

Ministry of Transportation Overview

Ministry of Transportation

Ontario 

Table of Contents

- Divisional Overview
 - TUSB
 - HOMB
 - West Region
- OTIF
- Southwestern Ontario Transportation Plan
- Appendix

Divisional Overview

OD: Overview

- Operations Division (OD) focuses on regional delivery of programs, transportation user services, and operational policy
- OD oversees the maintenance and operation of the provincial transportation network and related assets through two provincial branches and four regional branches:
 - Highway Operations Management Branch
 - Transportation User Services Branch
 - Regional Operations Branches
 - Organized into four regions (Central, East, North, West)
 - Regional Operations Branches are the ministry integrators for all transportation services in their geographic location, including advocating for stakeholder and Indigenous needs and supporting delivery of work such as capital projects, transportation safety, transportation policy and planning etc.

Key Statutory Responsibilities:

- *Public Transportation and Highway Improvement Act (PTHIA)*
- *Highway Traffic Act (HTA)*
- *Local Roads Boards Act (LRB)*
- *Highway 407 Act*
- *Highway 407 East Act*
- *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act (EMPCA)*

** See Appendix A for more details*



OD: Overview

OD work includes:

- Maintenance of approximately 17,000 centreline-km or 40,000 lane-km of highways including operations of four P3 highway projects
- Managing about 108 lane-km lanes (High Occupancy Vehicle/Toll lanes)
- Managing 81 carpool lots
- Supporting 11 ferry services and managing 4 ferry terminals
- Managing 29 remote northern airports, 30 airport garages, 28 airport terminals and about 30 km of runway
- Maintaining 15 tunnels
- Managing long term concession style contracts:
 - Highway (407 ETR) – 99 years
 - Operations, maintenance, and rehabilitation phase of 4 P3 contracts – 30 years
 - Operate 1 tolled King's Highway (407 East) – 30 years
 - Oversee 23 ONroute highway service centres – 50 years

OD maintains assets such as:

- Pavements and roadbeds
- Culverts and drains
- Lighting and traffic signals
- Signs and sign structures
- Guiderail and median barriers
- Road weather sensing stations
- 32 Truck Inspection Stations
- COMPASS traffic information
- Patrol yards, storage domes

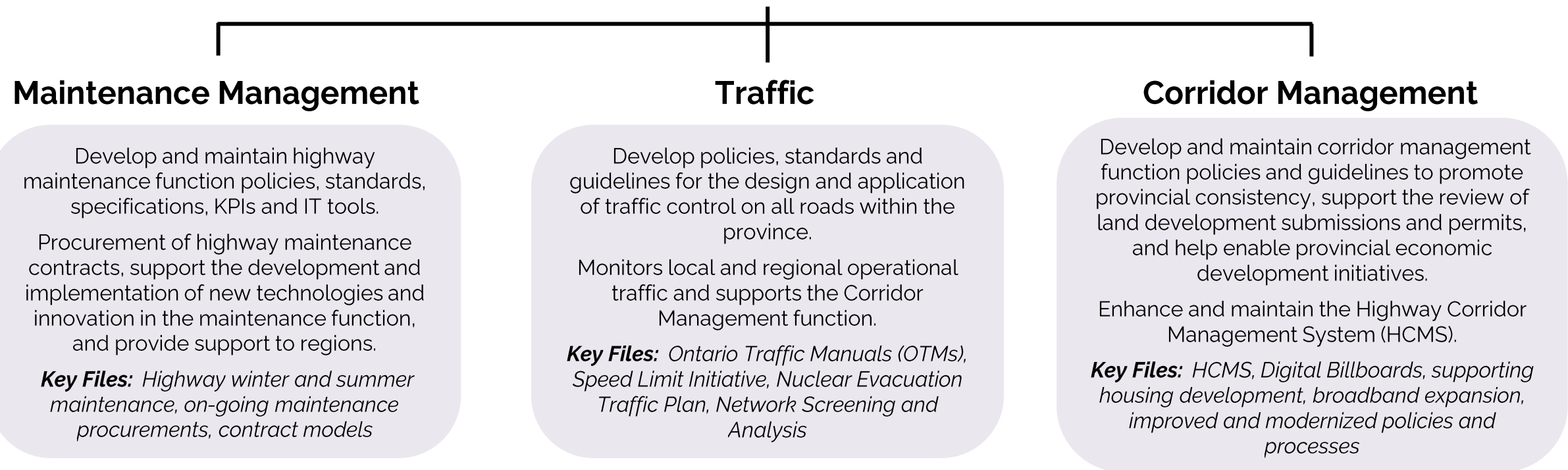


Highway Operations Management Branch (HOMB)

Highway Operations Management Branch Overview

DESCRIPTION: Provides provincial direction, operational policy setting, operational traffic engineering and coordination for corridor management, maintenance, traffic, provincial sign shop, special highway operations initiatives, oversize/overweight permits, and Emergency Management and Continuity of Operations Planning.

Highway Operations Management Branch (7 Offices)



Highway Operations Management Branch Overview

Highway Operations Management Branch

Special Highway Operations Initiatives

Develop and manage high profile special highway operation initiatives and support key ministry and provincial initiatives.

Key Files: EV ChargeON, Tow Zone Program, Pothole Prevention Program

Emergency Management & Planning

Continuity of operations, ministry emergency management program compliance, incident response coordination and support with regions and branches, planning for response to nuclear emergencies, and physical security planning.

Key Files: Ministry Emergency Response Plan (MERP), Ministry Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP); Provincial Nuclear Emergency Response Plan (PNERP)

Highway Operations Permits

Ensure that over-dimensional vehicles and loads are routed and transported in a manner that promotes the safety of all road users and preservation of the provincial transportation infrastructure.

Key Files: Permit application review and replacement strategy, and superload permits. Lean review recommendation implementation.

Provincial Sign Shop

Fabrication of provincial and municipal signs including signs for key provincial initiatives.

Key Files: Ontario Builds signage, Capital Program signage, Minister event signage

Highway Operations Management Branch Priority Files

Highway Corridor Management System (HCMS) Enhancements

- Continued improvements to make it easier for the public, businesses and developers to submit applications and receive associated permits and approvals, including the recently released Land Development Review Module and Permit Replacement feature. Ongoing system enhancements for Public Secure and Single Login/Account Management, and comprehensive change management activities.

Corridor Management Policy Framework

- Enhancing corridor management policies and processes to ensure province-wide consistency and support strategic initiatives (supporting housing development, digital billboards, broadband expansion, development projects), while protecting infrastructure assets and economic value.

Highway Operations Permits

- Training and transition to online only applications from service providers and remainder of carriers via Permitting and Registration for International Registration Plan and Oversize/Overweight (PRIO) by December 2025.

Government Stream – Electric Vehicle (EV) ChargeON

- On January 28, 2025, the ministry awarded the contract with the successful vendor (eCAMION Inc.) for the design, build, operation and maintenance of EV charging stations at 15 government-owned sites across Ontario.

Permanent and Expanded Tow Zone Pilot

- Permanent Tow Zone Program was approved November 25, 2024 as part of the RGLSTA.
- Working to develop the Minister's Regulation for Restricted Tow Zones, TB Submission, and LRC Package to support implementation (targeting Spring 2025).

Pothole Prevention Program

- Announced in the Reducing Gridlock, Saving You Time Act (RGLSTA), the program is focused on supporting smaller municipalities with pothole prevention and repair, and to encourage consistent, province-wide municipal asset management.
- Program development is underway, including eligibility criteria, proposed funding rollout, and seeking necessary approvals.

Highway Operations Management Branch Priority Files

Ministry Emergency Response and Continuity of Operations Plans (MERP and COOP)

- Working to complete annual compliance, legislated requirement which includes COOP and MERP.
- Leading exercise planning and development of nuclear transportation management plans to support the ministry's participation in an international nuclear exercise in spring 2025.

Operational Traffic Engineering

- Work continues to grow capacity to review traffic impact studies associated with corridor permit applications as part of a streamlined, efficient and responsive approval process supporting economic growth in the province.
- Completes technical assessments of needs and appropriate solutions while engaging with and responding to stakeholders.
- Supports emergency management and special event planning.

Procurement and development of highway maintenance contract models

- Tendered the first maintenance contract for an Indigenous business.
- Advertised the first contract using the newly developed Contractor Directed Maintenance Contract (CDMC) Minor model.
- Over \$1.13 billion procured and awarded in 2024.

Ontario Builds Signage Production

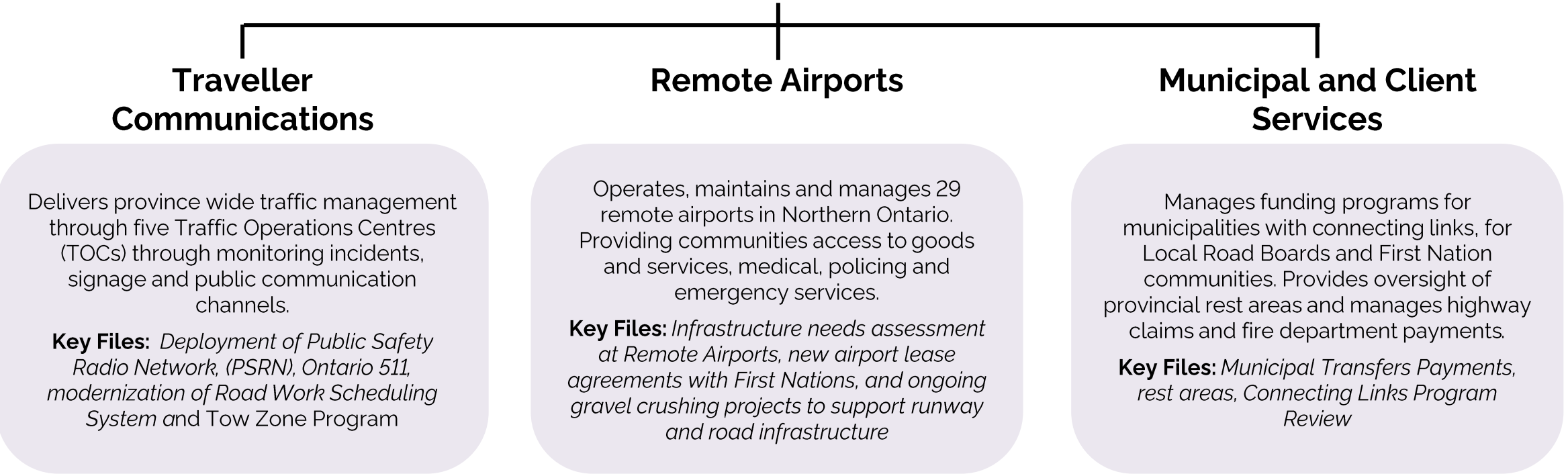
- Responsible for producing Ontario Builds signage throughout the province, including the new Highway 413 and Bradford Bypass.

Transportation User Services Branch (TUSB)

Transportation User Services Branch Overview

DESCRIPTION: Provides operational policy and provincial service delivery for public-facing services through six separate offices. Our front-line offices are: Remote Airports, Marine Services and Traveller Communications Office. Our contract services offices are Intelligent Transportation Systems and Concessions Agreements. Municipal and Client Services manages several stakeholder relationships and funding programs with municipalities.

Transportation User Services Branch (6 offices)



Transportation User Services Branch Overview

Transportation User Services Branch

Intelligent Transportation Systems

Leads and supports the planning, design, construction and maintenance of ITS infrastructure across the province. Supports the operation of Traffic Operation Centers. Develops policy and standards, investigates new technologies and manages associated data.

Key Files: ITS capital delivery program, AI opportunities, QEW Innovation Corridor, Priority Projects include Municipal uploads (DVP + Ottawa 174) and 401 Tunnel

Concessions Agreements

Manages the long-term Public Private Partnership (P3) concession agreements including the operations, maintenance and rehabilitation functions for all MTO P3 highways, ONroute facilities and highway tolling services.

Key Files: Public Private Partnership agreements, ONroute, 407ETR

Marine Services

MTO operates and supports 11 passenger ferry operations with 16 vessels serving 12 provincial routes and one international route to the USA. Manages the contract for the Pelee Island Transportation Service.

Key Files: Delivering more sustainable ferry services using some of the first fully-electric ferries in North America, enhancing communications for ferry users, active maintenance on our fleet and reviewing future options for Howe Island Ferry

Transportation User Services Branch Priority Files

QEW Innovation Corridor

- The QEW Innovation Corridor project provides an opportunity for industry and the government to come together to foster innovation, drive partnerships and offer a platform for the safe testing of advanced freeway technologies.

Ontario 511

- Ontario 511 Traveller Information is proceeding with an open-competitive procurement to replace the existing Software as a Service (SaaS) solution, the current contract expires March 2025.

Lighting Conversion Project (Herb Gray Parkway)

- CAO is currently negotiating with WEMG to convert all tunnel lighting within the Rt. Hon. Herb Gray Parkway to LED fixtures to reduce MTO's overall energy costs over the remaining 20 years of the concession agreement.

Provincial Rest Area Expansion

- The current 5-year rest area expansion and rehabilitation program is in its final years, and we are working with the regions to identify new rest areas or opportunities for rehabilitation to create more year-round rest areas.

Connecting Links Program Review

- Currently reviewing the \$30M program that offers application-based funding for road and bridge improvements on 114 Connecting Links in 77 municipalities annually to address needs identified by municipalities and to modernize the program.

Artificial Intelligence in Traffic Management

- Working closely with I+IT to pilot the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in traffic management and Intelligent Transportation Systems technology to prepare MTO for the future and the anticipated improvements in data management and efficiencies.

Improving Provincial Ferry Operations

- Working with our municipal partners to improve communications for ferry users and deliver a more reliable and sustainable ferry service.,

Airport Infrastructure Needs Assessment

- Looking at airport improvements and runway classification changes to support the airlines with their transition to newer aircraft which include, runway design, additional AWOS (automated weather observations system) and new terminals.

Regional Operations (West)

Regional Operations Overview

DESCRIPTION: Regional Operation Offices integrate the delivery of ministry services in the region, including issues management, fostering and building stakeholder and Indigenous relationships, corridor management, emergency management, infrastructure preservation and protection, and maintenance and operations, to ensure a safe, continuous flow of people, goods and services to facilitate economic prosperity.

Regional Operations

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graph TD; RO[Regional Operations] --- RSR[Regional Services and Relationships]; RO --- HO[Highway Operations];
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Regional Services and Relationships

The **Regional Services and Relationships (RSR) office** supports issues management, stakeholder and Indigenous relationships, manages external and internal communication products while supporting the offices of the Director and ADM. Provides advice, expertise and facilitation related to stakeholder and Indigenous relations and develops strategic plans and approaches that work to build partnerships with our stakeholders and Indigenous partners while supporting and promoting transportation planning and program delivery.

Highway Operations

Highway Operations office is responsible for the administration and oversight of maintenance contracts, administering the ministry's corridor management and providing support for capital improvements. Participates in regional emergency preparedness, provides technical support and oversight to local roads boards and delivers a vital Minor Capital program that preserves the provincial road network.

Regional Operations Overview

Winter Maintenance

- Regional offices oversee year-round highway maintenance for approx. 40,000 lane kilometres of provincial highways and 3,000 bridges, representing \$82B of assets through the highway maintenance program.
- The province is currently divided into 31 highway maintenance areas including four Public Private Partnership maintenance areas. Year-round maintenance responsibilities include incident response, pothole patching, drainage, shoulder repairs, vegetation management, electrical, bridge maintenance, pavement markings, signs etc.

Corridor Management

- Responsibilities include creating safe, efficient and sustainable highway corridors that enable mobility and economic development through an approach that is customer-focused and partnership driven.
- Develop and administer legislation, policy and guidelines for Highway Corridor Management.
- MTO processes 5,000 to 7,000 permits annually that generate approximately \$6M per year in fees. Over 1,800 permits are related to land development.

Stakeholder Relations

- Key partners of OD include Indigenous communities, municipalities, transportation sector stakeholders and partners, local businesses, community developers, 407ETR, ONroute, etc.
- Regional Operations provide overall support with relationships that MTO has with partners and stakeholders as the one-window of support for MTO.
- In addition to daily stakeholder relations, OD also plays a key role at municipal conferences such as AMO (Association of Municipalities of Ontario), regional roundtable meetings with Indigenous communities and other external events.

Key Files – West Region (In AMCTO Zone 1)

Stakeholder & Indigenous Engagements

- Continuing to build positive relationships with stakeholders & Indigenous partners.
 - West Operations has 117 municipal stakeholders (13 upper tier, 93 lower tier, 11 single tier), 12 Indigenous communities, 25 MPP offices, and numerous agencies and special interest community groups.

Highway Operations

- West Operations manages 5,300 main line lane kilometres.
- Manages three road maintenance contracts and three pavement marking contracts.
- West Region has 6 border crossings.

Gordie Howe Bridge Opening (estimated in Sept. 2025)

- Collaborating with the Windsor Detroit Bridge Authority for the opening of the Gordie Howe International Bridge

Pelee Island Ferry Service

- Oversee operations of the Owen Sound Transportation Company who manages the Pelee Island Transportation Service.

Upcoming Highway Infrastructure Projects (In AMCTO Zone 1)

Highway 401 Bloomfield Road – Seventh Line Realignment

- Realigning of Seventh Line West to accommodate the future construction of the Highway 401 Bloomfield Interchange.

Highway 40 Sarnia Area – Various Jobs

- Pavement resurfacing Wellington to north limit
- Canadian National Railway (CNR) bridge replacement
- Pavement resurfacing from Petrolia to Churchill

Highway 3 Elgin Project

- New Highway 3 Talbotville bypass, widening of Highway 4, a and twinning of existing Highway 3.

Highway 3 Essex – Phase 3 Contract 2

- On-going construction for Twinning of existing Highway 3.

Highway 401 Lauzon Parkway

- Preliminary design for interchange of future Lauzon Parkway extension.

Highway 401 Structures – West of Tilbury

- Gracey Sideroad bridge replacement
- Tremblay Creek Culvert rehabilitation

Highway 401 Wonderland Road- London

- Construction beginning May 2025 for traffic signals and illumination at the South End Ramp Terminal.

Highway 402 Kerwood Road to Nauvoo Rd

- Detail design for pavement resurfacing.

Highway 402 Nauvoo Road to Airport Road

- Detail design pavement resurfacing and structure rehabilitations.

Highway 401 Structures - Elgin

- Initiating design for following structures:
 - Currie Road
 - Coyne Road
 - Lawrence Road
 - Former CNR Overhead

Highway 401 Tilbury to London Expansion

- Completing necessary engineering work & environmental assessments.

Ontario Transit Investment Fund (OTIF)

Ontario Transit Investment Fund (OTIF)

Objective: Start-up and grow transit services to address transit gaps in Ontario, particularly in rural areas.

Core Program Principles: OTIF transit services should be:



Integrated



Coordinated



Sustainable

Timeline: OTIF is an application-based program, which will consider submissions at any time over the life of the program.

Available Funding: The OTIF program budget is \$5 million per year, starting in 2025-26. Successful OTIF applicants can receive up to five years of provincial funding to cover up to 50% of total project costs. The OTIF contribution in the final year will be capped at 30% of the final year costs to support a gradual transition to a sustainable transit service.



Visit ontario.ca/OTIF to learn more or email us at MTO-SIO@ontario.ca.

OTIF Eligibility

Core Program Principles: OTIF transit services should be:



Municipalities



Indigenous
Communities



Non-profit
Organizations

Applicants are strongly encouraged to include all relevant partners and stakeholders in the proposed service area to ensure that projects are coordinated, integrated, and leverage all available resources.

Project Eligibility: A project must fill a transit service gap to be eligible for funding. Projects will not qualify for funding if they duplicate an existing service.

Eligible projects may include:



New service to close a demonstrable transit gap



Expansion of existing transit service to reach unserved communities



Addressing a first mile/last mile gap to connect a community to a new or existing service



Work to integrate existing transit services (e.g. establishing new governance structures)



Southwestern Ontario Transportation Plan

Planning Transportation for Southwestern Ontario: Recent Developments

2020

- In January 2020, MTO released [Connecting the Southwest: A Draft Transportation Plan for Southwestern Ontario](#), which includes 43 improvements and strategies for public transit, rail, highways and more to get people moving and connect communities, support a competitive open for business environment, improve safety, provide more choice and convenience, and prepare for the future.
- The planning area includes 89 municipalities, 13 First Nations communities and 3 Métis community councils. These communities span approximately 30,400 km².

Connecting the Southwest: A Draft Transportation Plan for Southwestern Ontario



2021 to 2022

- As committed in [Connecting the Southwest](#) (action #9), a task force of 16 leaders from local municipalities, Indigenous communities and transportation organizations was formed to discuss regional transportation challenges and opportunities.
- The Task Force met between March 2021 and April 2022 and hosted seven mode-specific workshops with partners and stakeholders.
- A [final report](#) featuring the Task Force's recommendations was submitted to the Minister of Transportation on May 2, 2022.

Southwestern Ontario Transportation Task Force



2021 to now

- As part of the actions set out in [Connecting the Southwest](#) (action #16), MTO initiated a long-range transportation planning study for Southwestern Ontario to identify current and future transportation needs and opportunities, determine the most effective actions to meet these needs, find ways to implement the actions, and build upon the draft transportation plan by further refining our vision of Southwestern Ontario to take us to the year 2051.

Ongoing Regional Transportation Planning Technical Study



Visit ontario.ca to learn more or email us at swplan@ontario.ca

Planning Transportation for Southwestern Ontario: Ongoing Study

SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO TRANSPORTATION PLANNING STUDY
STUDY AREA MAP



How the Task Force recommendations have been considered

The [Task Force's final report](#) comprised of 70 recommendations, including 41 identified as priorities for improving the transportation network across the region. Many recommendations align with relevant work already underway throughout the Ministry.

The Task Force's recommendations were used to inform the ongoing Southwestern Ontario Transportation Planning Study, a long-range study that will examine all modes of transportation for passengers and freight to identify future needs and opportunities to the horizon year of 2051.

Ongoing Engagement

There are 4 phases to the study. When completed, this study will help identify infrastructure, program, and policy improvements to ensure the transportation network can support a competitive and open for business environment in the future and meet people's needs. There was ongoing engagement with municipalities, Indigenous communities and organizations, private sector stakeholders, as well as outreach to the public through an online survey and posting to the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO).

Phase 1 (2021 – 2022). Set goals and objectives for the long-range plan and determine how to measure success. Also develop forecasts of population and employment growth and consider future expected impacts from climate change.

Phase 2 (2022 – 2023). Undertake technical analysis to understand the different needs and opportunities for different modes of transportation (driving, public transit, ferries, trains, etc.), both now and in the future.

Phase 3 (2023 – 2024). Identify potential actions to include in the long-range plan and evaluate which ones to recommend implementing, including options developed external to the study such as the Southwestern Ontario Transportation Task Force recommendations.

Phase 4 (2024 – now). Consolidate the findings in a recommended long-range transportation plan for the region that will support government decision-making, including actions to take in the short- (by 2031), medium- (by 2041), and long-term (by 2051).

Next Steps

MTO has now begun the final phase of the study, which is expected to be completed by late 2025. Following government approval, a final transportation plan will be developed based on the recommendations put forward by the technical planning study.



Visit ontario.ca to learn more or email us at swplan@ontario.ca

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Appendix A:

Key Statutory Responsibilities:

- ***Public Transportation and Highway Improvement Act (PTHIA)***- provides statutory authority to construct, maintain and repair King's Highways along with controlling activities within and adjacent to provincial highways.
- ***Highway Traffic Act (HTA)*** - related to setting highway speed limits, rules of the road and signing.
- ***Local Roads Boards Act (LRB)*** - provides authority, rules for residents in territory without municipal organization to establish boards to look after local roads in their areas upon petition to the Minister of ten or more property owners.
- ***Highway 407 Act*** - transfers the Crown's interest in Highway 407 to a private concessionaire who is authorized to set and collect tolls and requires the concessionaire to maintain the Ministry's safety standards on the highway.
- ***Highway 407 East Act*** - designates Highway 407 East as a toll highway and provides rules, similar to Highway 407 Act.
- ***Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act (EMPCA)*** - establishes the province's legal framework for managing disruptions to government operations, and emergencies by defining the authority and responsibilities accorded to provincial ministries, municipalities, and to specific individuals.