



# Board of Directors Meeting Agenda

Thursday, November 2, 2023

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## **Board of Directors Meeting**

**Thursday, November 2, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.**

**Hamilton Conservation Authority is now conducting meetings in a hybrid format via an in-person and WebEx platform.**

**All hybrid meetings can be viewed live on HCA's You Tube Channel:  
<https://www.youtube.com/user/HamiltonConservation>**

- 1. Call to Order** – Brad Clark
- 2. Declarations of Conflict of Interest**
- 3. Approval of Agenda**
- 4. Delegations**
- 5. Consent Items for Applications, Minutes and Correspondence**
  - 5.1. Applications – Development, Interference with Wetlands, Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Page 1
  - 5.2. Approval of Board of Directors Minutes – October 5, 2023 Page 5
  - 5.3. Letter from the Mayor of the City of Hamilton to Premier Doug Ford and Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry regarding Council resolution to reverse changes To the Conservation Authorities Act and Ontario Wetland Evaluation System, dated September 28, 2023 Page 13
  - 5.4. Green Party of Ontario Media Release – Ontario Greens support calls for probe Into wetland evaluation changes, dated October 2, 2023 Page 17
  - 5.5. Letter from Auditor General of Ontario to HCA regarding HCA resolution requesting an investigation of the processes and recent changes to the Ontario Wetland Evaluation System and Conservation Authorities Act, dated October 10, 2023 Page 19
  - 5.6. Letter from Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority re Board resolution to endorse HCA resolution to reverse changes to the Conservation Authorities Act and Ontario Wetland Evaluation System, dated October 27, 2023 Page 21
- 6. Foundation Briefing** Foundation Chair – Jennifer Stebbing

## **7. Member Briefing**

## **8. Business Arising from the Minutes**

- |   |                                |         |
|---|--------------------------------|---------|
| 8.1. 2024 Budget Follow-up Information on Stewardship and Water Quality | – Scott Fleming                | Page 23 |
| 8.2. Staff Update on Dofasco Natural Gas Pipeline                       | – Mike Stone / Jeffrey Tweedle | Page 25 |
| 8.3. Staff Update on Additional Watershed Condition Reporting           | – Scott Peck                   | Page 45 |

## **9. Reports from Budget & Administration Committee and Conservation Advisory Board**

## **10. Other Staff Reports/Memorandums**

### Reports to be approved

- |  |                 |         |
|--|-----------------|---------|
| 10.1. HCA Corporate Climate Change Priorities & Budget Allocations | – Fionnula Wade | Page 47 |
|--|-----------------|---------|

### Memorandums to be received

- |                                      |                    |         |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|---------|
| 10.2. Watershed Conditions Report    | – Jonathan Bastien | Page 53 |
| 10.3. Conservation Areas Experiences | – Gord Costie      | Page 57 |

## **11. New Business**

## **12. In-Camera Items**

- |  |                    |         |
|--|--------------------|---------|
| 12.1. Confidential Report – BD/Nov 01-2023 (Personnel Matter)  | – Wayne Terryberry | Page 59 |
| 12.2. Confidential Report/ – BD/Nov 02-2023 (Personnel Matter) | – Lisa Burnside    | Page 63 |

## **13. Next Meeting – Thursday, December 7, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.**

## **14. Adjournment**



# Report

**TO:** Board of Directors

**FROM:** Lisa Burnside, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

**RECOMMENDED BY:** T. Scott Peck, MCIP, RPP, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer/Director, Watershed Management Services

**PREPARED BY:** Mike Stone, MCIP, RPP, Manager, Watershed Planning, Stewardship & Ecological Services

**DATE:** November 2, 2023

**RE:** Permit Applications Summary Report  
Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations  
to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation 161/06

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HCA Regulation applications approved by staff between the dates September 23, 2023 and October 24, 2023 are summarized in the following Permit Applications Summary Report (PASR-10/23).

## RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board of Directors receive this Permit Application Summary Report PASR-10/23 as information.

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**HAMILTON REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

**DEVELOPMENT, INTERFERENCE WITH WETLANDS, AND ALTERATIONS TO SHORELINES AND WATERCOURSES APPLICATIONS**

October 24, 2023

Development, Interference with Wetlands, and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Applications Report to the Board of Directors of the Hamilton Region Conservation Authority,

November 02, 2023

The proposed works are subject to Ontario Regulation 161/06, and in particular Section 2, Subsection (1).

**SUMMARY ENFORCEMENT REPORT PASR 10/23**

File Number	Date Received	Date Permit Issued	Review Days	Applicant Name	Location	Application Description	Recommendation / Conditions
F/F,C,A/23/64	13-Jul-23	25-Sep-23	43		632 4th Conc Rd W Lot 12, Concession 3 Flamborough	Imperial Oil Integrity Dig 19 - pipeline inspection	Approved subject to standard conditions.
D/F,C,A/23/73	01-Aug-23	04-Oct-23	35		Creighton Rd Bridge over Middle Spencer Creek and 35 Market St S Lot 14, Concession 1 Dundas	Emergency repairs to a damaged pipe on the bank of Spencer Creek. Some bank repair and pipe repair works to occur.	Approved subject to standard conditions.
F/F,C,A/23/77	22-Sep-23	10-Oct-23	15		592 Westover Rd Lot 31, Concession 3 Flamborough	Imperial Oil Integrity Dig 34 - pipeline inspection	Approved subject to standard conditions.
SC/F,C/23/80	06-Oct-23	13-Oct-23	12		86 Seabreeze Cres Lot 10, Concession BF Stoney Creek	Installation of an in-ground pool	Approved subject to standard conditions.



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## Hamilton Region Conservation Authority

### Minutes

#### Board of Directors Meeting

**October 5, 2023**

Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on Thursday, October 5, 2023 at 6:00 p.m., at the HCA main office, 838 Mineral Springs Road, in Ancaster, and livestreamed on YouTube.

**PRESENT:**

<b>Brad Clark – in the Chair</b>	
<b>Jeff Beattie</b>	<b>Craig Cassar</b>
<b>Lisa DiCesare</b>	<b>Susan Fielding (Webex)</b>
<b>Matt Francis (Webex)</b>	<b>Brian McHattie (Webex)</b>
<b>Mike Spadafora (Webex)</b>	<b>Wayne Terryberry (Webex)</b>
<b>Alex Wilson</b>	<b>Maureen Wilson</b>

**Graham Reid – Foundation Vice-Chair**

**REGRETS:**           **None**

**STAFF PRESENT:** **Jonathan Bastien, Lisa Burnside, Grace Correia, Scott Fleming, Matt Hall, Bruce Harschnitz, Scott Peck, Mike Stone, Jaime Tellier, and Nancy Watts**

**OTHERS:**           **None**

#### **1. Call to Order**

The Chair called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone present.

The Chair spoke about a recent training opportunity made available to all staff and the Board of Directors in support of the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation. He thanked Darin Wybenga, the Traditional Knowledge and Land Use Coordinator with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation for joining us at Westfield Heritage Village over the three days and sharing his knowledge and experiences with Hamilton Conservation Authority so we may continue to learn as we work to build relationships with our Indigenous communities.

HCA's Land Acknowledgement was read.

## **2. Declarations of Conflict of Interest**

The Chair asked members to declare any conflicts under the Board's Governance Policy. There were none.

## **3. Approval of Agenda**

The Chair requested any additions or deletions to the agenda. Lisa Burnside advised of a confidential verbal report regarding a property matter, to be added as item 12.2 in-camera.

**BD12, 3250**

**MOVED BY: Alex Wilson**

**SECONDED BY: Craig Cassar**

**THAT the agenda be approved, as amended.**

**CARRIED**

## **4. Delegations**

There were none.

## **5. Consent Items for Applications, Minutes and Correspondence**

The following consent items were adopted:

- 5.1. Applications – Development, Interference with Wetlands, Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses
- 5.2. Approval of Board of Directors Minutes – September 7, 2023
- 5.3. Approved August 17, 2023 Budget & Administration Committee Minutes – for receipt only

## **6. Foundation Briefing**

Graham Reid reported on the following:

The Foundation received a total of **\$17,166** in new donations from September 1<sup>st</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup> 2023. They break down as follows:

- **\$4,497** to the Trail Development Fund



- **\$3,794** to our Area of Greatest Need Fund
- **\$3,500** to the Memorial Bench program
- **\$2,020** to our “Step into Nature” Environmental Education Fund

The remaining **\$3,355** was directed to various projects, including Tribute Trees, Fifty Point and Saltfleet Conservation Areas.

This brings the fiscal year-to-date fundraising total to **\$773,439**, which is 93% of their goal.

## **7. Member Briefing**

There was none.

## **8. Business Arising from the Minutes**

### **8.1. HCA Quarterly Report #6 to MNRF – Ontario Regulation 687/21**

Lisa Burnside presented a summary of the memorandum and answered the members’ questions.

It was noted that based on discussions at Conservation Ontario, it is understood that most Conservation Authorities will be submitting extension requests.

**BD12, 3251**

**MOVED BY: Matt Francis  
SECONDED BY: Mike Spadafora**

**THAT the memorandum entitled HCA Quarterly Report #6 to MNRF – Ontario Regulation 687/21 be received.**

**CARRIED**

Lisa DiCesare entered the meeting.

## **9. Reports from Budget & Administration Committee and Conservation Advisory Board**

### **9.1. Budget & Administration Committee – September 23, 2023**

#### **9.1.1. BA 2321 Draft 2024 Operating & Capital Budgets**

Scott Fleming presented a detailed overview of the budgets and answered the members’ questions.

There was discussion regarding detailed budget items for water quality monitoring, stewardship and land securement. Lisa Burnside noted that land securement is category 3 activity and must be self funded or HCA would need to secure an agreement with the City of Hamilton to fund this activity using municipal monies. In the past, HCA has allocated surplus funds and sought grants for land acquisitions. Staff were directed to bring forward a breakdown of the budget items for water quality monitoring and stewardship to the next Board meeting.

There was discussion regarding the potential for program level budgets to be brought forward to the Board. It was noted that the proposed budget is primarily a maintenance budget, but that future funding will need to be allocated for new initiatives identified through the new strategic plan and a program budget level will be considered for 2025.

Historical and current provincial funding to HCA was discussed. Historically, the province contributed 50% funding to Conservation Authorities. A decrease in funding has occurred since that time. Currently, the province contributes less than 2% of HCA's total budget. Provincial section 39 funds are limited to flood forecasting and warning, dam operations and regulations and planning program related to natural hazards. It was noted that in some years, the funding provided constitutes 50% of costs, however at other times, HCA's contribution is significantly higher, depending on projects and initiatives undertaken. HCA has received other funds from the province in recent years, such as through the Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECI) program.

In accordance with O. Reg. 402/22, s. 17, under Conservation Authorities Act, the draft budgets will be circulated to HCA's participating municipalities, the City of Hamilton and Township of Puslinch for their review and will be returned as a formality to the December board meeting for final approval.

**BD12, 3252**

**MOVED BY: Wayne Terryberry  
SECONDED BY: Alex Wilson**

**THAT the 2024 Draft Operating Budget, as presented, be approved by the Board of Directors; and**

**THAT the 2024 Draft Capital Budget, as presented, be approved by the Board of Directors.**

**CARRIED**

9.1.2. BA 2322

Updates to HCA Administrative By-law

Jaime Tellier presented a summary of the staff report and answered the members questions.

**BD12, 3253****MOVED BY: Lisa DiCesare  
SECONDED BY: Jeff Beattie****THAT the Budget & Administration Committee  
recommends to the Board of Directors:****THAT the Administrative By-Law be amended with the  
revisions noted in the attached draft, subject to and  
including any further revisions as noted during the  
September 21, 2023 meeting.****CARRIED****10. Other Staff Reports/Memoranda****10.1. Watershed Conditions Report**

Jonathan Bastien presented a summary of the memorandum and answered the members' questions.

Additional reporting on water quality and stewardship activities were requested. Staff will consider the request and report back to the Board at a future meeting to determine parameters and a schedule for such reporting to be effective.

**BD12, 3254****MOVED BY: Maureen Wilson  
SECONDED BY: Lisa DiCesare****THAT the memorandum entitled Watershed Conditions  
Report be received.****CARRIED****10.2. Conservation Areas Experiences Update**

Bruce Harschnitz provided a summary of the memorandum and answered the members' questions.

There was discussion regarding the potential to work with the reservation system software developer to allow for booking both the Tew Falls and Webster Falls sites for the same day, with one parking and reservation fee, and to address reservations for visitors using alternate modes of transportation that do not require parking. It was confirmed that the reservation service for 2024 will be reviewed with the Conservation Advisory Board as staff continue to evolve the time periods where reservations are



required and development changes that can be made in the reservation service with CAMIS.

**BD12, 3255**

**MOVED BY: Lisa DiCesare  
SECONDED BY: Jeff Beattie**

**THAT the memorandum entitled Conservation Areas Experiences Update be received.**

**CARRIED**

Mike Spadafora left the meeting due to another engagement.

## **11. New Business**

There was none.

## **12. In-Camera Items**

**BD12, 3256**

**MOVED BY: Craig Cassar  
SECONDED BY: Maureen Wilson**

**THAT the Board of Directors moves *in camera* for matters of law, personnel and property.**

**CARRIED**

**During the *in camera* session, one legal matter and one property matter were discussed.**

Susan Fielding entered the meeting.

### **12.1. Confidential Report - BD/Oct 01-2023 Agreement for Services with City of Hamilton (Legal Matter)**

Lisa Burnside provided a summary of the report regarding a legal matter and answered the members' questions.

**BD12, 3257**

**MOVED BY: Alex Wilson  
SECONDED BY: Craig Cassar**

**THAT Confidential Report BD/Oct 01-2023 be received and remain in camera, and further**

**THAT the Agreement for Services with the City of Hamilton be approved for execution.**

**CARRIED**

**12.2. Confidential Verbal Report – BD/Oct 02-2023**

**Paletta Land Acquisition Update  
(Property Matter)**

Lisa Burnside provided a verbal report regarding a property matter and answered the members' questions.

**BD12, 3258**

**MOVED BY: Lisa DiCesare  
SECONDED BY: Alex Wilson**

**THAT the confidential verbal report entitled BD/Oct 02-2023 be received and remain in camera;**

**CARRIED**

**BD12, 3259**

**MOVED BY: Jeff Beattie  
SECONDED BY: Maureen Wilson**

**THAT the Board of Directors moves out of closed session.**

**CARRIED**

**13. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Thursday, November 2, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the HCA Main Administration Office – Woodend Auditorium, 838 Mineral Springs Road, Ancaster, Ontario.

**14. Adjournment**

On motion, the meeting adjourned.

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Scott Fleming  
Secretary-Treasurer

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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
CITY OF HAMILTON

**VIA: Email**

The Honourable Doug Ford  
Premier of Ontario  
Legislative Building  
Queen's Park  
Toronto, ON  
M7A 1A1  
[premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca)

The Honourable Graydon Smith  
Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry  
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry  
99 Wellesley Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto, ON  
M7A 1W3  
[Graydon.smith@pc.ola.org](mailto:Graydon.smith@pc.ola.org)

September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Dear Premier Ford and Minister Smith,

On September 27<sup>th</sup>, Hamilton City Council endorsed the Hamilton Conservation Authority resolution to reverse the changes to the Conservation Authorities Act and Ontario Wetland Evaluation System, as follows:

WHEREAS over the past several years the Provincial Government has amended the Conservation Authorities Act to reduce the effectiveness of Conservation Authorities in protecting natural heritage (i.e., Bill 23), and;

WHEREAS, the Provincially Significant Wetland Evaluation System has also been changed leading Conservation Ontario to estimate that over 80% of the wetlands that currently receive protection will lose this status, and;

WHEREAS, legislative changes implemented January 1, 2023 to Conservation Authority roles related to Natural Heritage and review under prescribed Acts as well changes to the Ontario Wetland

Evaluation System, as well as remaining legislative changes regarding Conservation authority development regulations that have not yet come into effect, if implemented, would have serious unintended consequences, and;

WHEREAS recent reports by the Provincial Auditor-General and the Integrity Commissioner have raised serious concerns on the bias and lack of transparency and fairness in the Greenbelt removals, drawing conclusions that the changes unfairly benefitted private landowners, and;

WHEREAS, the role of Conservation Authorities in protecting natural heritage and mitigating/ adapting for climate change has never been more important in light of the 6<sup>th</sup> Mass Extinction in biodiversity and the increasing possibility that Canada and the world will not meet the Paris Accord greenhouse gas target limiting temperature rise to less than 1.5 degrees Celsius, and;

WHEREAS the Hamilton Conservation Authority's ability to provide comments on natural heritage to the City of Hamilton is critical and must be restored.

Therefore, be it resolved:

That the Hamilton Conservation Authority Board of Directors respectfully request that:

- a) the Province of Ontario reverse recent changes to the Conservation Authorities Act and Provincially Significant Wetland Evaluation System that adversely affect natural heritage protection, and;
- b) the Province of Ontario's Auditor General undertake an investigation into the processes that were followed to make the above policy decisions, and whether this decision-making structure and its outcomes provide Ontarians with value for money, and;
- c) That the Hamilton Conservation Authority Board requests that City of Hamilton Council provide similar direction to the Province of Ontario and;
- d) That a copy of this Hamilton Conservation Authority Board of Director's motion be shared with local Members of Provincial Parliament, Conservation Ontario and all conservation

authorities in Ontario.

Hamilton City Council also directed staff to send a letter to the Auditor General to request an investigation on the activates surrounding this matter.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrea Horwath", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mayor Andrea Horwath

cc. Jaime Tellier. Corporate Administrative & Records Management Coordinator,  
Hamilton Conservation Authority [Jaime.Tellier@conservationhamilton.ca](mailto:Jaime.Tellier@conservationhamilton.ca)

(Item 5.5)

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October 2, 2023

# Ontario Greens support calls for probe into wetland evaluation changes

Press Release

Conservation Authorities

Hamilton

Wetlands

**QUEEN'S PARK – Ontario Greens leader and MPP for Guelph Mike Schreiner released the following statement in response to news that Hamilton city council is backing the Hamilton Conservation Authority's call for an auditor general probe into provincial changes to wetland evaluation.**

"Under Doug Ford, Ontario's wetlands are under attack.

We need these wetlands to clean our drinking water, to act as carbon sinks, and to keep water out of our basements.

But instead of ramping up protections, this government is overhauling Ontario's Wetland Evaluation System to ensure our wetlands have fewer protections.

They're stripping power from conservation authorities and downloading costs onto municipalities already struggling to make ends meet.

Ontario Greens support Hamilton's calls for an investigation into the Premier's expensive super-sprawl campaign to pave over Ontario's wetlands.

It's time for this government to stop doing favours for deep-pocketed donors and start standing up for everyday Ontarians."



## For more information, please contact

Cecilia Stuart

→ [media@gpo.ca](mailto:media@gpo.ca)

→ [437-929-1792](tel:437-929-1792)

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## Related news

GREENBELT

### **All eyes on Hamilton as fight for prime farmland continues**

September 26, 2023

GREENBELT

### **Ford's Greenbelt grab has Hamilton municipality trapped**

July 13, 2023

ENVIRONMENT

### **Premier Ford has a double standard on governmental jurisdiction.**

January 27, 2023



October 10, 2023

Lisa Burnside  
Chief Administrative Officer  
Hamilton Conversation Authority  
P.O. Box 81067, 838 Mineral Springs Road  
Ancaster, Ontario

Dear Ms. Burnside,

Thank you for your letter dated September 18, in which you shared the Hamilton Conservation Authority's recent resolution, requesting my Office to investigate the processes and recent changes related to the Provincially Significant Wetland Evaluation System and the role of conservation authorities.

We take inquiries from the public seriously. We will consider the issues the Hamilton Conservation Authority has raised when considering future audit topics.

I would also like to draw your attention to our recent audit of *Climate Change Adaptation: Reducing Urban Flood Risk* (2022 value-for-money audit) in which we reviewed, in part, the Ontario Wetland Evaluation System, and made a number of recommendations to improve urban flood resiliency in the province. As part of our normal processes, we will conduct a follow-up audit in 2024 to determine the status of implementation of the report's recommendations. The results will be included in our 2024 Annual Report.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to write to our Office.

Sincerely,

Nick Stavropoulos  
Auditor General (Acting)

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October 27, 2023

Hamilton Conservation Authority

SENT ELECTRONICALLY TO: [Jaime.Tellier@conservationhamilton.ca](mailto:Jaime.Tellier@conservationhamilton.ca)

Correspondence Dated September 7, 2023 from Hamilton Conservation Authority RE: Reverse Changes to the Conservation Authorities Act and Ontario Wetland Evaluation System (Resolution No. BD12, 3243)

Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, at its meeting held on October 20, 2023, passed Resolution No. FA-110-2023:

That Correspondence Dated September 7, 2023 from Hamilton Conservation Authority RE: Reverse Changes to the Conservation Authorities Act and Ontario Wetland Evaluation System be **ENDORSED**.

*“Whereas over the past several years the Provincial Government has amended the Conservation Authorities Act to reduce the effectiveness of Conservation Authorities in protecting natural heritage (i.e., Bill 23, and;*

*Whereas, the Provincially Significant Wetland Evaluation System has also been changed leading Conservation Ontario to estimate that over 80% of the wetlands that currently receive protection will lose this status, and;*

*Whereas, legislative changes implemented January 1, 2023 to Conservation Authority roles related to Natural Heritage and review under prescribed Acts as well changes to the Ontario Wetland Evaluation System, as well as remaining legislative changes regarding Conservation authority development regulations that have not yet come into effect, if implemented, would have serious unintended consequences, and;*

*Whereas recent reports by the Provincial Auditor-General and the Integrity Commissioner have raised serious concerns on the bias and lack of transparency and fairness in the Greenbelt removals, drawing conclusions that the changes unfairly benefitted private landowners, and;*

*Whereas, the role of Conservation Authorities in protecting natural heritage and mitigating/ adapting for climate change has never been more important in light of the 6<sup>th</sup> Mass Extinction in biodiversity and the increasing possibility that Canada and the world will not meet the Paris Accord greenhouse gas target limiting temperature rise to less than 1.5 degrees Celsius, and;*

*Whereas the Hamilton Conservation Authority's ability to provide comments on natural heritage to the City of Hamilton is critical and must be restored.*

*Therefore:*

*That the Hamilton Conservation Authority Board of Directors respectfully request that:*

- a) the Province of Ontario reverse recent changes to the Conservation Authorities Act and Provincially Significant Wetland Evaluation System that adversely affect natural heritage protection, and; the Province of Ontario's Auditor General undertake an investigation into the processes that were followed to make the above policy decisions, and whether this decision-making structure and its outcomes provide Ontarians with value for money, and;*
- b) That the Hamilton Conservation Authority Board requests that City of Hamilton Council provide similar direction to the Province of Ontario and;*
- c) That a copy of this Hamilton Conservation Authority Board of Director's motion be shared with local Members of Provincial Parliament, Conservation Ontario and all conservation authorities in Ontario.*

Kindly,



**Gina Shaule**

Administrative Assistant, Corporate Administration

**Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA)**

250 Thorold Road West, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor | Welland, ON L3C 3W2

905.788.3135 | ext.254

[www.npca.ca](http://www.npca.ca)

[gshaule@npca.ca](mailto:gshaule@npca.ca)

# Memorandum

**TO:** Board of Directors

**FROM:** Scott Fleming, Director of Finance & Central Support Services

**MEETING DATE:** November 2, 2023

**RE:** Follow Up Information from 2024 Budget regarding Stewardship and Water Quality Monitoring

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## STAFF COMMENT

This memo is follow-up from the October 2, 2023 Board Meeting where staff were asked to bring forward a breakdown of budget items for Stewardship and Water Quality Monitoring.

**Stewardship:** Stewardship activities are completed within the Inventory of Programs & Services as follows:

### *Drinking Water Source Protection:*

- DW2 - Stewardship
- Well decommissioning.

### *Core Watershed-based Resource Management Strategy:*

- CW4 - Watershed Stewardship and Restoration (Urban, Rural & Agriculture)
- Apply for and manage external funding, promote private land stewardship, outreach, provide advice and design assistance to property owners. Implementation of watershed plan stewardship recommendations.

### *Conservation Lands and Conservation Areas:*

- CL4 - Management, operation and Maintenance of CA owned lands

- Management and Maintenance of HCA owned lands (which includes Stewardship).

The 2024 budgeted expenditures for these three items total \$232,808.

**Water Quality:** Water Quality activities are completed within the Inventory of Programs & Services as follows:

*Water Quality & Quantity Monitoring:*

WQ1 - Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network (PWQMN)

- A long-standing (50+ year) CA/MECP partnership for stream water quality monitoring. CA takes water samples; MECP does lab analysis and data management.

WQ2 - Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network (PGMN)

- A long-standing (20+ year) CA/MECP partnership for groundwater level and quality monitoring. CA maintains equipment, data transfer to MECP, water sampling; MECP provides equipment, standards, data management.

WQ3 - Aquatic Monitoring Program – non-HCA lands

- Aquatic monitoring on a 3-year cycle basis (OBBN, temperature and fish collection).

WQ4 - Water Quality Monitoring – City

- Water quality and erosion site monitoring for City of Hamilton
- City of Hamilton Groundwater Monitoring Well Inspections
- City of Hamilton Groundwater Monitoring Well Water Quality Sampling
- City of Hamilton E. Coli Sampling Program at PWQMN Sites
- Greensville Surface Water Monitoring

WQ5 - Water Quality Monitoring – COA and HHRAP

- Water quality monitoring associated with tributaries to Cootes Paradise as part of COA and HHRAP monitoring.

The 2024 budgeted expenditures for these five items total \$457,069.

# Memorandum

**TO:** Board of Directors

**FROM:** Lisa Burnside, Chief Administrative Officer

**SUBMITTED BY:** T. Scott Peck, MCIP, RPP, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer/Director, Watershed Management Services

**PREPARED BY:** Mike Stone, MCIP, RPP, Manager, Watershed Management Services  
Jeff Tweedle, Conservation Planner, Watershed Management Services

**MEETING DATE:** November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023

**RE:** Information Report on Proposed Enbridge Gas Inc. & ArcelorMittal Dofasco Natural Gas Pipeline

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## BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

At the September 7<sup>th</sup> HCA Board of Directors meeting staff received questions regarding Agenda Item 5.1, Summary Application Report – Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shoreline and Watercourses Regulation 161/06. Staff were asked to clarify:

1. If the applications made by oil and gas companies included in the summary report were for the maintenance of existing pipelines; and
2. If staff had been engaged in discussion regarding the pipeline proposed by Enbridge Gas Inc. (Enbridge) to increase the supply of natural gas to ArcelorMittal Dofasco (AMD).

Staff advised the applications made by oil and gas companies included in the summary report were for integrity digs required for the maintenance of existing pipelines, and that HCA staff had been circulated with the considered routes for the proposed AMD pipeline and had provided comments related to aquatic ecology, terrestrial ecology, and water resource engineering.

A motion was passed by the Board of Directors that staff prepare an information memo for the Board of Directors regarding the pipeline proposed by Enbridge to service AMD.



## **STAFF COMMENT**

### **Summary of Proposed Enbridge Gas Inc. & ArcelorMittal Dofasco Natural Gas Pipeline**

AMD is proposing to phase out coal-fired ironmaking operations and requires Enbridge provide an increased natural gas supply as part of this multi-year plan. Enbridge has proposed to construct a new natural gas pipeline to increase the capacity of its network in the City of Hamilton and meet the increased natural gas demand proposed by AMD.

Enbridge has identified a preliminary preferred route (PPR) and three alternative routes for the proposed natural gas pipeline which would tie into Enbridge's existing natural gas infrastructure in the area. The PPR and alternative routes are attached to this report. Following the identification of the PPR and alternative routes, Enbridge retained Dillon Consulting Limited (Dillon) to conduct an environmental and cumulative effects assessment (Environmental Report) in conformance with the Ontario Energy Board (2016) *Environmental Guidelines for the Location, Construction and Operation of Hydrocarbon Pipelines and Facilities in Ontario, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition*. Based on the technical analysis and findings of the draft Environmental Report the preferred route was identified. The draft Environmental Report shared with HCA staff has not been released publicly and is currently being reviewed and finalized by Dillon and Enbridge. At this time HCA staff are not able to publicly share details of the information within or findings of the Environmental Report. HCA has requested Enbridge provide HCA with the final Environmental Report once it is available.

### **Review of Regulatory Process of Natural Gas Pipelines in Ontario**

Energy utilities proposing new facilities, such as new natural gas pipelines, must apply to and receive approval from the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) as per the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*. Energy utilities must file a Leave to Construct application with the OEB who reviews the application to determine whether the proposed project is in the public interest. When evaluating proposals, the OEB considers:

- Economic feasibility
- Safety obligations
- Environmental impacts and proposed mitigation measures
- Appropriateness of agreements with affected landowners
- Duty to consult with Indigenous peoples

The OEB has established a standard issues list considered for applications to construct hydrocarbon pipelines which is available on their [website](#).

Prior to submission of a Leave to Construct application to the OEB, the Ontario Pipelines Coordinating Committee (OPCC) coordinates a review of proposed natural gas projects in Ontario by various Ontario government ministries. OPCC reviews environmental assessments and reports prepared by energy companies and raises any

concerns with the applicant(s) before a Leave to Construct application is submitted to the OEB.

Once a Leave to Construct application is submitted to the OEB, the general process is as follows:

- Notice of application is issued
- Review application, questions/concerns expressed in submitted comments, and requests for intervenor status
- Project specific issues list is determined
- Oral, electronic, or written public hearing held (for most major applications)
- Review and consider input from individuals or groups that have OEB permission to actively participate in a public hearing (referred to as intervenors)
- Review input from OEB staff
- Review response from applicant(s)
- Decision and order issued

Based on HCA staff's understanding, Enbridge anticipates submitting a Leave to Construct application for this project in late 2023.

In addition to OEB approval, other regulatory approvals may be required for the proposed pipeline project including those issued under the *Endangered Species Act*, *Ontario Water Resources Act*, *Ontario Heritage Act*, *Conservation Authorities Act*, *Niagara Escarpment Development Act*, *Railway Safety Act*, and local by-laws. Other regulatory approvals would be required prior to construction and confirmed during final project design.

### **HCA Staff Review & Comments to Date**

On February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023 HCA staff were provided with a Notice of Study Commencement and Public Information Sessions for the proposed Enbridge & AMD natural gas pipeline project by Dillon on behalf of Enbridge. This notice also included a request for information relating to environmentally sensitive areas, floodplains, and natural features within or in the vicinity of the considered pipeline routes outlined in the notice. HCA staff reviewed the information and advised that portions of each considered route are affected by *Ontario Regulation 161/06* (HCA's Regulation of Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses) made under the *Conservation Authorities Act*, R.S.O. 1990 and written permission from HCA for proposed development or site alteration within these regulated areas would be required. Staff also advised of HCA data available for the study area as requested by Dillon. HCA staff requested to be placed on the project contact list.

On May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023 HCA staff were circulated the draft Environmental Report completed by Dillon for the Enbridge & AMD natural gas pipeline project and advised the report had been submitted to the OPCC for review. HCA staff reviewed the report and provided comments related to aquatic ecology, terrestrial ecology, and water resource engineering.

The preferred route identified in the Environmental Report is regarded by staff as the least environmentally disruptive of the considered routes. A brief summary of the comments provided by HCA staff are outlined in the table below. All comments were technical in nature and related to HCA's regulatory role under the *Conservation Authorities Act*.

Topic	Summary of Comments
<b>Aquatic Ecology</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minor technical corrections or requests for clarification in the report</li> <li>• Note that more information will be required for HCA review of watercourse crossings during the detailed design and permitting process</li> </ul>
<b>Terrestrial Ecology</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minor technical corrections or requests for clarification in the report</li> </ul>
<b>Water Resource Engineering</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minor technical corrections or requests for clarification in the report</li> <li>• Technical requirements for proposed watercourse crossings, work staging, and construction activities</li> <li>• Recommendation for construction/post-construction monitoring reports</li> </ul>

As noted above the proposed pipeline will require written permission from HCA pursuant to *Ontario Regulation 161/06* (HCA's Regulation of Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses) made under the *Conservation Authorities Act*. It is expected that additional information will be provided to HCA related to technical requirements summarized above (i.e. construction methods, erosion and sediment control, etc.) as the project progresses through detailed design to the permitting stage. The project is currently at a preliminary stage and detailed analysis and data which may be required as part of HCA's permitting process is not yet available.

The preferred route of the proposed pipeline identified in the draft Environmental Report is not located within any lands owned by HCA and there is no anticipated direct impact to HCA owned lands by the construction of the proposed pipeline.

## STRATEGIC PLAN LINKAGE

The initiative refers directly to the HCA Strategic Plan 2019 – 2024:

- **Strategic Priority Area – Natural Heritage Conservation**
  - Initiatives –Promote sustainable development by working with the City of Hamilton on natural heritage issues and undertake the HCA plan input and review program

## AGENCY COMMENTS

Not applicable

## **LEGAL/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

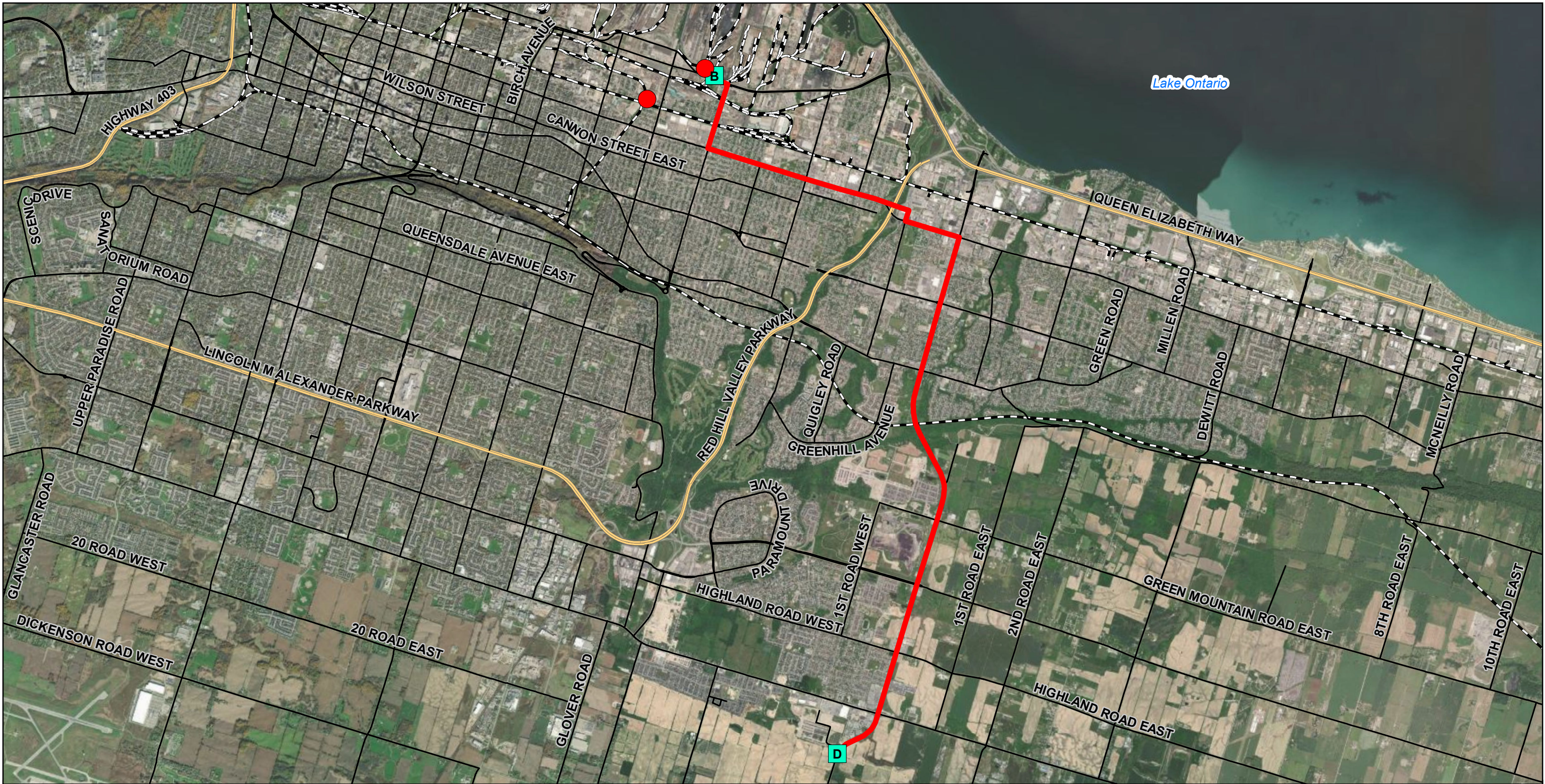
Not applicable

## **CONCLUSIONS**

Enbridge has proposed a new natural gas pipeline to increase the capacity of its network in the City of Hamilton and meet the increased natural gas demand of ArcelorMittal Dofasco. The proposed pipeline requires the approval of the Ontario Energy Board, and is being considered under its regulations and guidelines. As part of this process, HCA has been provided the opportunity to review and comment. HCA has no significant natural heritage or natural hazard concerns with the project based on the information provided to date, but have noted that portions of the proposed pipeline will require approval by HCA under its regulation, and that as part of the permitting process additional technical details will be required related to construction methods for watercourse crossings.

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- Proposed Station Rebuild
- Proposed Station (Approximate)
- Preliminary Preferred Route
- Expressway / Highway
- Major Roads
- Railway

# PRELIMINARY PREFERRED ROUTE 1

PAGE 1



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AERIAL PROVIDED BY ESRI

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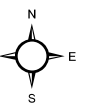
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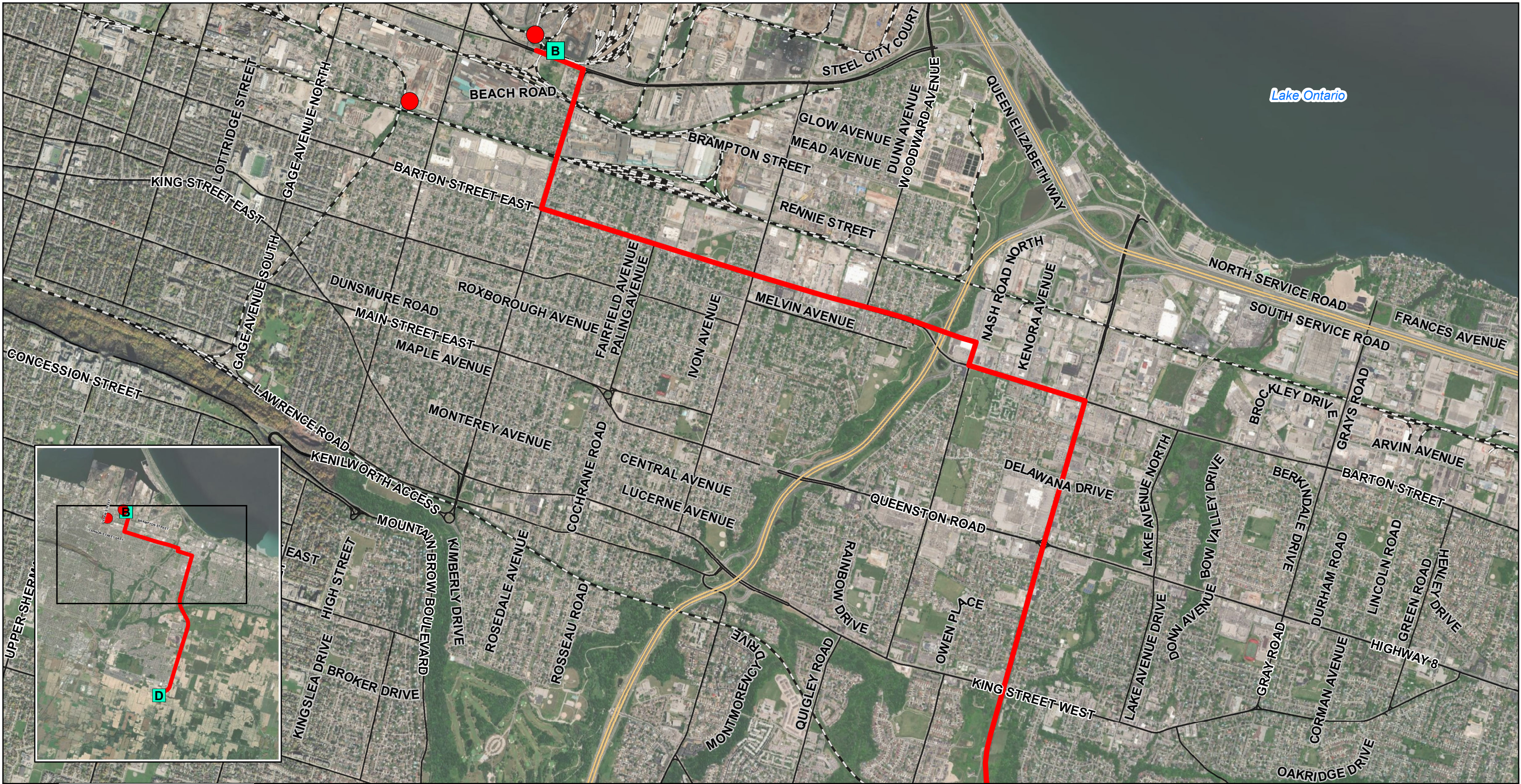
PROJECT: 22-5167

STATUS: DRAFT

DATE: 2023-02-17







Proposed Station Rebuild



Proposed Station (Approximate)



Preliminary Preferred Route



Expressway / Highway



Major Roads



Railway



Local / Street

## PRELIMINARY PREFERRED ROUTE 1

PAGE 2



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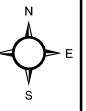
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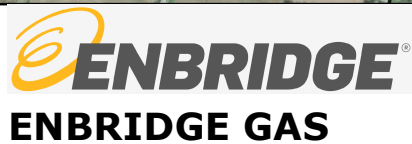
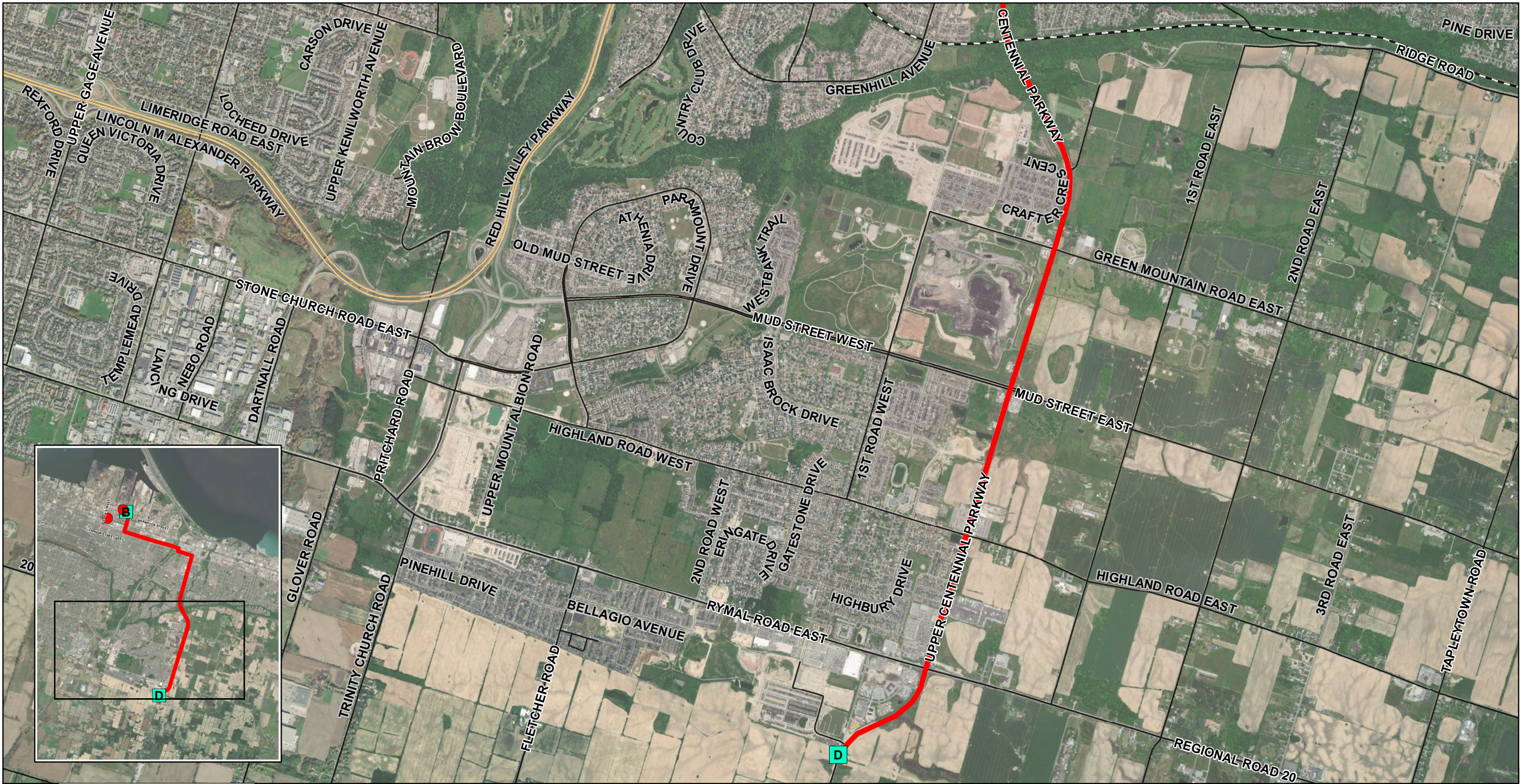
PROJECT: 22-5167

STATUS: DRAFT

DATE: 2023-02-17







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|---|--|--|--|
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| <span style="color: green;">■</span> Proposed Station (Approximate) | <span style="color: orange;">—</span> Expressway / Highway     | <span style="color: gray;">—</span> Local / Street |  |

**PRELIMINARY PREFERED  
ROUTE 1**

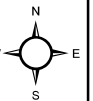
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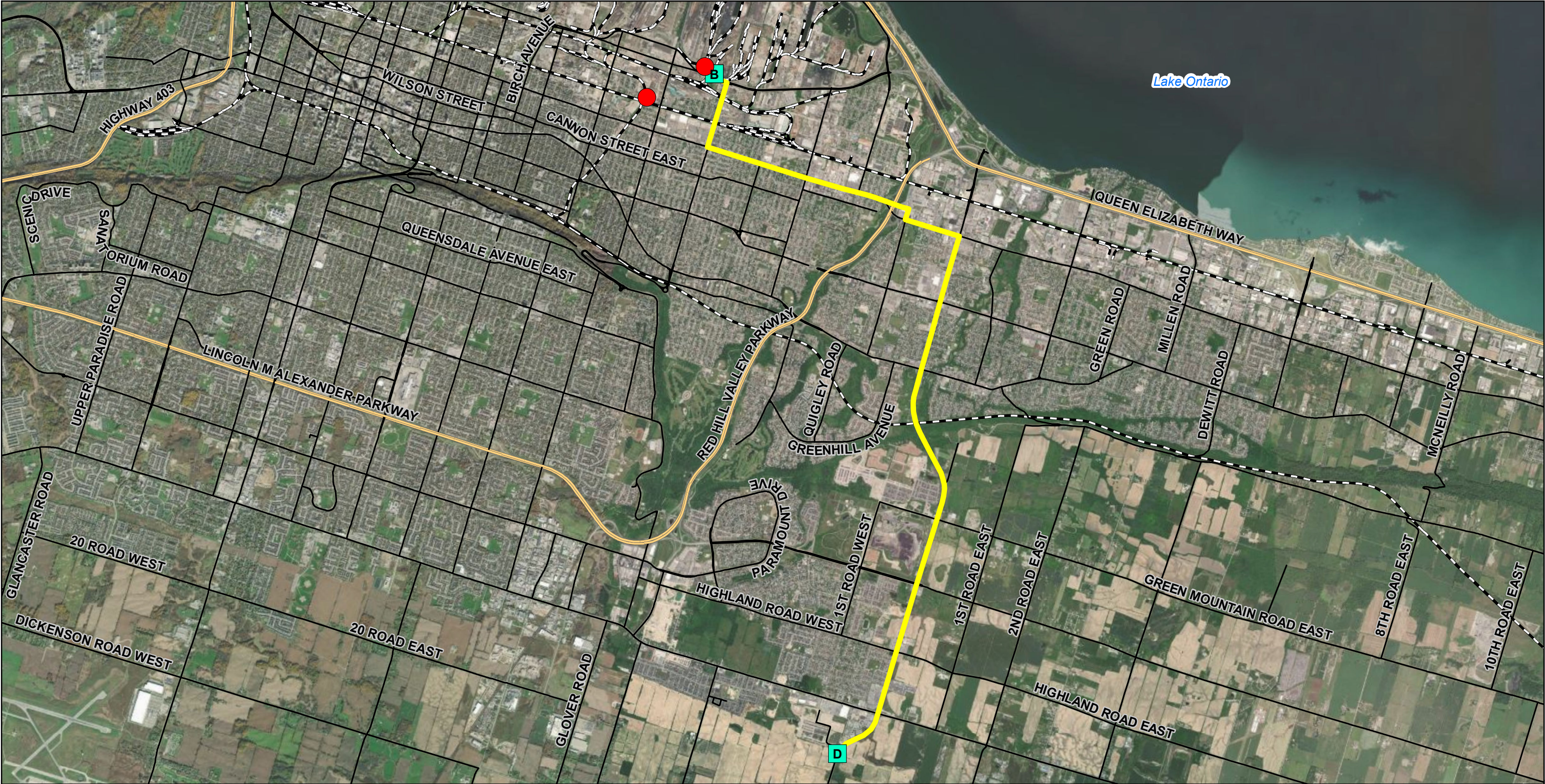
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PROJECT: 22-5167 STATUS: DRAFT DATE: 2023-02-17





- Proposed Station Rebuild
- Proposed Station (Approximate)
- Alternative Route 1
- Expressway / Highway
- Major Roads
- Railway

ALTERNATIVE ROUTE 1



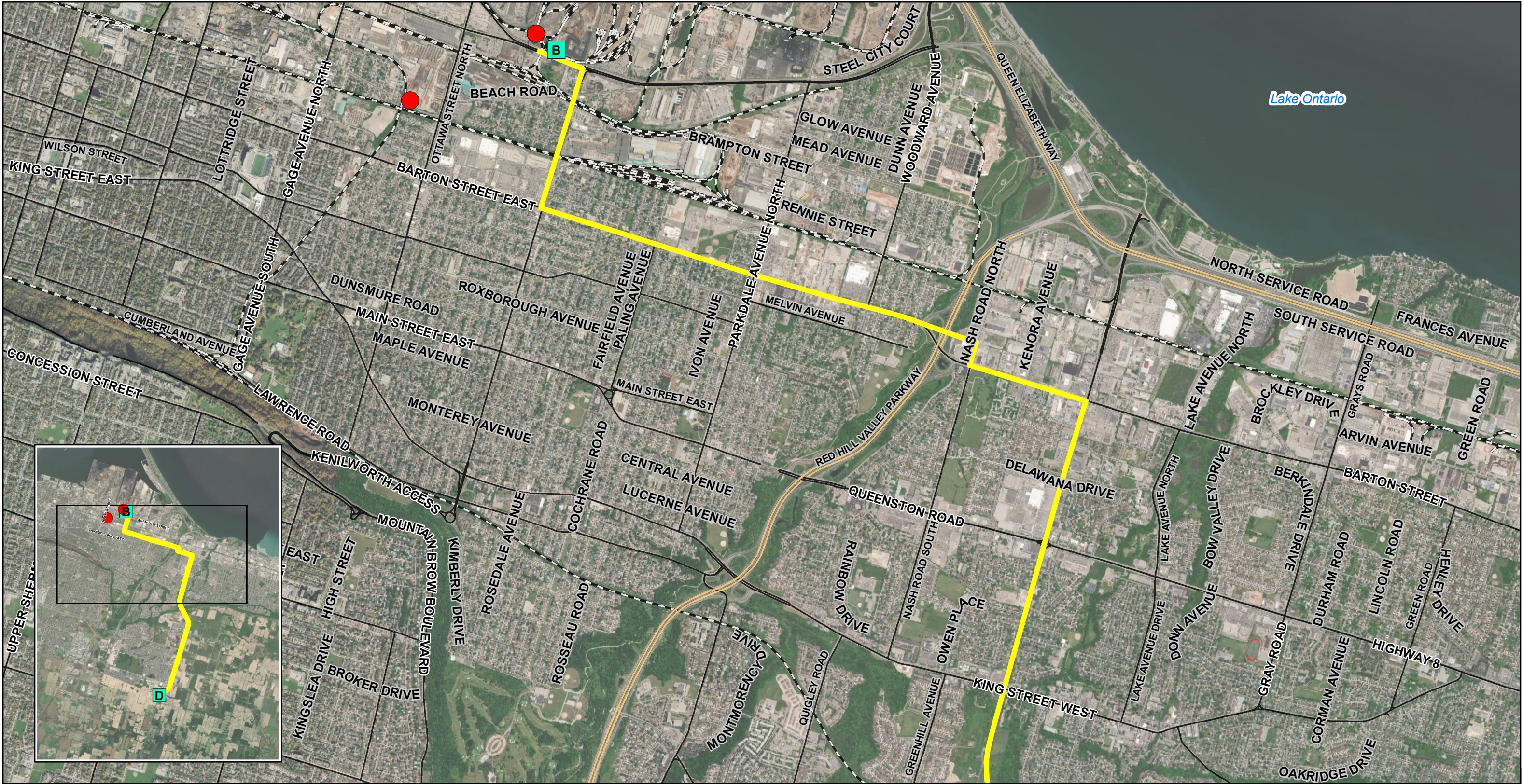
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PROJECT: 22-5167 STATUS: DRAFT DATE: 2023-02-17





- Proposed Station Rebuild
- Proposed Station (Approximate)
- Alternative Route 1
- Expressway / Highway
- Major Roads
- Local / Street
- Railway

ALTERNATIVE ROUTE 1



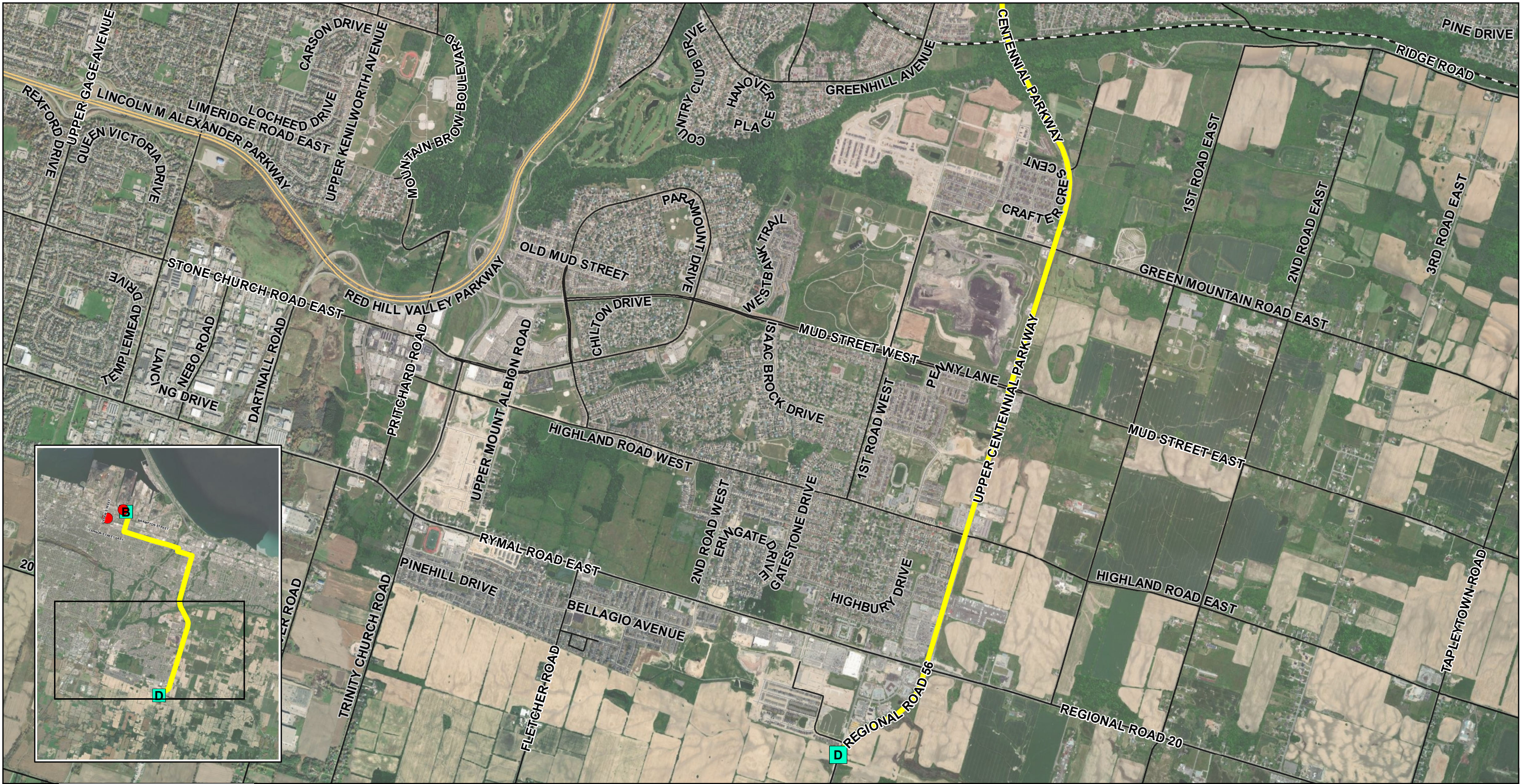
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PROJECT: 22-5167 STATUS: DRAFT DATE: 2023-02-17





- Proposed Station Rebuild
- Alternative Route 1
- Major Roads
- - - Railway
- Proposed Station (Approximate)
- Expressway / Highway
- Local / Street

**ALTERNATIVE ROUTE 1**



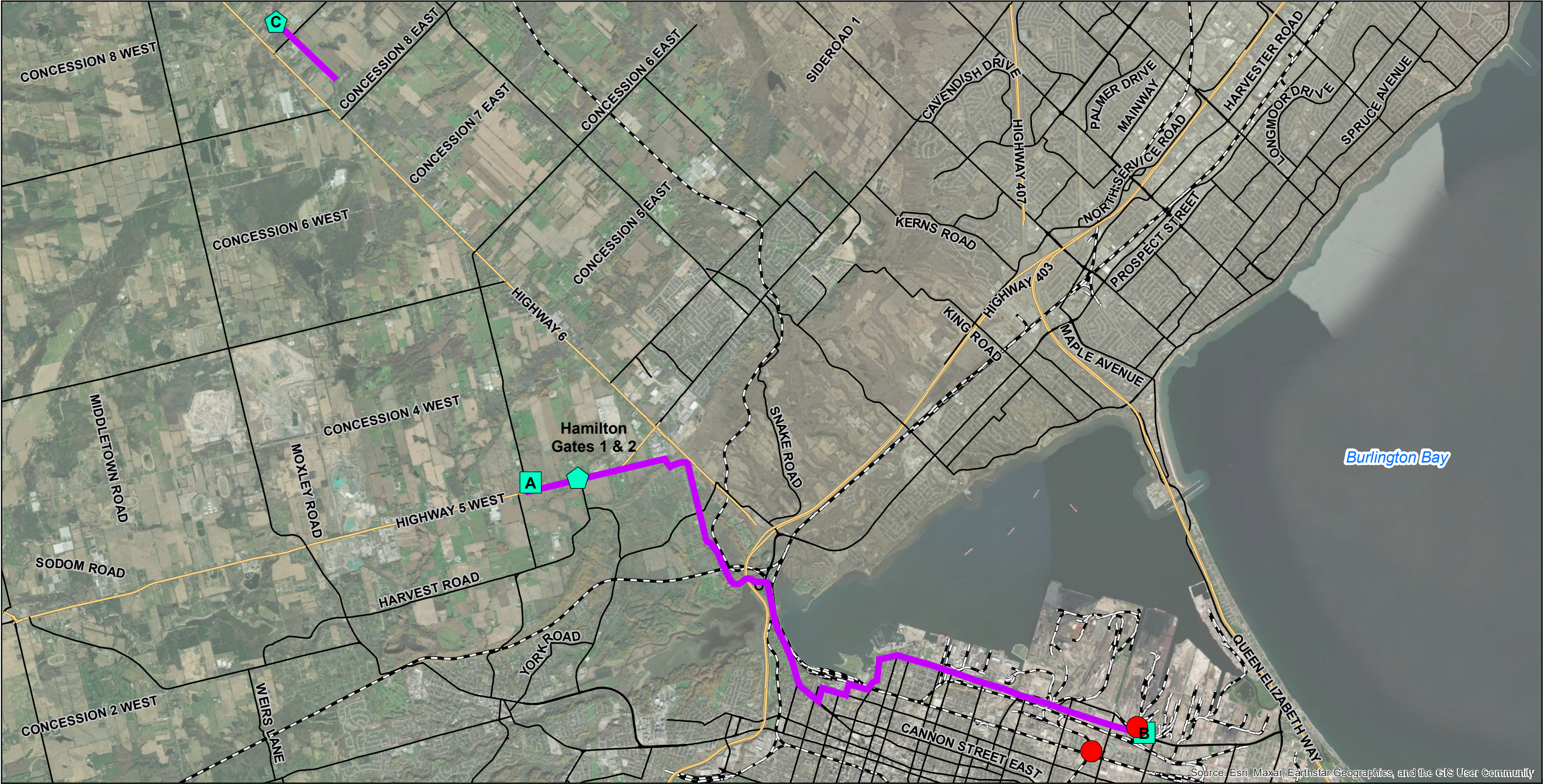
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PROJECT: 22-5167 STATUS: DRAFT DATE: 2023-02-17





Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community



Proposed Station Rebuild



Proposed Station (Approximate)



Existing Stations



Alternative Route 2



Expressway / Highway



Railway



Major Roads

ALTERNATIVE ROUTE 2

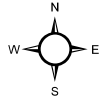
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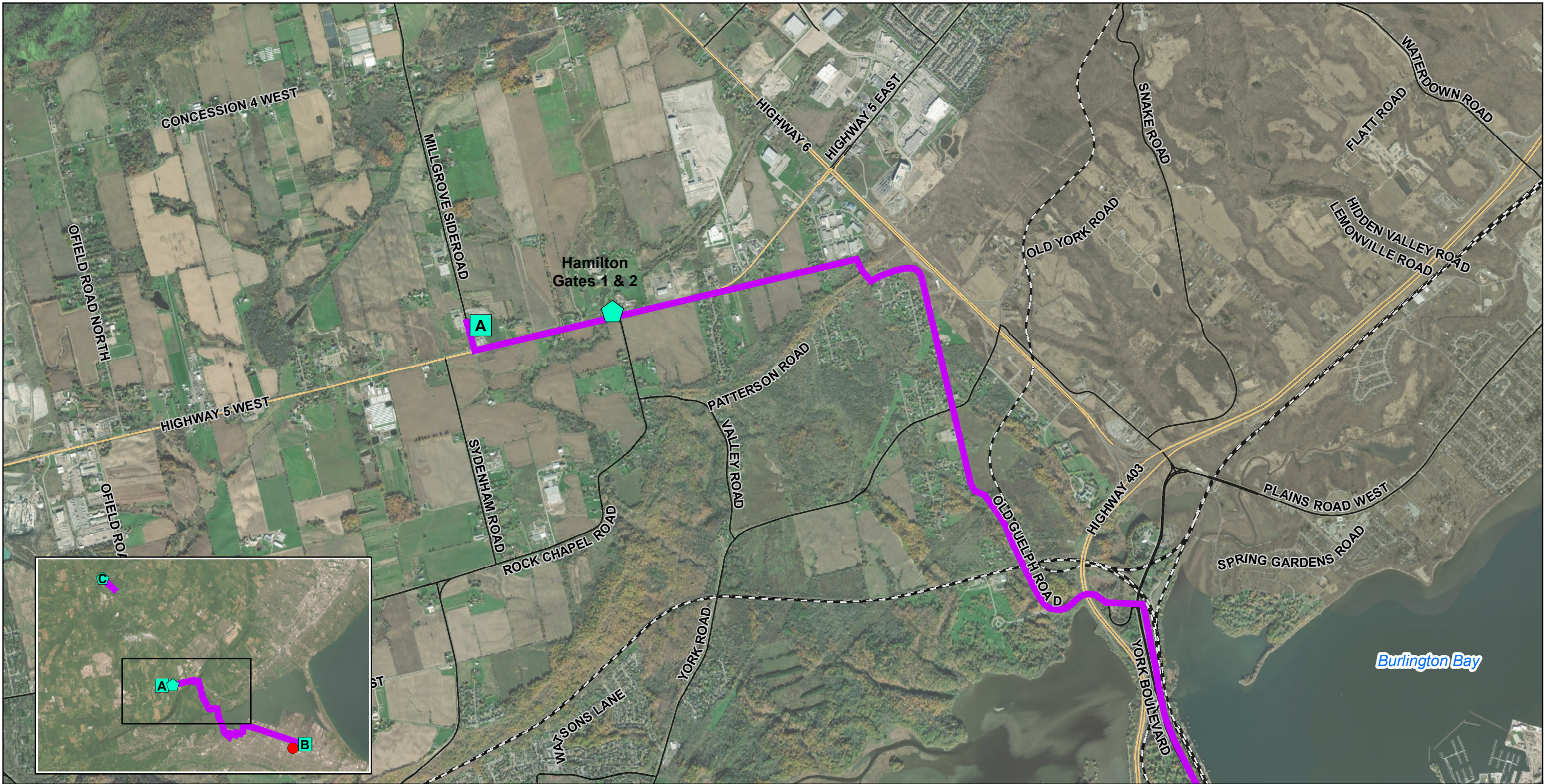
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PROJECT: 22-5167 STATUS: DRAFT DATE: 2023-02-21





- Proposed Station Rebuild
- Proposed Station (Approximate)

- ⬠ Existing Stations
- Alternative Route 2

- Expressway / Highway
- Local / Street
- Major Roads
- - - Railway

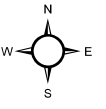
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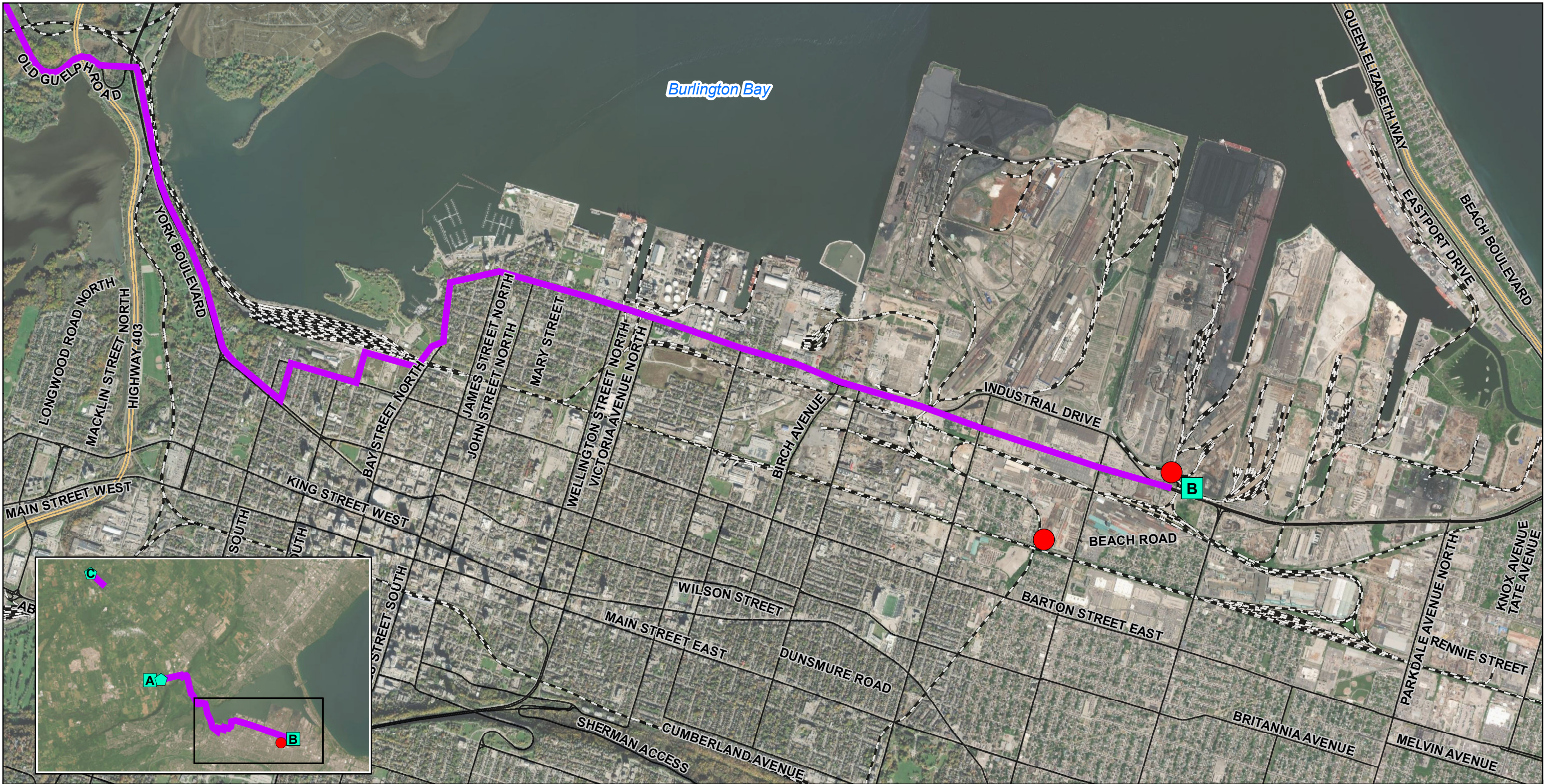
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PROJECT: 22-5167 STATUS: DRAFT DATE: 2023-02-17





Proposed Station Rebuild



Existing Stations



Expressway / Highway



Local / Street



Proposed Station (Approximate)



Alternative Route 2



Major Roads



Railway

## ALTERNATIVE ROUTE 2

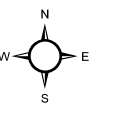
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PROJECT: 22-5167

STATUS: DRAFT

DATE: 2023-02-21





Existing Stations



Expressway / Highway



Local / Street



Alternative Route 2



Major Roads

# ALTERNATIVE ROUTE 2

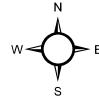
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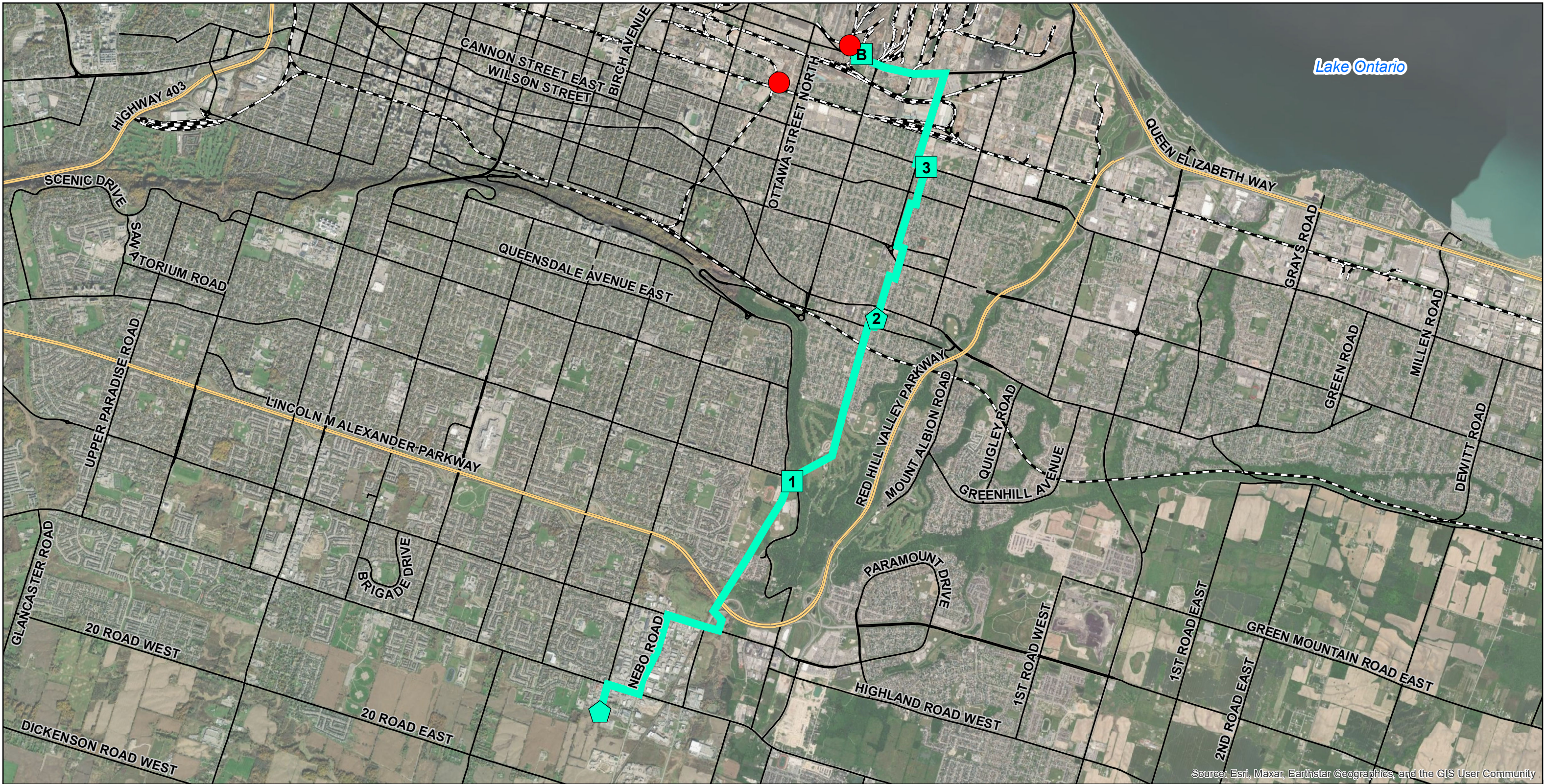


PROJECT: 22-5167

STATUS: DRAFT

DATE: 2023-02-17





Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community



- Proposed Station Rebuild
- Proposed Stations (Approximate)
- ◆ Existing Gates
- Alternative Route 3
- Expressway / Highway
- - - Railway
- Major Roads

## ALTERNATIVE ROUTE 3

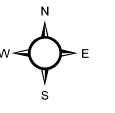
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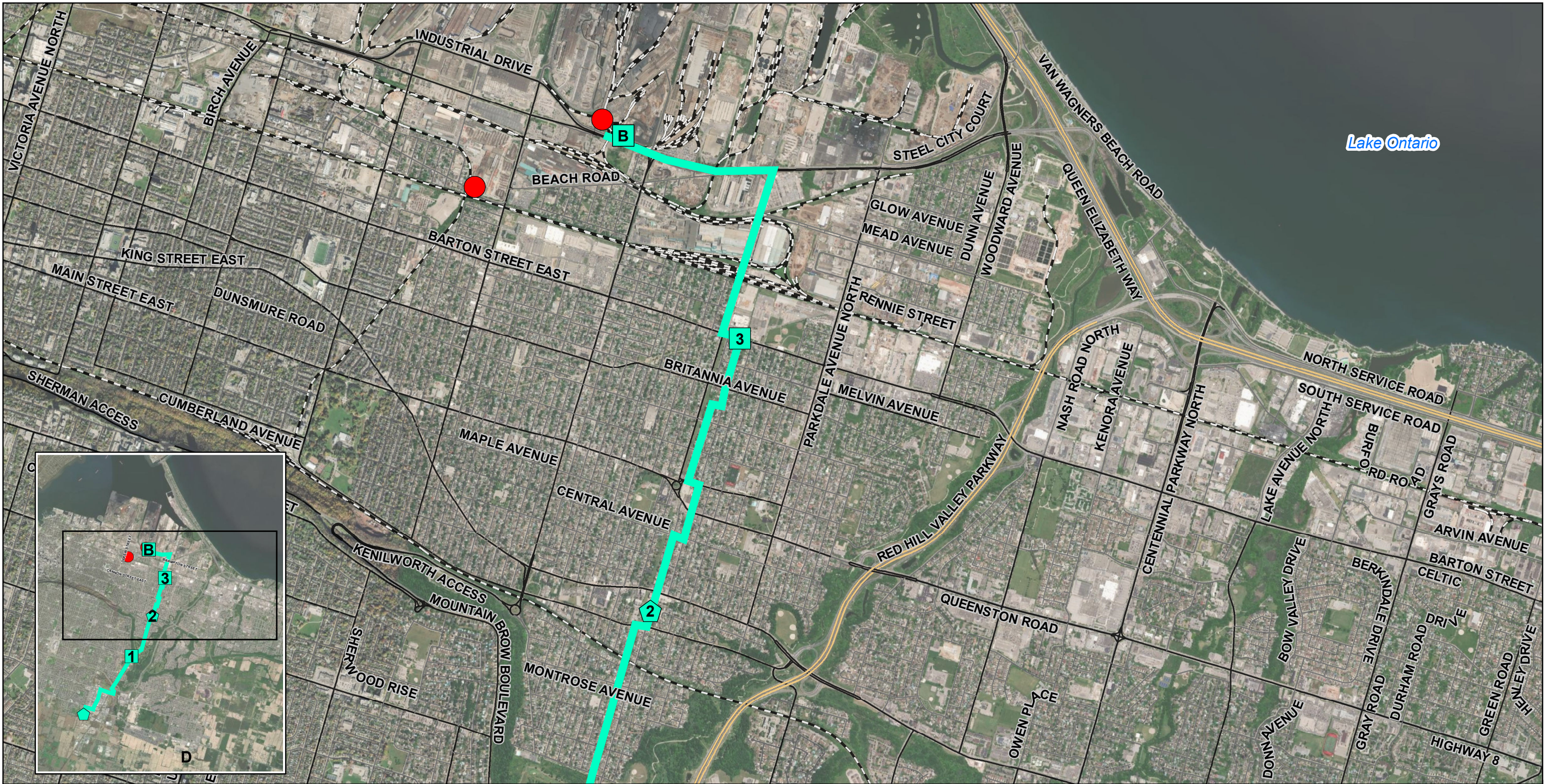
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PROJECT: 22-5167 STATUS: DRAFT DATE: 2023-02-17





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- ◆ Existing Gates
- Alternative Route 3
- Expressway / Highway
- Local / Street
- Major Roads
- - - Railway

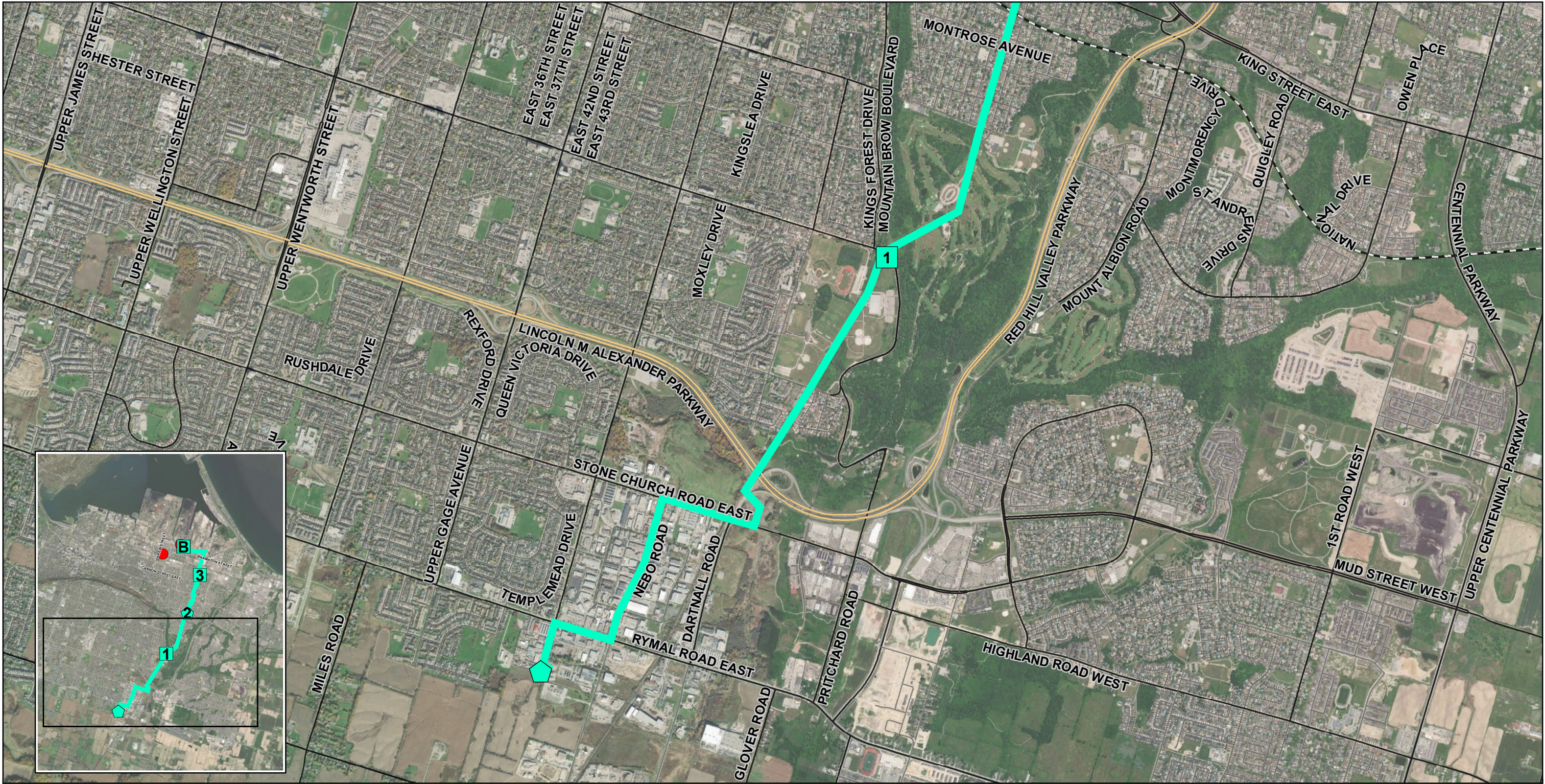
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PROJECT: 22-5167 STATUS: DRAFT DATE: 2023-02-17






- |   |  |  |   |
|---|--|--|---|
|  Proposed Stations (Approximate) |  Alternative Route 3  |  Major Roads    |  Railway |
|  Existing Gates                  |  Expressway / Highway |  Local / Street |   |

**ALTERNATIVE ROUTE 3**  
PAGE 3



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# Memorandum

**TO:** Board of Directors

**FROM:** Lisa Burnside, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

**RECOMMENDED &  
PREPARED BY:** T. Scott Peck, MCIP, RPP, Deputy CAO/Director,  
Watershed Management Services

**MEETING DATE:** November 2, 2023

**RE:** Staff Update on Additional Watershed Condition  
Reporting

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## BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

The Watershed Conditions Report was presented at the October 5, 2023 Board of Directors meeting. From this presentation, additional reporting on water quality and stewardship activities was requested. Staff noted that they will review the request and report back to the Board at a future meeting to determine parameters and a schedule for such reporting to be effective. Staff have completed this review and have concluded that the most effective reporting timing for aquatic, terrestrial, water quality and stewardship activities is on an annual basis.

## STAFF COMMENTS

The monitoring program that provides data (rain gauge, stream flow gauge, weather monitoring, soil and snow conditions and reservoir data) that is used to complete the Watershed Conditions report is data that reflects current conditions in the watershed related to flooding and erosion and the HCA's mandated role to monitor and advise our municipal partners and the public regarding these current conditions for the protection of life and property. The effective reporting timing for these weather-related flooding and erosion issues is monthly.

In addition to this natural hazard monitoring work, the HCA also undertakes aquatic, terrestrial and water quality monitoring programming. It is important to note that this monitoring work is not a spills response or wildlife management program. This monitoring work allows HCA staff to gauge long term trends, overall watershed health

and identify restoration opportunities. The HCA's Stewardship program also utilizes this information to assist in identifying priority landowner contact and associated private land restoration opportunities. This monitoring data, specifically the water quality data, is shared with the City of Hamilton and is reported on annually to our partners through the Hamilton Harbour Remedial Action Plan. The overall data is also used to inform the HCA's Watershed Report Card which is completed every 5 years. In this regard, the effective reporting timing for this environmental monitoring is annually. As such, staff will prepare an annual report for the Board and will present this report annually at the December Board of Directors meetings commencing in 2024.

## **STRATEGIC PLAN LINKAGE**

The initiative refers directly to the HCA Strategic Plan 2019 - 2024:

- **Strategic Priority Area – Water Management**
  - Initiatives – Work with the City of Hamilton, and our partners on the Hamilton Harbour Remedial Action Plan to address nutrient and sediment loading within the Hamilton Harbour Watershed ›
  - Initiatives - Continue the HCA's Watershed Stewardship Program and work with landowners to increase environmental awareness and restoration projects
- **Strategic Priority Area – Natural heritage Conservation**
  - Initiatives – Maintain and enhance the natural heritage features of HCA lands and manage these lands on an environmentally sustainable basis
  - **Initiatives** - Continue and expand the aquatic and terrestrial monitoring programs

## **AGENCY COMMENTS**

N/A

## **LEGAL/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

N/A

## **CONCLUSIONS**

Reporting to the Board of Directors on an annual basis is an effective time schedule to ensure the Board is informed related to aquatic, terrestrial and water quality conditions and related stewardship activities.

# Report

**TO:** Board of Directors

**FROM:** Lisa Burnside, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

**RECOMMENDED BY:** T. Scott Peck, MCIP, RPP, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer/Director, Watershed Management Services

**PREPARED BY:** Fionnula Wade, Climate Change Coordinator

**MEETING DATE:** November 2, 2023

**RE:** HCA's 2023/2024 Corporate Climate Change Priorities, Funding Opportunities and Budget Allocations

---

## STAFF RECOMMENDATION

**THAT HCA staff recommends to the Board of Directors:**

**That the Board of Directors endorse the five (5) climate change priorities and budget allocations identified in this report; and**

**That the Board of Directors approve the use of \$75,000 from the Climate Change Reserve account for the construction of the EV charging stations.**

## BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

At the February, 2023 Board of Directors meeting, the HCA's "Toward a Net-Zero Future: Hamilton Conservation Authority's Corporate Climate Change Strategy" was approved. HCA's Corporate Climate Change Strategy outlines how our organization can adapt to climate change while reducing our overall impact through the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The focus of this strategy is HCA's: Operations, environment and natural heritage, experience, education and awareness, and partnerships.

Staff were directed to develop work priorities, identify funding streams and budget allocations for the remainder of 2023 and beginning of 2024 and report back to the Board.

Based on this direction from the Board of Directors, the purpose of this report is to outline the results of an energy audit that has been conducted at the HCA main office “Woodend” and recommend, priority items for HCA’s climate action for the rest of 2023 and 2024 that have been identified by staff.

## **STAFF COMMENT**

Since approval of HCA’s Corporate Climate Change Strategy, an ASHRAE Level II energy audit was conducted at the Woodend Office. Suggested energy efficiency measures (EEMs) in the report are separated into two (2) categories, being:

1. Low and no cost measures (<\$5,000); and
2. Operational and capital measures (>\$5,000).

Proposed EEMs are as follows:

1. Low and no cost measures:
  - a) Creating and implementing a staff Energy Awareness Program;
  - b) Creating and implementing a Monitoring and Targeting Program;
  - c) Installation of occupancy/vacancy sensors for offices;
  - d) Weather stripping: addressing airflow in the capped fireplace chimney;
  - e) Improve efficiency of the fuel oil furnace through the installation of an outdoor air damper; and
  - f) Added insulation to domestic hot water tank pipes.
2. Operational and capital measures:
  - a) Replace the fuel oil furnace with a cold climate heat pump solution;
  - b) Upgrade single pane windows to double pane; and
  - c) Replace lights with LED lighting.

Climate change priorities for the remainder of 2023 and 2024:

- 1) The HCA has been approved for the Electric Vehicle (EV) Charger Incentive Program through Green Economy Canada. This funding requires that the proposed EV charging stations are installed by the end of 2023, making this project a main priority. To meet the requirements of the Green Economy Canada funding, one Nissan ARIYA EV has been purchased for use at the Woodend Office. This vehicle is replacing an internal combustion engine vehicle within HCA’s fleet.
- 2) Development of Fleet Decarbonization Guidelines that indicates goals for when HCA’s vehicle and equipment fleets will be decarbonized, which will be brought to the Board of Directors for approval once completed.

- 3) Conduct at least one (1) additional energy audit for an HCA building in 2024. Following the Woodend Office, the next two priority buildings have been identified as:
  - a. Dundas Valley – Workshop; and
  - b. Dundas Valley - Trail Centre
- 4) Undergo select retrofits in the Woodend Office that have been recommended through the energy audit, as stated above. Retrofits will be selected based on available time and resources in 2024. While it is our intent to implement the operational and capital EEMs, they may be deferred to a later date. If all EEMs are implemented at Woodend, it would result in an estimated reduction of 29.1 tonnes of GHG emissions annually.
- 5) While HCA's current work priorities are focused on our organization's operations, other priorities that were listed in the February Board of Directors Report are still on-going by staff, which include:
  - a. Continued work on programs such as watershed monitoring (water quality, aquatic and terrestrial);
  - b. Invasive species management and strategy; and
  - c. Continuing to fully understand HCA's GHG emissions and opportunities to reduce.

## **STRATEGIC PLAN LINKAGE**

HCA's Strategic Plan 2019-2024 outlines major strategic priority areas and related initiatives for advancing HCA's Vision to provide a healthy watershed for everyone. HCA implements a wide variety of programs over these Strategic Priority Areas and the HCA Corporate Climate Change Strategy is considered as an integral part of our programming and operations.

## **AGENCY COMMENTS**

N/A

## **LEGAL/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The HCA has been approved for the EV Charger Incentive Program through Green Economy Canada. This program reimburses up to 50% of associated expenditures related to installing the pre-approved EV charging stations, with a maximum of \$5,000 per connector. HCA will cover the initial capital costs and once all documentation is submitted, Green Economy Canada will reimburse the HCA for all eligible costs. HCA staff are requesting to withdrawal \$75,000 from the Climate Change Reserve in order to cover the upfront costs of the associated construction, procurement, and installation of the two (2) EV charging station at the Woodend Office.



All leftover funds as well as reimbursements from Green Economy Canada will be returned to the Climate Change Reserve following completion of the EV Charging Station Project.

The funding used for the purchase of the Nissan ARIYA EV was accounted for in HCA's vehicle fleet budget. A federal government incentive of \$5,000 was applied at the time of purchase.

All retrofits undertaken at Woodend will be funded from the Climate Change budget reserve accounts for 2024. The 2024 budget indicates that 10% of HCA annual pass sales will be added to the Climate Change Reserve, which will be used towards climate change initiatives across the HCA that have been outlined in this report. The nine (9) EEM's identified through the energy audit conducted at Woodend has an estimated total of \$58,200 (see Appendix A) with final costs to be confirmed once quotes are received. Funds for completing the identified retrofits will be withdrawn as necessary. HCA can apply for funding opportunities that are available through the Save on Energy Program, which is a partner of Enbridge Gas. This program provides incentives for projects that result in the reduction of energy use and carbon emissions, including but not limited to:

- Lighting retrofits;
- Lighting controls;
- HVAC redesign; and
- Custom equipment retrofits.

The cost of conducting at least one additional energy audit for an HCA building in 2024 is estimated at approximately \$8,500 and will also be funded from the Climate Change Reserve account.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

HCA's priority for the remainder of 2023 is to install two (2) EV charging stations at the Woodend Office in order to meet the requirements of the EV Charger Incentive Program through Green Economy Canada. This project will help reduce HCA's fleet emissions, while also acting as a pilot project for HCA's fleet decarbonization across all other Conservation Areas. Climate change priorities going into 2024 include implementing as many of the EEMs identified in the energy conducted at HCA's main office as time and resources allow, the development of a Fleet & Equipment Decarbonization Guideline, and have at least one (1) additional energy audit conducted on an HCA building. All of the identified priorities outlined in this report will be funded through the Climate Change Reserve.

## Appendix A

## Energy Efficiency Measures Analysis

**Table 1.** Energy Efficiency Measures Identified through the ASHRAE Level II energy audit conducted at the HCA main office (Woodend).

Hamilton Conservation Authority			Estimated Utility Savings				Estimated Cost Savings and GHG Benefits							
Measure ID	Measure type	Description of Measure	Electricity	Fuel oil	Water	Total ekWh Savings	Electricity	Fuel oil	Water	Total	Implementation Cost	Simple Payback	GHG Reduction	Investment/ GHG
			kWh	M³	M³	ekWh	\$/year	\$/year	\$/year	\$/year	\$	years	Tonne/Yr	\$/Tonnes
4.1.1	EEM<\$5000	Resident Energy Awareness Program	3,826	52	14	4,367	\$712	\$82	\$66	\$859	\$ 1,500	1.7	0.2	\$6,030
4.1.2		Monitoring and Targeting Program (M&T)	3,826	105	14	4,909	\$712	\$164	\$66	\$942	\$ 1,500	1.6	0.4	\$3,880
4.1.3		Occupancy or Vacancy Sensor for offices.	4,950	-	-	4,950	\$921	\$0	\$0	\$921	\$ 3,000	3.3	0.14	\$20,900
4.1.4		Weather Stripping: Addressing Airflow in the Capped Fireplace Chimney	NA	1,049	-	10,837	0	\$1,645	\$0	\$1,645	\$ 3,000	1.8	2.8	\$1,090
4.1.5		Control the amount of OA for the oil furnace boiler room	545	262		3,254	\$101	\$411	\$0	\$513	\$ 2,000	3.9	0.7	\$2,840
4.1.6		Adding insulation to DHW pipes.	375	-		375	\$70	\$0	\$0	\$70	\$ 200	2.9	0.01	\$18,390
4.2.1	EEM<\$5000	Replacing the fuel oil furnace with Cold Climate Heat Pump solution.	(16,350)	5,246	-	54,186	(\$3,041)	\$8,223	\$0	\$5,182	\$ 10,000	NA	13.8	\$730
4.2.2		Replace single pan windows with double pane	3,406	1,311	-	13,547	\$634	\$2,056	\$0	\$2,689	\$ 25,000	9.3	3.5	\$7,060
4.2.3		Replace lights with LED lights	11,827	-	-	-	\$ 2,200	\$0	\$0	\$2,200	\$ 12,000	5.5	0.3	\$34,990
Totals (average)			12,404	8,026	28	96,426	\$ 2,307	\$ 12,581	\$ 131	\$ 15,019	\$ 58,200	3.9	21.9	\$2,656

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# Memorandum

**TO:** Board of Directors

**FROM:** Lisa Burnside, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

**RECOMMENDED BY:** T. Scott Peck, MCIP, RPP, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer / Director, Watershed Management Services

**PREPARED BY:** Jonathan Bastien, Manager - Water Resources Engineering

**DATE:** November 2, 2023

**RE:** Watershed Conditions Report

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## SYNOPSIS

During the period of September 25<sup>th</sup> 2023 to October 24<sup>th</sup> 2023, there were no observations, reports, or expectations of significant water safety concerns, significant watercourse flooding events, or Lake Ontario shoreline flooding events. That said, there was 1 potential Lake Ontario shoreline flooding event that warranted issuing messages and additional monitoring of conditions.

Currently, there are also no observations, reports, or expectations that significant watercourse flooding or significant water safety concerns are occurring. Current flows are at baseflow conditions to slightly elevated above baseflow conditions at all streamflow gauges

Currently, there are no observations, reports, or expectations that significant Lake Ontario shoreline flooding is occurring.

The average monthly flows for October so far have predominantly been well below to significantly below long-term averages. The exception was Ancaster Creek at Wilson Street, where monthly flow has been slightly below average. This is due to the fact that the Ancaster area received higher amounts of rain over the month so far, compared to the other gauges.

The Lake Ontario mean daily water level averaged across the entire lake is currently about 2 cm below average for this time of year.

Current Christie Lake levels are slightly below the preferred summer operating levels. As of yesterday, outflows at the Christie Lake dam were raised, to increase flows in Lower Spencer Creek in support of the recently started salmon spawning season. Current Valens Lake levels are within the preferred summer operating levels.

The most recent drought assessment indicated that normal conditions are an appropriate overall characterization of the watershed. Although monthly precipitation amounts in September were very low, the monthly amounts in July and August had been significantly above normal.

There are no significant rainfall events (+20 mm in a day) forecasted for the watershed over the next 2 weeks, at this time. In the next 9 days, no significant Lake Ontario shoreline flooding is expected, at this time. HCA staff will continue to undertake monthly drought assessments, and coordinate with the Hamilton Low Water Response Team as required if drought conditions are identified.

## **CURRENT WATERSHED CONDITIONS – October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

### Current Flows in Major Area Watercourses

There are no observations, reports, or expectations that significant watercourse flooding or significant water safety concerns are occurring at this time. Current flows are at baseflow conditions to slightly elevated above baseflow conditions at all streamflow gauges [Upper Spencer Creek at Safari Road, Middle Spencer Creek at Highway 5, Lower Spencer Creek at Market Street, Ancaster Creek at Wilson Street and Red Hill Creek at Barton Street].

The average monthly flows for October so far have predominantly been well below to significantly below long-term averages. Monthly flow in Upper Spencer Creek at Safari Road has been 43% of long-term averages (considered well below average). Monthly flow Middle Spencer Creek at Highway 5 has been 55% of long-term averages (considered well below average). Monthly flow in Lower Spencer Creek at Market Street has been 36% of long-term averages (considered significantly below average). Monthly flow in Red Hill Creek at Barton Street has been 56% (considered below average). The exception was Ancaster Creek at Wilson Street, where monthly flow has been 75% (considered slightly below average). This is due to the fact that the Ancaster area received higher amounts of rain (15 to 50% more) over the month so far, compared to the other gauges.

September 2023 average flows varied considerably with respect to long-term averages. Monthly flows at the three Spencer Creek gauges were 134% to 152% (considered above average). Monthly flow in Ancaster Creek at Wilson Street was 91% (considered near average). That said, monthly flow in Red Hill Creek at Barton Street was 49% (considered well below average). Flows were significantly elevated in August at all gauges. However, flows decreased into September at a slower rate in Spencer Creek compared to in Redhill Creek and to a lesser extent Ancaster Creek. Flows in Redhill

Creek and Ancaster Creek have been noted to typically increase and decrease more quickly, due to the more urban nature of their catchments.

August 2023 average flows were significantly above long-term averages at most gauges (ranging from 247% to 640%). That said, monthly flow in Ancaster Creek at Wilson Street was 157% (considered well above average).

#### Current Lake Ontario Water Levels

At this time, there are no observations, reports, or expectations of significant Lake Ontario shoreline flooding. The Lake Ontario mean daily water level in the Hamilton area was 74.62 m IGLD85 as of yesterday. The Lake Ontario mean daily water level averaged across the entire lake (74.60 m IGLD85 as of yesterday) is about 2 cm below average for this time of year.

#### Current Storages in HCA Reservoirs

Current Christie Lake levels (770.90 ft) are slightly below the preferred summer operating levels (771.0 to 771.5 ft). As of yesterday, outflows at the Christie Lake dam were raised, to increase flows in Lower Spencer Creek in support of the recently started salmon spawning season.

Current Valens Lake levels (275.36 m) are within the preferred summer operating levels (275.25 to 275.45m).

#### Current Soil Conditions

Soil moisture data has not recently been available, but surface and root-zone soils are expected to be considered dry to moist.

### **RECENT STORM EVENTS**

During the period of September 25<sup>th</sup> 2023 to October 24<sup>th</sup> 2023, there were no observations, reports, or expectations of significant water safety concerns, significant watercourse flooding events, or Lake Ontario shoreline flooding events.

That said, there was 1 potential Lake Ontario shoreline flooding event that warranted issuing messages and additional monitoring of conditions.

#### Potential For Lake Ontario Shoreline Flooding

*October 10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>*

Forecasts for October 14 and 15 expected sustained shore-bound winds of up to 38 km/hr, with wind gusts of up to 66 km/hr. Wave heights of up to 2.1 m were forecasted.

An early notice was issued of the potential for shoreline flooding and erosion, due to the forecasted storm surge and wave action. However, forecasted wave heights decreased significantly in the following days.

HCA engineering staff issued the following message to communicate the potential Lake Ontario Shoreline flooding risks to the City and public:

- Watershed Conditions Statement (Flood Outlook) – Lake Ontario Storm Surge on October 10<sup>th</sup>
- Termination of Watershed Conditions Statement (Flood Outlook) – Lake Ontario Storm Surge on October 13<sup>th</sup>

## **RECENT WATERSHED LOW WATER CONDITIONS**

The most recent drought assessment (including data up to September 30) indicated that normal conditions are an appropriate overall characterization of the watershed. This was the ninth consecutive recent monthly assessment that indicated normal conditions. Although monthly precipitation amounts in September were very low, the monthly amounts in July and August had been significantly above normal.

## **FORECASTED WATERSHED CONDITIONS**

### Watercourse Flooding

There are currently no significant rainfall events (+20 mm in a day) forecasted for the watershed over the next 2 weeks. HCA staff continue to monitor conditions and forecasts routinely. Resultant water levels and flows from currently anticipated rain are not expected to result in significant watercourse flooding.

### Lake Ontario Shoreline Flooding

In the next 9 days, no significant Lake Ontario shoreline flooding is expected. According to International Lake Ontario – St. Lawrence River Board information, weather conditions, including temperatures and precipitation, will primarily determine the rate and magnitude of water level fluctuations over the coming weeks.

### Watershed Low Water Conditions

HCA staff will continue to undertake monthly drought assessments, and coordinate with the Hamilton Low Water Response Team as required if drought conditions are identified.

# Memorandum

**TO:** Board of Directors

**FROM:** Lisa Burnside, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

**RECOMMENDED &  
PREPARED BY:** Gordon R. Costie, Director of Conservation Area Services

**MEETING DATE:** November 2, 2023

**RE:** Conservation Areas Experiences Update

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## BACKGROUND:

HCA provides high quality, diverse conservation areas that promote outdoor recreation, health and well being and strengthen public awareness of the importance of being in or near our conservation areas.

## STAFF REPORTING COMMENTS

- Spencer Gorge Conservation Area – the reservation service is ending in mid November for 2023 operations. Advance reservations have proved to be an effective visitor management tool keeping vehicle congestion and pedestrian hazards to a minimum. Additional security measures were added post the Thanksgiving long weekend to address the late colour season and related sure of visitation amidst fair weather conditions. Staff are still actively collecting data and analyzing metrics from the operations reporting to the Conservation Advisory Board in 2024 with the findings.
- Haudenosaunee Habitat Wildlife Authority Deer Harvest – commences on Monday November 6 to Thursday December 7 in the west end of the Dundas Valley Conservation Area. This is an archery only deer hunt for Indigenous harvesters with the support of the Ministry Natural Resources Forestry, Hamilton Police Service, and Municipal Bylaw Enforcement. The deer harvest is a long standing tradition respected for providing sustenance for the Haudenosaunee community with a Board approved Specific Agreement through 2024.



- Westfield Heritage Village Conservation Area – Westfield is unveiling the new trail system November 4, 2023. This 503-acre conservation area now boasts 6.7 kilometers along with the historical village consisting of over 30 historic buildings. A friendly and easy-going trail system for the whole family to enjoy with newly packed gravel surfaces and features three new bridges to explore.
- Fifty Point Conservation Area – A sure sign of changing seasons is the fall boat lift for the season. Staff have safely and carefully removed and stored over 200 boats and 70 masts with the 40-ton marine boat lift for winter storage. A dedicating team from Fifty Point and Conservation Areas across the watershed come to participate this biannual work project each spring and fall.