



# Municipality of West Elgin

## Addendum Agenda

### Council Meeting

Date: December 18, 2025, 4:00 p.m.  
Location: Council Chambers  
160 Main Street  
West Lorne

Council Meetings are held in-person at 160 Main Street, West Lorne, and the post-meeting recording available at [www.westelgin.net](http://www.westelgin.net), when available (pending no technical difficulties).

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81583577250?pwd=eK7Gzo5iZpj190lmBX4x4bPbMNXsVB.1>  
Pages

#### 15. Correspondence

##### 15.9 Resolutions Re: Conservation Authorities Act

15.9.6 *Township of Drummond/North Elmsley* 2

15.14 *County of Elgin, Notice of Transportation Masterplan* 4

15.15 *MOECP Letter dated December 5, 2025 Re: Update on the proposed environmental assessment regulation for municipal infrastructure* 5



# The Corporation of the Township of Drummond/North Elmsley

---

310 Port Elmsley Road • Perth • Ontario • K7H 3C7

December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Hon. Todd McCarthy, Ontario Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks  
Scott Reid, MP  
John Jordan, MPP Lanark-Frontenac-Kingston  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario  
Rural Ontario Municipal Association  
Rideau Valley Conservation Authority  
Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority  
All Municipalities in Ontario

## **Re: Proposed Consolidation of Conservation Authorities & New Provincial Conservation Agency**

At its Council meeting on December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025, the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Drummond/North Elmsley adopted the following motion:

### **Resolution Number 25-122**

**WHEREAS**, the *Conservation Authorities Act* (1946) enables municipalities to establish local conservation authorities, and when municipalities choose to form such authorities, they assume responsibility for governance and funding through the appointment of a Board of Directors and the provision of an annual levy;

**AND WHEREAS**, local municipalities established the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority in 1966 and the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority in 1968, and currently provide over 50% of total conservation authority funding, while the Province of Ontario provides less than 5%;

**AND WHEREAS**, municipalities have governed their respective conservation authorities for decades, tailoring programs and services to local watershed needs, maintaining accountable services standards, and ensuring fair and predictable costs for ratepayers;

**AND WHEREAS**, Bill 68 (Schedule 3) and ERO posting 025-1257 proposes to consolidate Ontario's 36 conservation authorities into seven regional authorities and create the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency, a Crown agency that would assume oversight over conservation authorities and have the ability to levy authorities to cover its costs;



# The Corporation of the Township of Drummond/North Elmsley

310 Port Elmsley Road • Perth • Ontario • K7H 3C7

**AND WHEREAS**, the Province already possesses the authority to establish overarching legislation, regulations, standards and policies across all conservation authorities through the *Conservation Authorities Act* and the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, the Township of Drummond/North Elmsley calls on the Government of Ontario to maintain local, independent, municipally governed, watershed-based conservation authorities to ensure strong local representation in decisions related to municipal levies, community-focused service delivery, and the protection and management of conservation lands;

**AND FURTHER THAT**, while the Township of Drummond/North Elmsley supports provincial goals for consistent permit approval processes, shared services and digital modernization, imposing a new top-down agency structure without strong local accountability and governance risks creating unnecessary cost, red tape, and bureaucracy, thereby undermining efficiency and responsiveness to local community needs;

**AND FURTHER THAT**, the Township of Drummond/North Elmsley supports efforts to balance expertise, capacity and program delivery across the province, and requests that the province work collaboratively with municipalities and local conservation authorities to determine the most effective level of strategic consolidation to achieve both provincial and local objectives;

**AND FURTHER THAT**, a copy of this resolution be sent to the Ontario Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks, to the local MP(s) and MPP(s), the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Rural Ontario Municipal Association, the local conservation authority(s), and all municipalities in Ontario.

**CARRIED**

Sincerely,

Janie Laidlaw,  
Clerk



# Notice of Master Plan

## County of Elgin Transportation Master Plan



### Recommended Transportation Master Plan

The County of Elgin has prepared its first **Transportation Master Plan (TMP)**, branded **Elgin in Motion**. This is a strategic, long-term plan to guide transportation policies, infrastructure and services across all travel modes to meet the needs of residents, businesses and visitors through **2054**.

The TMP study followed the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment process (MCEA, 2024), Approach #1 for master plans under the *Environmental Assessment Act, 1990*.

### Recommendations of the TMP

Based on study findings through technical analysis and consultation inputs from County Council, County staff, Local Municipal Partners, stakeholders and members of the public, the TMP recommends 26 actions, guided by a vision and six transportation goals for Elgin County. Recommended actions are organized across the following focus areas:

- Responding to anticipated road capacity constraints
- Updating county road classification and design
- Rationalizing County transportation assets
- Supporting safety on County roads
- Responsiveness to changes and challenges
- Passenger transit service provision
- E-Bikes and other micromobility vehicles
- Pedestrian crossings of County roads
- Facilitating and managing heavy truck traffic
- Supporting the movement of agricultural equipment
- Supporting rail freight

Recommended actions include protection of identified strategic arterial corridors to prioritize their traffic mobility function and related improvements, road and bridge asset transfers (from County to Local Municipality), removal of two County bridges on local roads, continuing to make road safety improvements, exploring in further detail how to provide passenger transit service connectivity

across Elgin County, operational improvements, policies and guidelines, studies, engagement/partnerships and more. Many recommended actions are Exempt under the Environmental Assessment process.

Two recommended infrastructure improvements require further Environmental Assessment (EA) investigation:

- **Widening of Highbury Avenue** from two to four lanes from Highway 401 to St. Thomas – a joint Class C EA in partnership with the City of London, City of St. Thomas and Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (MTO) is needed.
- **Widening of Wellington Road** from two to four lanes from Highway 3 to St. Thomas – a joint Class B EA in partnership with the City of St. Thomas, MTO, Municipality of Central Elgin and Township of Southwold is needed.

### Public Review Period

By this notice, the TMP report is being placed online in the public record for a minimum 30-day public review period from December 12, 2025, to January 16, 2026, and inviting review and public comment. This notice first issued on December 12, 2025.

The TMP Summary report, together with companion reports, are available at [engageelgin.ca/TMP](https://engageelgin.ca/TMP). Hard copies are also available for viewing at the County Administration Building, 450 Sunset Drive, St. Thomas, Monday to Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

Please direct all comments and questions about the TMP to the contacts listed below, or by submitting them through [engageelgin.ca/tmp](https://engageelgin.ca/tmp) in the Public Engagement section. Written feedback will be accepted until January 16, 2026.

### Peter Dutchak, Director of Engineering Services County of Elgin

450 Sunset Drive, St. Thomas, ON N5R 5V1  
[tmp@elgin.ca](mailto:tmp@elgin.ca)

### Anna Mori, Consultant Project Manager Arcadis

55 St. Clair Ave. West, 7th Floor, Toronto, ON, M4V 2Y7  
[tmp@elgin.ca](mailto:tmp@elgin.ca)

December 5, 2025

**Subject: Update on the proposed environmental assessment regulation for  
municipal infrastructure**

Good afternoon,

I am writing to share an update on the proposed Municipal Project Assessment Process (MPAP), a new environmental assessment (EA) regulation for certain municipal infrastructure projects. If implemented, this regulation would replace the current Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (MCEA).

The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (ministry) continues to modernize Ontario's EA program. Our goal is to reduce delays for critical infrastructure projects, while maintaining strong environmental protections and opportunities for public consultation.

**Background**

In March 2023, we posted an initial proposal on the Environmental Registry to review EA requirements for municipal infrastructure projects.

In February 2024, we began consulting on a more detailed proposal for regulations under Part II.4 of the amended Environmental Assessment Act. These regulations would identify municipal projects subject to the streamlined EA process outlined in the proposed MPAP regulation.

**Next steps**

We appreciate the feedback received so far. In response to input received during earlier consultations, we are considering changes to the February 2024 proposal. These updates are outlined in the [updated proposal posting](#).

The ministry is seeking your input as we finalize the streamlined EA project list and process regulation.

**Provide comments**

For details on the updated proposal and to provide your input, visit:  
<https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-7891>.

The comment period is open until **February 3, 2026 (60 days)**.

If you have questions, please contact the EA Modernization team at:  
[EAmmodernization.mecp@ontario.ca](mailto:EAmmodernization.mecp@ontario.ca).

Thank you for your continued engagement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Cross". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter "A" being large and prominent.

Annamaria Cross  
Director, Environmental Assessment Modernization Branch  
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks