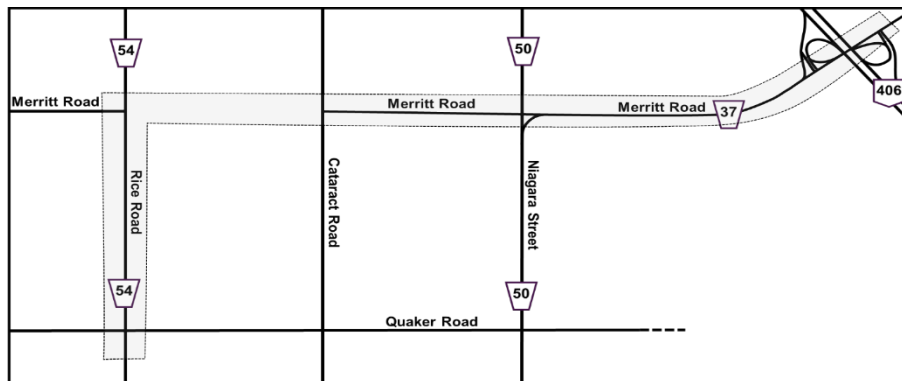


Notice of Study Commencement

Schedule 'C' Municipal Class Environmental Assessment for Merritt Rd. (RR 37) and Rice Rd. (RR 54) in Pelham, Thorold and Welland

The Study

The Regional Municipality of Niagara (Niagara Region) has initiated an Environmental Assessment Study for improvements to Merritt Road and Rice Road as a result of proposed developments in the Town of Pelham, the City of Thorold and the City of Welland.



This study will build on the recommendations of the Niagara Region's Transportation Master Plan (TMP), which included the following:

- Extension of Merritt Road between Regional Road 54 (Rice Road) and Cataract Road;
- Capacity improvements of Merritt Road from Cataract Road to Highway 406; and,
- Capacity improvements to Regional Road 54 (Rice Road) from 200 meters north of Merritt Road to Quaker Road.

The Study aims to reimagine the two roadways to meet the future needs of the surrounding community for all road users. The study will address active transportation needs by providing dedicated pedestrian and cyclist infrastructure that is safe, attractive, conform to a complete streets approach, and compatible with the changing land use in the three local municipalities.

The Process

The study is being carried out as a Schedule 'C' project in accordance with the requirements outlined in the Municipal Engineers Association (MEA) Municipal Class EA document (October 2000, as amended in 2007, 2011 & 2015), which is an

approved process under the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act. Once the study is complete, an Environmental Study Report (ESR) will be prepared and available for public review and comment. A Notice of Completion will be issued at that stage.

Public Comments Invited

Consultation with the public, Indigenous Nations, regulatory agencies and stakeholders is a key element of the Class EA process. Project notifications will be issued at key milestones through advertisement in local newspapers, emails and mail outs to the contacts on the Study Mailing List. Three (3) Public Information Centres (PICs) **(possibly in an online format)** will be conducted to solicit public input. The PICs will provide an opportunity for the public to review the proposed alternative solutions and designs, as well as provide comments and discuss concerns and issues with the project team. As the Study progresses and more information becomes available, it will be posted on [the project webpage](#).

COVID-19

Niagara Region recognizes that this project is being carried out during uncertain times with respect to the Covid-19 pandemic. Niagara Region will take all necessary steps to ensure maintaining the health and safety of the public. Given the uncertainty of the pandemic, most of the future consultation and communications with the public will be online. As such, the project team is asking that **if you would like to receive future notices via email, to please provide your email address** to the Region Project Manager identified below. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact one of the project team members identified below:

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Notice First Issued: January 4, 2021.

Information will be collected in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record.