



Questions and Answers

Kirby Road Widening Environmental Assessment (Jane Street to Dufferin Street)

1. What is an Environmental Assessment (EA) study?

An Environmental Assessment (EA) study is a planning study. This *Kirby Road Widening (Jane to Dufferin) EA study* is being undertaken in accordance with the guidelines of the Municipal Engineers Association (MEA) Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (MCEA) process (October 2000, as amended in 2007, 2011 and 2015) for Schedule 'C' projects.

The MCEA process is an approved Class EA process that applies to municipal infrastructure projects including roads, water, and wastewater. This process provides a comprehensive planning approach to consider alternative solutions and evaluate their impacts on a set of criteria (e.g. technical, environmental, social, cost) and determine mitigating measures to arrive at a preferred alternative for addressing the problem (or opportunity). The Class EA process involves a rigorous public consultation component that includes various provincial and municipal agencies, Indigenous communities, stakeholders and the public, at each of the project stages.

2. Why are we studying Kirby Road between Jane Street and Dufferin Street?

This *Kirby Road Widening (Jane to Dufferin) EA study* was identified in the [City's Transportation Master Plan](#) (TMP), reconfirmed in the City's [North Vaughan and New Communities TMP](#), and identified in the [York Region TMP](#) as a regionally significant corridor, future frequent transit corridor, significant cycling route, and strategic goods movement corridor (in the long-term 20 year future).

It has also been identified by the City of Vaughan to support a number of other initiatives including:

- Plans to extend Kirby Road between Dufferin Street and Bathurst Street (see [Kirby Road Extension Environmental Assessment \(Dufferin to Bathurst\)](#))
- Development, population and employment growth in the area
- Metrolinx's GO Expansion program along the Barrie GO Rail Corridor (which crosses Kirby Road) to increase train frequency to provide all-day, two-way services
- The future Kirby GO Station at Kirby/Keele Street

OTHER ADJACENT STUDIES HAVE BEEN HIGHLIGHTED BELOW FOR YOUR INFORMATION.

3. Is this EA study approved and the road widening being built?

The *Kirby Road Widening EA Study (Jane to Dufferin)* is a planning and preliminary design study and not yet approved. The project team is currently collecting information for the study area. The recommendations to widen to four lanes, separate Kirby Road from the GO Rail tracks (grade-separation) and straighten the intersection at Jane Street and Kirby Road, have been identified through other studies. This EA study will build from those recommendations and determine HOW the widening and other improvements should occur. The project team will develop different options, evaluate them, assess impacts and mitigation measures, and make recommendations for review by agencies, stakeholders and the public.



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4. Who is consulted during the EA study?

The project team consults with provincial and municipal agencies, Indigenous communities, public, residents, landowners, business owners, developers, utilities and other stakeholders at each of the project stages. Project notifications are mailed (direct mail and email) to those on the project mailing lists. If you wish to be added to the study mailing list please send a request to the project team (see [Get Involved](#) section of this website for project team contact information). Notifications are also published in the local newspapers.

A Stakeholder Group (SHG) will be formed for this study. Anyone with an interest in the study who would like to be more involved are welcome to join in the SHG to provide input in advance of the Public Meeting. Meetings will be held with members of the SHG to gain input and feedback in advance of the Public Meeting and at key study milestones.

A Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) will also be formed and will consist of technical review agencies to provide more detailed input throughout the study.

5. How can I stay informed and receive updates on the study?

- ✓ Request to join the study mailing list by contacting the project team
- ✓ Check the study website regularly for updates
- ✓ Follow the City's social media (Twitter and Facebook)
- ✓ Contact the project team at any time throughout the study with any questions / concerns via email, telephone or mail.
- ✓ Attend the upcoming Public Information Centre

Please visit our [Get Involved](#) section of this website for project team contact information.

6. Timing of Improvements. How long will this EA study take? When will you start construction?

This EA study is the planning and preliminary design phase of the project and typically takes ~ 2 years to complete. Following completion of the EA study the project will move to the design and construction phases. For the *Kirby Road Widening EA* construction is not planned to start for at least five years, in concert with new development, the Kirby Road Extension, and the new Kirby GO Station.

OTHER STUDIES IN THE SURROUNDING AREA

1. Why widen Kirby when it has a missing link and does not connect to Highway 400? It will make more sense to add the missing link to Teston Road since it connects to Highway 400. Suggestion to improve other corridors.

In addition to the *Kirby Road Widening EA (Jane to Dufferin)* there are planning studies in the surrounding area, either on-going or completed, that identify improvements to other corridors. The City of Vaughan and York Region are working together through these studies to proactively plan ahead. Please see below for the status of some studies in the surrounding area that may be of interest to you:



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- **Kirby Road Extension (Dufferin to Bathurst) EA Study - City of Vaughan (EA study approved in 2019)**

The Kirby Road Extension (Dufferin to Bathurst) EA study is located adjacent and east of the Kirby Road Widening (Jane to Dufferin) EA study and is a SEPARATE approved study. An Environmental Assessment (EA) Study for the *Kirby Road Extension between Dufferin Street and Bathurst Street* was completed and approved in Fall 2019. This planning and preliminary design study recommends extending Kirby Road from Bathurst Street to Dufferin Street establishing a new multi-modal arterial road. The study identifies a preliminary preferred design with four lanes (two in each direction) which provides dedicated facilities for pedestrians and cyclists. The project is approved and can proceed to the next project phases for detailed design with construction commencement anticipated by 2022.

For more information about the approved *Kirby Road Extension EA* study please see the link as provided above or forward any questions to Marta.Roias@Vaughan.ca.
- **Teston Road Area Improvements IEA Study – York Region (on-going)**

Teston Road (from Pine Valley Drive to Bathurst Street) is under the jurisdiction of York Region. Improvements to Teston Road and the surrounding area are currently being studied by York Region in the *Teston Road Area Individual Environmental Assessment (IEA) Study*. One option under consideration as part of the Region’s IEA study is a proposed Teston Road link between Keele Street and Dufferin Street.

For more information about the Region’s on-going IEA study please visit their project website at: york.ca/TestonRoad

To contact the York Region project team for this on-going study please send an email to: roads@york.ca
- **Dufferin Street EA Study– York Region (planning study completed in 2019)**

Dufferin Street is under the jurisdiction of York Region. Improvements to *Dufferin Street between Langstaff Road and Teston Road* have been identified by York Region in a completed EA study. This planning study was completed in 2019 and recommends widening Dufferin Street to six lanes from Langstaff Road to Marc Santi Boulevard (located north of Rutherford Road), widening Dufferin Street to four lanes from Marc Santi Boulevard to Teston Road, and constructing cycling facilities and sidewalks on both sides of Dufferin Street.

To contact York Region about this completed EA study please send an email to: roads@york.ca
- **York Region Transportation Master Plan**

Some roads in the surrounding area are under the jurisdiction of York Region.

In 2016 York Region prepared an Update to their Transportation Master Plan (TMP) study. This TMP study identified improvements to the Regional Road Network to plan for the longer term (for the year 2041). Following the TMP study, additional planning studies (EA studies) are then undertaken on the individual roads as needed before they can be constructed.

To view a map from the Region’s TMP study of the Regional Roads identified for improvements by 2041 please visit their website at: york.ca/tmp .

Please click on the heading for “*Transportation Master Plan 2016*”, then under “*Transportation Master Plan Maps*” select the link labelled “6-10” to scroll to view **Map 8 - Proposed 2041 Road Network**. Improvements identified to these roads are in different phases. For some roads the planning studies may be complete, in progress, or not yet started.



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Highway 400 is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Transportation Ontario (MTO) and improvements to Highway 400 including new interchanges and connections are planned by MTO. In 2011 City Council adopted the following resolution: “That the Ministry of Transportation be requested to integrate the provisions of at least one full interchange with Highway 400 to service the 400 North Employment Area Secondary Plan (OPA 637) area together with a Regional arterial connection in conjunction with *Stage 2 of the GTA West Corridor Environmental Assessment Study*.” Please see below for more information:

- **GTA West Transportation Corridor Route Planning and Environmental Assessment Study - MTO (on-going)**
Stage 2 of the GTA West Corridor EA Study resumed in 2019 after being paused. *Stage 2 of the GTA West Corridor EA study* is focusing on identifying the preferred route and developing the preliminary design for a new multimodal transportation corridor that will extend from Highway 400 (between Kirby Road and King-Vaughan Road) in the east to the Highway 401/407 ETR interchange area in the west. This corridor will feature a 400-series highway, a transitway, and potential goods movement priority features. In addition to examining alternative routes for the new multimodal transportation corridor, the study is examining alternatives for interchanges, bridges, and other key elements of the corridor. For more information about the GTA West Transportation Corridor Route Planning and Environmental Assessment Study please see the link: [GTA West Transportation Corridor Route Planning and Environmental Assessment Study](#)
To contact the MTO project team for this on-going study please send an email to: project_team@gta-west.com

2. What is the status and timing for the Kirby GO Station?

Timing for the Kirby GO Station is not within the City’s control; however, improvements are still needed to Kirby Road between Jane Street and Dufferin Street (including widening, grade separation of the Barrie GO Rail line and elimination of the jog intersection at Jane Street) not only to support the initiatives noted above, but to support the city’s growth overall.