

### The Windsor-Essex Parkway

The Windsor-Essex Parkway is part of a long-term transportation solution to improve the movement of goods and people between the Windsor-Detroit border – a vital gateway and key to Ontario’s economic well-being.

#### Project Features

The Windsor-Essex Parkway will continue Ontario’s Highway 401 through the municipalities of Tecumseh, LaSalle and Windsor. The Parkway’s design consists of a six-lane below-grade freeway which is an extension of Highway 401, a four-lane service road network which is an extension of Highway 3 and naturalized green space that will distance adjacent residents from the border-bound traffic travelling on the freeway.

The Parkway is a once-in-a-generation undertaking. It is unprecedented in its community enhancement features for any highway, anywhere in Ontario and will include:

- 11 tunnels covering 1.8 kilometres of freeway
- extensive landscaping throughout the corridor
- the use of proven techniques to reduce noise levels
- special measures to protect wildlife.

#### Vision

Upon completion, the 11 kilometre Parkway will ease the movement of goods and people to and from the Windsor-Detroit border, separate local and international traffic, and eliminate stop-and-go traffic in residential areas. With more than 300 acres of green space, 20 kilometres of recreational trails and new community connections, residents in Windsor-Essex will enjoy an improved quality of life.

#### Delivery method

The Parkway is the first Ontario road project to be delivered using an alternative financing and procurement (AFP) model – a public-private partnership delivery method. In December 2010, the province signed a fixed-price contract with the Windsor Essex Mobility Group (WEMG) to design, build, finance and to provide long-term maintenance of the Windsor-Essex Parkway. AFP allows the project to be delivered faster and more efficiently (at a lower, long-term net cost) than traditional procurement, protects taxpayers from cost overruns, and transfers risks to the partner who has the expertise, experience and ability to handle that risk best.

#### Organizations involved

The Province of Ontario will own the Windsor-Essex Parkway.

The Windsor Essex Mobility Group (WEMG) is a consortium of three of the world’s largest and most successful infrastructure developers, including: ACS Infrastructure Canada Inc., Acciona Concessions Canada, and Fluor Canada Ltd. They are responsible for designing, financing, constructing, and maintaining the Parkway over 30 years.

The design and construction of the project will be performed under contract with Parkway Infrastructure Constructors (PIC), a joint venture of Fluor Canada, Ltd., Dragados Canada, Inc. and Acciona Infrastructures Canada Inc. PIC is partnering with local contractors and business enterprises in the Windsor-Essex area to deliver the Parkway.

As part of the project agreement between Ontario and WEMG, there are firm commitments with local companies for portions of the work. PIC estimates between 60 to 80 sub-contracts worth hundreds of millions of dollars will be put out to tender over the course of the project. PIC intends on maximizing the use of local sub-trades and it has indicated the majority of on-site labour will go to tradespersons in the region. About 1,200 workers are expected on the site daily, at the peak of construction.

WEMG and PIC are committed to a *Zero Incident Policy*. To protect the health and safety of their staff, all employees are required to take detailed safety training, to assess and verify daily that their work environments are safe, and to discuss approaches to safety as part of their project planning. From project inception through June 2011, PIC has recorded 117,116 work hours with no critical injuries or lost work day cases.

Local partnerships have been struck with Hatch Mott MacDonald, Amico Infrastructure Inc., Dillon Consulting Ltd., LEA Consulting Ltd., AMEC and Black & McDonald and contracts have been set-up with Jones Group, AMICO and Siefker.

Since January 2011, more than 450 people from the community have been hired to construct new offices, assist with the relocation of species at risk plants, conduct geotechnical surveys and to oversee safety.

In preparation for the Parkway, the Province acquired approximately 900 properties, assumed portions of municipal roadways, and completed initial construction work and advanced utility relocations. Unique partnerships have been established between the Province and various organizations. *W.E. Pay It Forward* was a program developed by the community to work specifically on this project, salvaging reusable materials from buildings slated for demolition. Over 250 tonnes of salvaged materials was provided to local not-for-profit groups diverting and recycling materials that would normally be destined for local landfills. Ontario is supporting a three-year University of Windsor research project on the regional impacts of the Parkway and also has partnered with St. Clair College, local emergency services organizations, Walpole Island First Nation, and Workforce WindsorEssex, among others.

### **Investment**

The value of the contract for WEMG to design, build, finance and maintain the Parkway is approximately \$1.4 billion in today's dollars. The Province will make its first payment to WEMG when the first phase of the project is completed in summer 2014. The Province will make annual payments to WEMG, which are performance-based and can be withheld if WEMG does not meet the agreed to performance standards.

### **Economic benefits / job creation**

The Windsor-Essex Parkway is expected to support 12,000 jobs, with the majority in the Windsor-Essex region.

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

### **ACTIVITY**

### **START**

FINANCIAL CLOSE	December 2010
SITE PREPARATION	March 2011
CONSTRUCTION START	August 2011
PARKWAY OPEN TO TRAFFIC	Fall 2014
FINAL COMPLETION	Summer 2015

Visit [www.weparkway.ca](http://www.weparkway.ca) or [www.infrastructureontario.ca](http://www.infrastructureontario.ca) for more information.