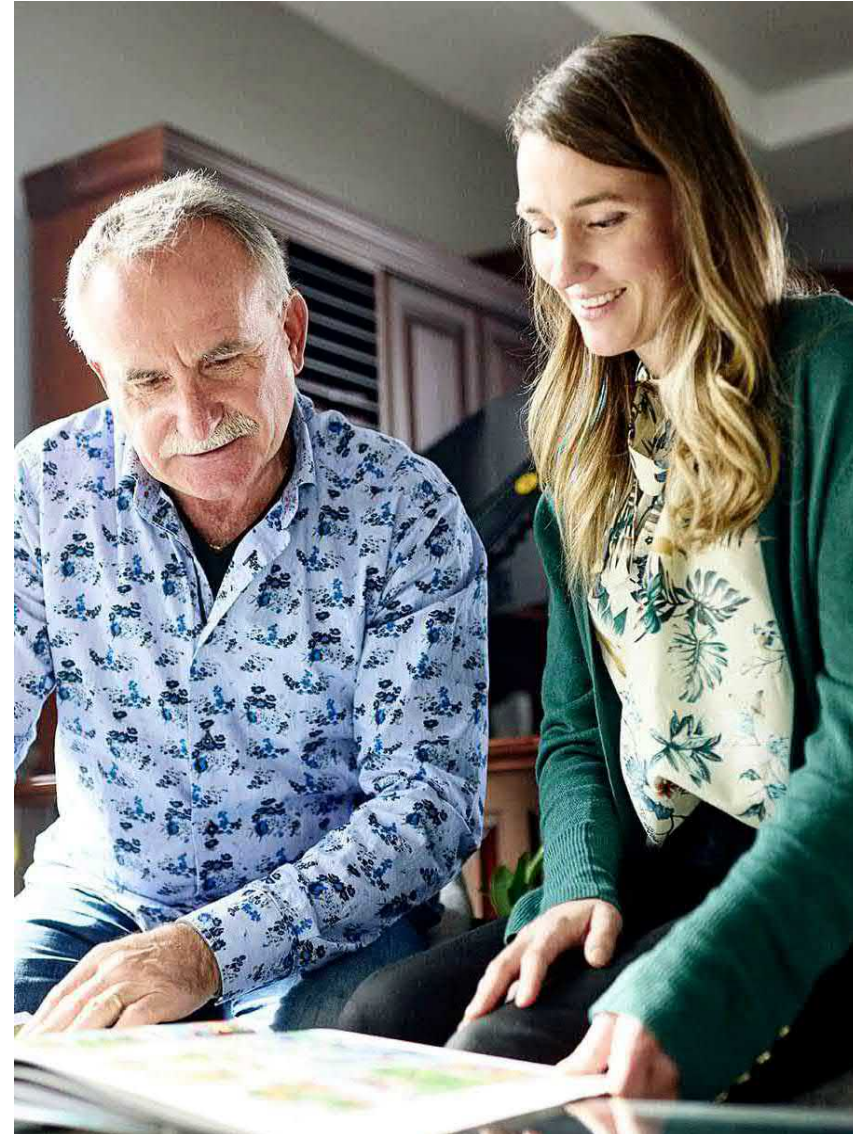


*All dates are subject to change



Next steps

- TAC survey for input into the comparative evaluation process.
- Hydro One will continue to conduct environmental surveys and studies.
- The project team will consider all feedback received and evaluate the results of environmental and technical studies, and select the preferred route for the new transmission line.
- Details of the evaluation process and preferred alternative will be presented in fall 2024.
- Next TAC workshop is anticipated to be held in early fall 2024.



Thank you!

For any follow up questions,
please call or email:



1.877.345.6799

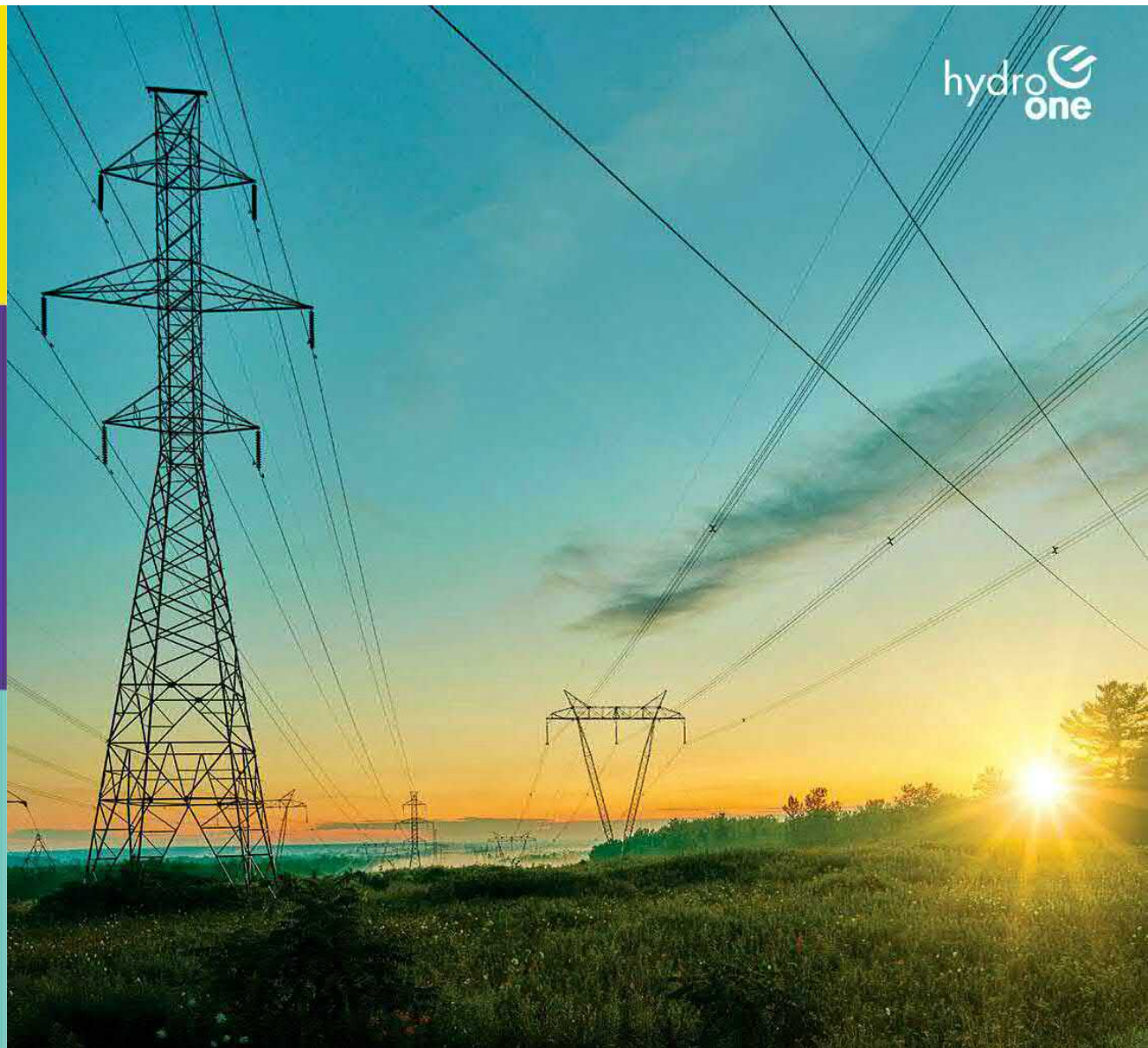


Community.Relations@HydroOne.com

For the most up-to-date project
information and project updates,
visit our project website:

HydroOne.com/StThomasLine

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TAC Workshop #2 Invitees & Attendees

Federal Organizations	Attended	Did Not Attend
Fisheries and Oceans Canada		X
Canadian National Railway		X
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – Liana McLachlan (Integrated Services Manager)		X
Ontario Southland Railway – Kimberley Willsie	X	
Provincial Ministries	Attended	Did Not Attend
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks – Clarissa Whitelaw (Species at Risk Manager)	X	
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks – Zeljko Romic (Manager, Environmental Assessment Program Support [A])		X
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks – Jayme Cameron (Species at Risk Branch, Permissions Unit)		X
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks – Katy Hynes (Species at Risk Specialist)	X	
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks – Mark Badali (Senior Project Evaluator)		X
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks – Monika Macki (Environmental Resources Planner)		X
Ministry of Transportation -Michael Nadeau (Manager, Engineering Program Delivery West)	X	
Ministry of Transportation – Deanna Pizycki (Project Engineer)	X	
Ministry of Transportation – Sophia Elali (Environmental Planner)		X
Ministry of Transportation – Desmond Grant (Corridor Management Officer)	X	
Ministry of Energy and Electrification – Amy Gibson (Manager – Indigenous Energy Policy)		X
Ministry of Energy and Electrification – Kirby Calvert (Manager (A), Transmission Policy)		X
Ministry of Energy and Electrification - Shannon McCabe (Indigenous Energy Policy)		X
Ministry of Indigenous Affairs and Economic Reconciliation – Lise Chabot (Manager, Ministry Partnership Unit)		X
Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism – Joseph Harvey (Heritage Planner)	X	

Provincial Ministries	Attended	Did Not Attend
Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism – Karla Barboza (Team Lead – Heritage [A])		X
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness – Ken Mott (Rural Planner)	X	
Ministry of Natural Resources – Sarah Bale (Regional Planner)		X
Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade – Kirby Dier (Manager, Project Implementation)	X	
Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade – Lauren Maguire (Senior Policy Advisor)	X	
Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade – Tim Sim (Senior Policy Advisor)	X	
Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade – Allyson Windham (Manager, Indigenous Relations (A))	X	
Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Gaming - Josh Wilson (Senior Policy Advisor [A])	X	
Infrastructure Ontario – Ainsley Davidson (Director – Land Use Planning)		X
Infrastructure Ontario – Aidan Sawyers (Senior Project Coordinator)	X	
Kettle Creek Conservation Authority – Joe Gordon (Manager of Planning and Development)		X
Kettle Creek Conservation Authority – Jennifer Dow (Water Resources Supervisor)		X
Catfish Creek Conservation Authority – Gerrit Kramers (Resource Planning Coordinator)		X
Upper Thames River Conservation Authority – Michael Funk (Land Use Regulations Officer)	X	

Municipal Agencies and Officials	Attended	Did Not Attend
County of Elgin – Mat Vaughan (Director of Planning and Development)	X	
County of Elgin – Paul Clarke (Planning Technician)	X	
County of Elgin – Andrew Parker (Manager of Roads)	X	
County of Elgin – Peter Dutchak (Director, Engineering Services)		X
City of St. Thomas – Jim McCoomb (Manager of Planning Services)	X	
City of St. Thomas – Nathan Bokma (Senior Project Manager, Industrial Development)		X
City of London – Chris McIntosh (Manager, Strategic Lands Engineering)	X	
Municipality of Central Elgin – Kevin McClure (Planner)	X	

Indigenous Communities	Attended	Did Not Attend
Aamjiwnaang First Nation (Chippewas of Sarnia) – Lynn Rosales	X	
Aamjiwnaang First Nation (Chippewas of Sarnia) – Courtney Jackson		X
Bkejwanong (Walpole Island First Nation) – Dean Jacobs (Consultation Manager)		X
Caldwell First Nation – Zack Hamm (Environment and Consultation Department Manager)		X
Caldwell First Nation – Susan Sullivan (Community Energy Champion)		X
Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation – Verna George (Manager/CAO)		X
Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation – Consultation Inbox		X
Chippewas of the Thames First Nation – Jennifer Mills (Energy Sector Consultation Coordinator)		X
Chippewas of the Thames First Nation – Erna-Marie Leclair (Consultation Analyst)	X	
Haudenosaunee Development Institute – Todd Williams (Environment Coordinator)		X
Oneida Nation of the Thames – Brandon Doxtator (Environment and Consultation Coordinator)		X
Six Nations of the Grand River – Peter Graham (Environmental Consultation Lead)		X
Six Nations of the Grand River – Tayler Hill (Lands & Resources Trainee)		X
Six Nations of the Grand River – Daylon Gee	X	
Three Fires Group – Jessica Wakefield (Executive Director, Major Projects & IBAs)		X
Three Fires Group – Reggie George (Executive Director, Special Projects and Partnerships)	X	
Three Fires Group – Jana George	X	

Interest Groups	Attended	Did Not Attend
Carolinian Canada Coalition – Michelle Kanter (Executive Director)		X
Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario – Mackenna Roth (Marketing Communications Coordinator)		X
Ecological Farmers of Ontario		X
Elgin Federation of Agriculture – Mary-Anne Van De Gevel		X
Elgin Federation of Agriculture – Jenna de Corte	X	

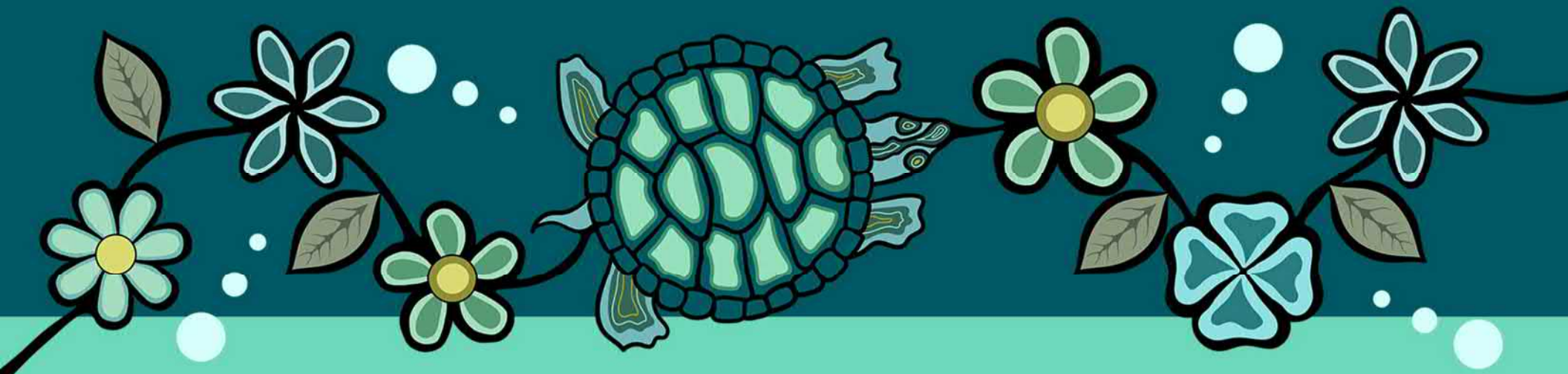
Enbridge Gas Inc. – Lisa Dumond (Account Executive)		X
Grain Farmers of Ontario – Rachel Telford (Manager of Member Relations)		X
Kettle Creek Environmental Trust		X
London Environmental Network		X
Middlesex Federation of Agriculture – Jason O'Neil (President)		X
National Farmers Union – Max Hansgen (Ontario President and Region 3 Coordinator)		X
Nature London		X
Ontario Federation of Agriculture – Angela Cammaert (Director at Large)	X	
Ontario Federation of Agriculture – Tracey Arts (Zone 4 Director)	X	
Ontario Federation of Agriculture – Laura Fraser (Zone 4 Member Service Representative)	X	
Ontario Federation of Agriculture – Crispin Colvin (Zone 6 Director)	X	
Ontario Federation of Agriculture – Karen McLean (Zone 6 Member Service Representative)	X	
Ontario Federation of Agriculture – Ethan Wallace (Executive Member)		X
St. Thomas Field Naturalist Club		X



Technical Advisory Committee Workshop #2

St. Thomas Line Project
November 4, 2024

Land acknowledgment





Safety moment

Agenda

- Introductions
- Review of the Class Environmental Assessment process
- Project overview & update
- Overview of route evaluation process
- Review TAC Workshop #1 weighting exercise results & final criteria weighting
- Evaluation results
- Presentation of the preferred route
- Next steps



Project team introductions

Hydro One

- Environmental Services - Jennifer Trotman, Emma Dias
- Project Delivery - Scott Bennett
- Indigenous Relations – Erika Dawson, Chris Grol
- Community Relations - Scott McNair, Jessica McGrath

Dillon Consulting

- Brandon Fox, Sydney Tasfi



Technical Advisory Committee invitees

Aamjiwnaang First Nation	Enbridge Gas Inc.	Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) – Environmental Assessment
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC)	Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)	Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) – Species at Risk
Bkejwanong (Walpole Island First Nation)	Grain Farmers of Ontario	Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Gaming
Caldwell First Nation	Haudenosaunee Development Institute (HDI)	Ministry of Transportation (MTO)
Canadian National Railway	Infrastructure Ontario (IO)	Municipality of Central Elgin
Carolinian Canada Coalition	Kettle Creek Conservation Authority (KCCA)	National Farmers Union
Catfish Creek Conservation Authority (CCCA)	Kettle Creek Environmental Trust	Nature London
Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation	London Environmental Network	Oneida Nation of the Thames
Chippewas of the Thames First Nation	Middlesex Federation of Agriculture	Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA)
Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario	Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Agribusiness (OMAFRA)	Ontario Southland Railway
City of London	Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism (MCM)	Six Nations of the Grand River
City of St. Thomas	Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade (MEDJCT)	St. Thomas Field Naturalist Club
County of Elgin	Ministry of Energy and Electrification	Three Fires Group
Ecological Farmers of Ontario	Ministry of Indigenous Affairs and Economic Reconciliation	Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA)
Elgin Federation of Agriculture	Ministry of Natural Resources	

Review of Class Environmental Assessment process

Class Environmental Assessment process

The Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) for Minor Transmission Facilities (2022) sets out a planning and decision-making process for projects with predictable environmental effects that can be mitigated.

Key components

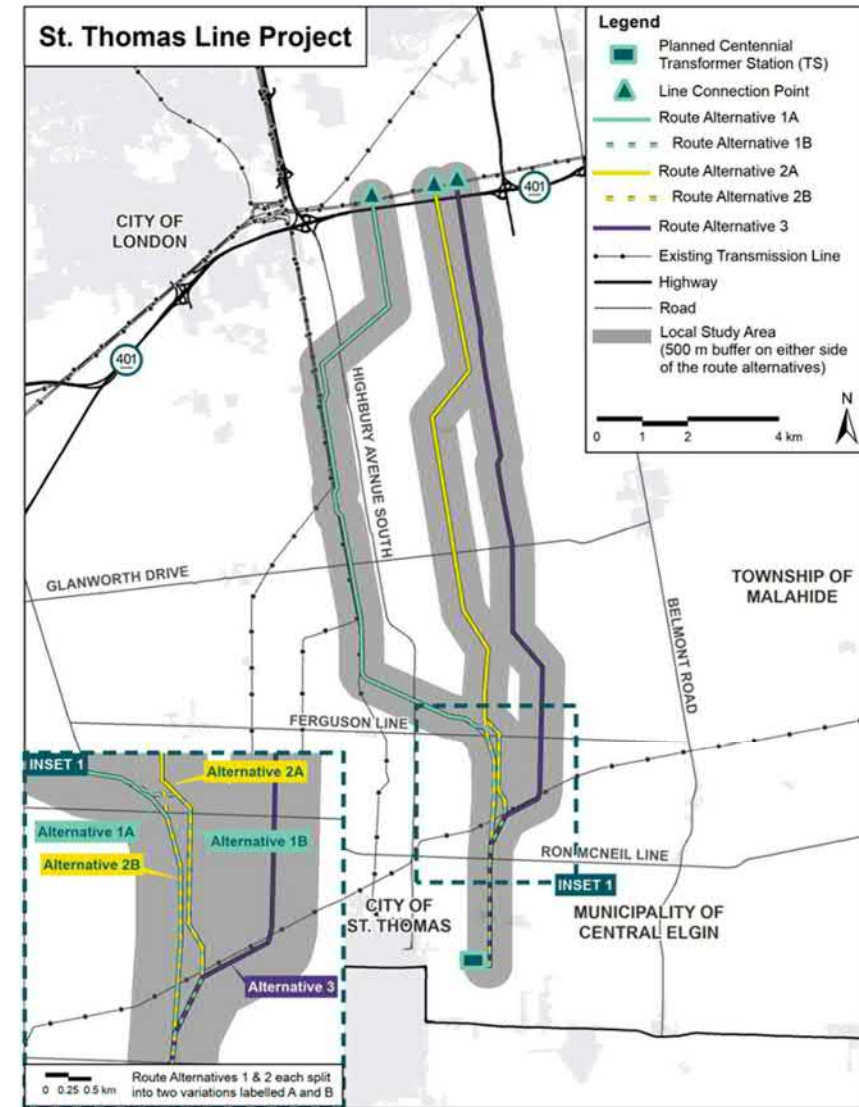
- Consultation with Indigenous communities, property owners, community members, elected officials, interest groups and government agencies
- Collection of environmental (natural and socio-economic) data
- Identification and evaluation of alternative methods (ex. Route alternatives)
- Identification of potential effects and mitigation measures
- Selection of a preferred alternative (ex. Preferred route)
- Preparation of a draft Environmental Study Report (ESR) made available for a 30-day public review and comment period
- Submission of the Final ESR and Statement of Completion to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks



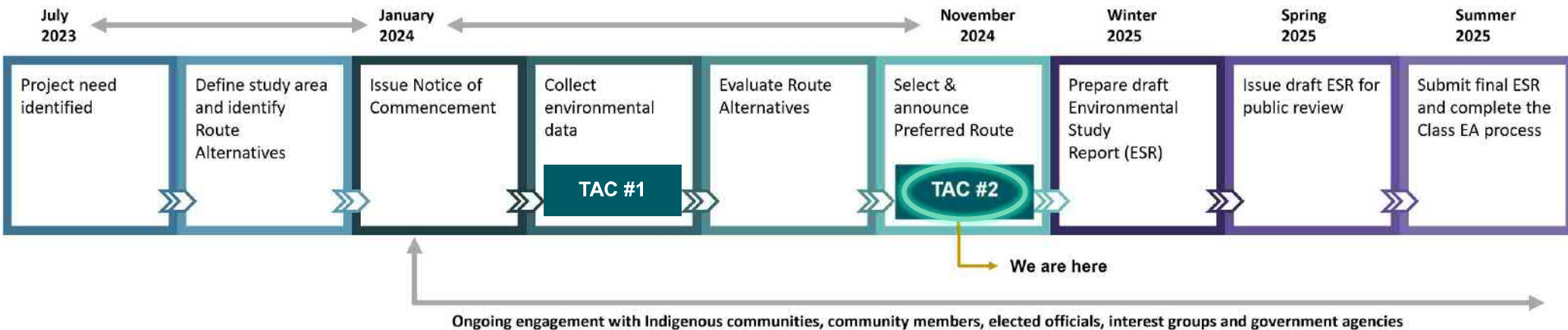
Project overview & update

Project overview

- To energize the new PowerCo Canada Inc. electric vehicle battery cell manufacturing facility, Hydro One is proposing to build an approximately 20-kilometer, 230-kilovolt double-circuit transmission line that will extend from our existing transmission lines north of Highway 401 in the City of London to the new Centennial Transformer Station in the City of St. Thomas
- In January 2024, three Route Alternatives and their variations were identified for the new transmission line
- The project team has been collecting environmental and technical information, as well as holding a wide range of engagement opportunities to gather input and feedback to help inform the comparative evaluation of the Route Alternatives



Project update



For More Information on Hydro One's Class Environmental Assessment Process visit:
www.HydroOne.com/ClassEA



Overview of route evaluation process

Weighted multi-criteria decision making analysis

Step 1: Establish need

Step 2: Route alternatives

Step 3: Evaluation criteria

Step 4: Weight what's important

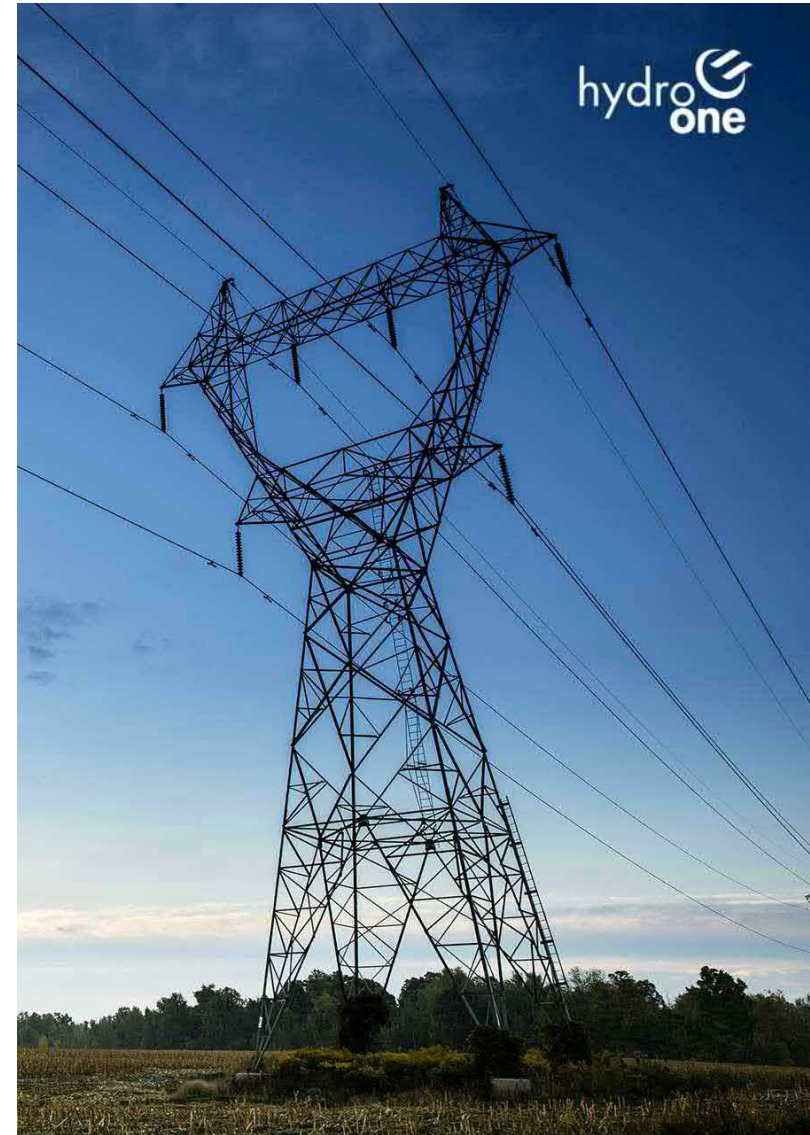
Step 5: Evaluate and select

TAC Workshop #1

Preferred route
selected

TAC Workshop #2

We are
here



Evaluation of the route alternatives

The route alternatives were evaluated based on environmental field studies, research, and feedback received regarding the advantages and disadvantages of each option based on four evaluation categories, which were applied to all routes in a fair and transparent manner:



- Surface water resources
- Vegetation and vegetation communities
- Wildlife and wildlife habitat
- Species at risk
- Wetlands, natural hazards and floodplain areas
- Designated natural areas and identified habitat restoration areas



- Co-Locating existing infrastructure
- Agricultural resources and operations
- Residential properties
- Commercial, industrial, institutional, recreational business and facilities
- Source water protection
- Built Heritage Resources and Cultural Heritage Landscapes
- Archaeological resources
- Aggregate resources



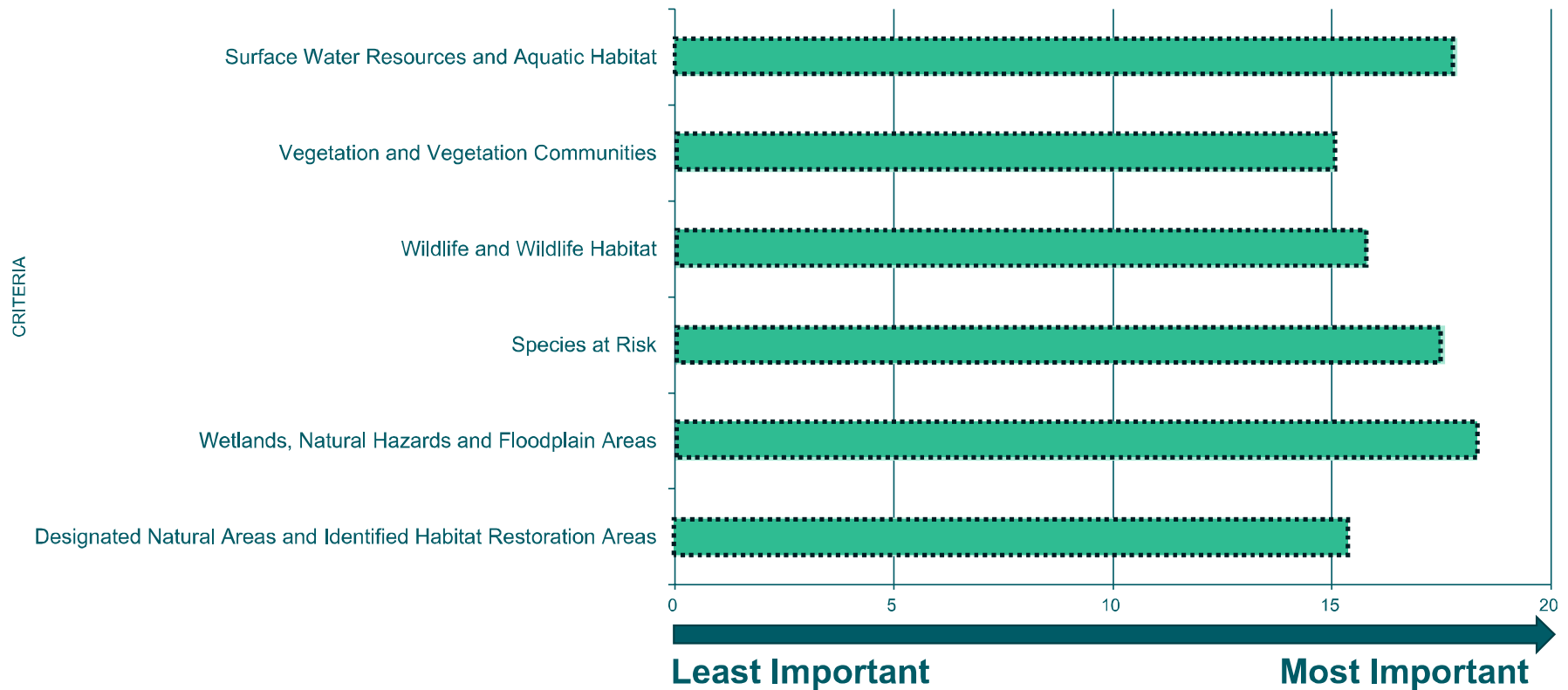
- Intersects areas of Historical Significance
- Areas that support hunting, trapping and/or harvesting grounds
- Areas that support fish bearing waters
- Effects to rare, undisturbed native habitats or ecosystems



- Line length
- Crossings of existing infrastructure
- Co-location of existing transmission lines
- Real estate considerations
- System benefits and impacts
- Construction complexity

TAC Workshop #1 weighting results & final criteria weighting

Natural environment criteria TAC weighting survey results



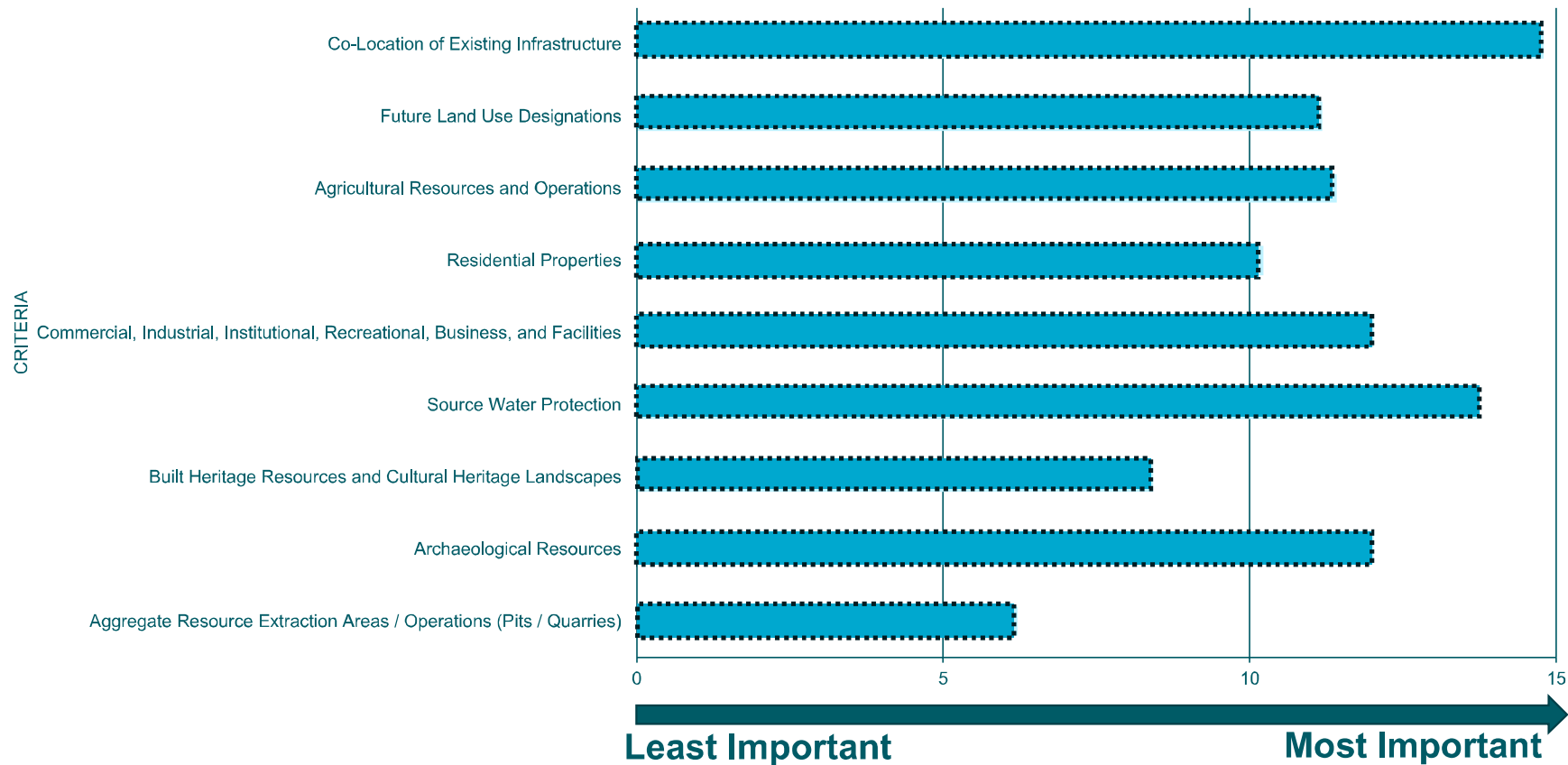
Final criteria & weighting



Natural environment

Criteria	Weighting (%)
Surface Water Resources and Aquatic Habitat	15.00
Vegetation and Vegetation Communities	15.00
Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat	15.00
Species at Risk	20.00
Wetlands, Natural Hazards and Floodplain Areas	20.00
Designated Natural Areas and Identified Habitat Restoration Areas	15.00
Total	100.00

Socio-economic environment criteria TAC weighting survey results



Final criteria & weighting



Socio-economic environment

Criteria	Weighting (%)
Co-Location of Existing Infrastructure	15.00
Future Land Use Designation	10.00
Agricultural Resources and Operations	15.00
Residential Properties	10.00
Commercial, Industrial, Institutional, Recreational Business and Facilities	10.00
Source Water Protection	15.00
Built Heritage Resources and Cultural Heritage Landscapes	10.00
Archaeological Resources	10.00
Aggregate Resource Extraction Areas / Operations (Pits/Quarries)	5.00
Total	100.00

Final criteria & weighting



Indigenous culture, values and land use

Criteria	Weighting (%)
Addition to Reserve Lands	14.29
Intersects Areas of Historical Significance	14.29
Areas that Support Hunting, Trapping and/or Harvesting Grounds	14.29
Areas that Support Fish Bearing Waters with Identified or Inferred Habitat of Game Fish Species	14.29
Effects to Rare, Undisturbed Native Habitats/Ecosystems	14.29
Effects to Rare/Sensitive Regeneration Potential	14.29
Co-Location and Repurpose of Existing Infrastructure	14.29
Total	100.00



Technical & cost

Criteria	Weighting (%)
Line Length	5.00
Light Angle and Heavy Angle Structures	15.00
Non-Transmission Line Crossings	5.00
Transmission Line Crossings	10.00
Co-Location of Existing Infrastructure	10.00
Proximity to Pipelines	5.00
Real Estate Considerations	30.00
System Benefits & Impacts	5.00
Overall Constructability	15.00
Total	100.00

Evaluation results

Evaluation summary



Natural environment

Route alternative 3 scored the best overall in the Natural environment category

- Least impact on incompatible vegetation
- Least effects to Significant Wildlife Habitat and Candidate Significant Wildlife Habitat within the ROW
- Least effects to species at risk
- Least effects to Designated Natural Areas and Identified Habitat Restoration Areas such as Significant Valleylands, Significant Woodlands, Provincially Significant Wetlands, Environmentally Significant Areas, and Restoration Areas



Evaluation summary



Socio-economic environment

Route alternative 3 scored the best overall in the Socio-economic environment category

- Least effects to Residential Properties and no residential buildings located in the right-of-way
- Least effects overall to Source Water Protection Areas
- Least effects overall to Built Heritage Resources and Cultural Heritage Landscapes
- Least effects overall to Archaeological Resources
- Effects to Agricultural Resources and Operations were similar to other alternatives



Evaluation summary



Indigenous culture, values and land use

Route alternative 3 scored the best overall in the Indigenous culture, values and land use category

- Least impacts to natural environment communities with the potential to support hunting, trapping and/or harvesting grounds
- Least effects to Rare, Undisturbed Native Habitats / Ecosystems
- Least effects to Rare/Sensitive Species Regeneration Potential



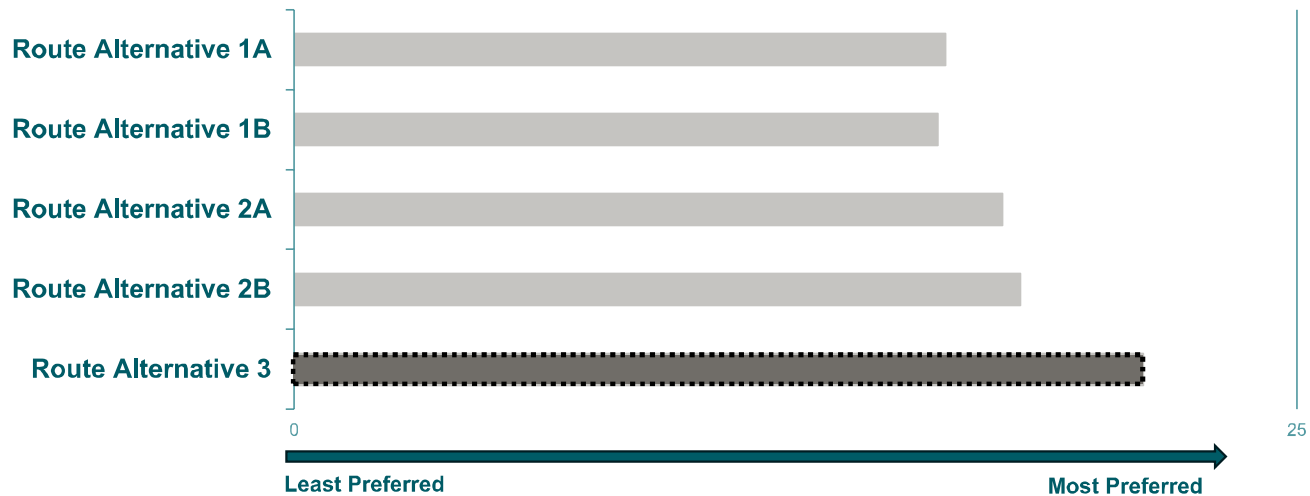
Evaluation summary



Technical & cost

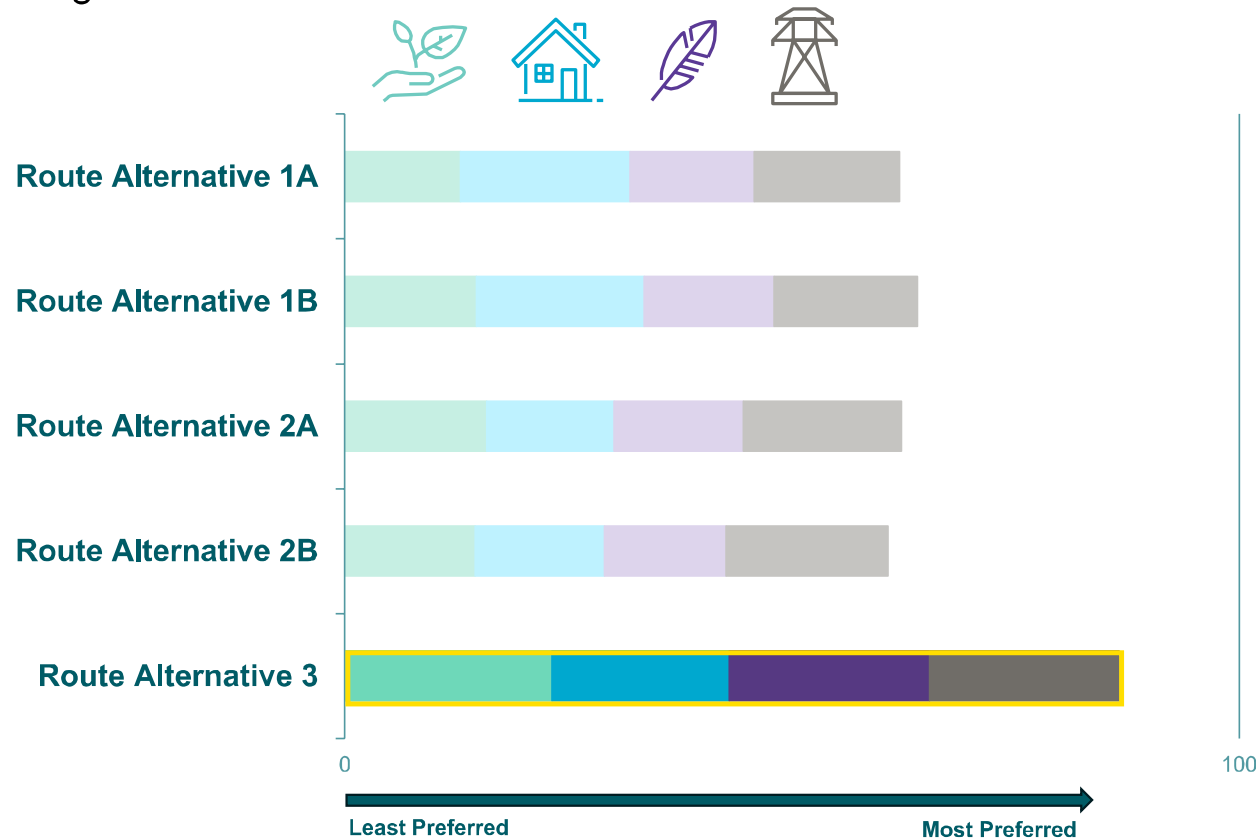
Route alternative 3 scored the best overall in the Technical & cost category

- Requires the least amount of pipeline crossings
- Impacts the least amount of properties
- Does not require bypasses, circuit modifications or outages



Evaluation results

The evaluation concluded Route alternative 3 has overall more advantages compared to the other Route alternatives identified through the EA.

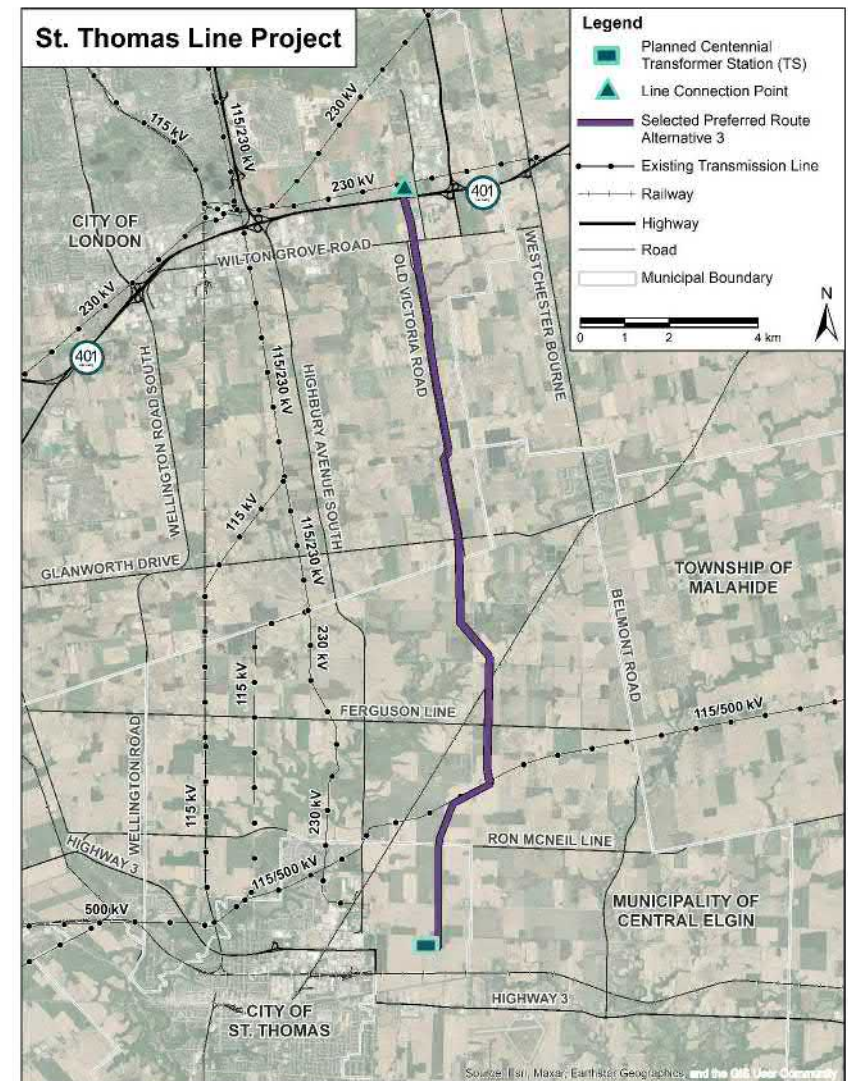


Preferred route alternative

Preferred route alternative

Benefits of route alternative 3:

- Route alternative 3 traverses the least amount of designated natural areas such as: Significant Valleylands, Significant Woodlands, Provincially Significant Wetlands and Environmentally Sensitive Areas
- Route alternative 3 has the least effects to species at risk (SAR) habitat, such as bat habitats, and potential SAR habitat within the right-of-way (ROW)
- Route alternative 3 has the least amount of residential parcels in the ROW and Local Study Area
- Route alternative 3 would not require any bypasses, circuit modifications, or outages





Next steps

Project timeline*

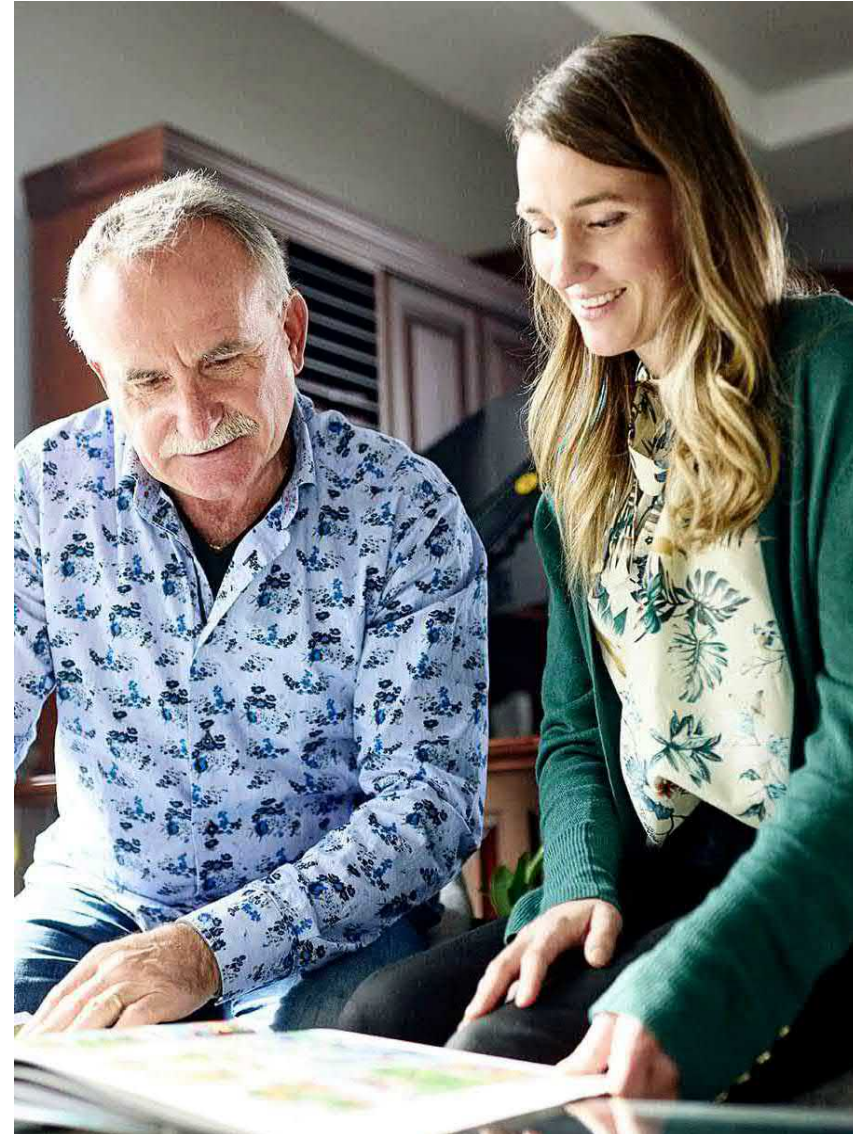


*All dates are subject to change



Next steps

- Details of the evaluation process and the preferred route will be presented at the in-person Community Open Houses on November 13 and 14, 2024
- Project team will turn our focus to the preferred route, and further investigating potential environmental effects and high-level avoidance, mitigation and restoration measures that may be utilized to address these potential effects
- The project team will complete a draft Environmental Study Report (ESR) and release it for a 30-day Indigenous community, public and agency review and comment period



Thank you!

For any follow up questions,
please call or email:



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