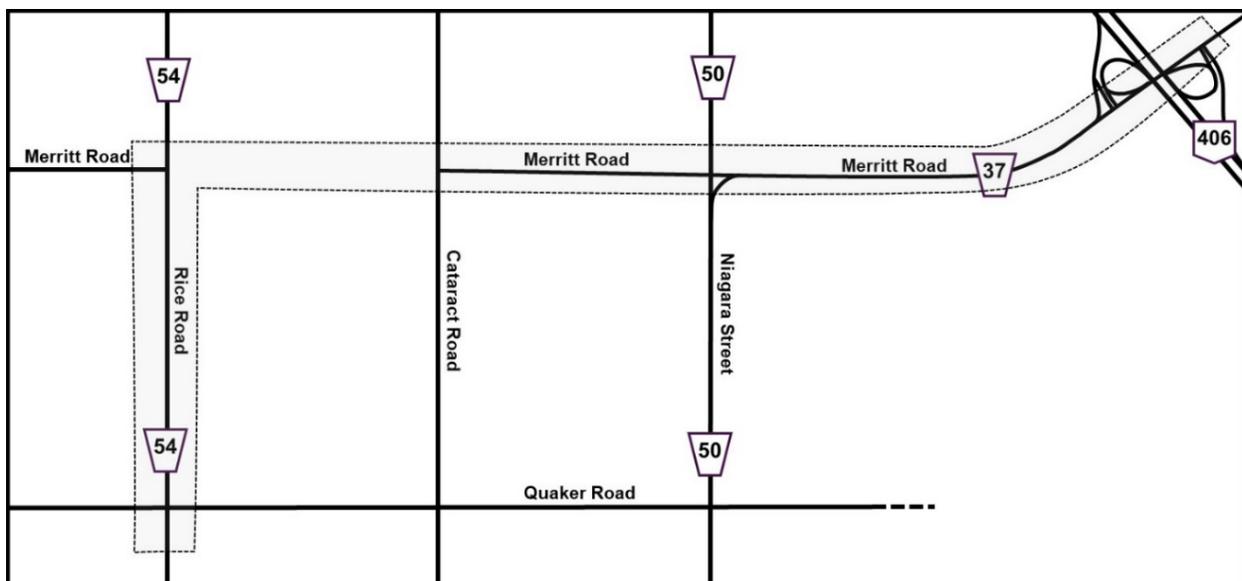


Notice of Online Public Information Centre #1 Municipal Class Environmental Assessment for Merritt Rd. (RR 37) and Rice Rd. (RR 54) in Pelham, Thorold and Welland

The Study

Niagara Region is undertaking an Environmental Assessment (EA) 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 will aim to identify improvements to 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 of the Municipal Class EA process, which is an approved process under the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act. This study will address the requirements of Phases 1 to 4 of the Municipal Class EA process. Once the study is complete, an Environmental Study Report will be prepared and available for public review and comment. A Notice of Completion will be issued at that stage.

You are invited to participate

Consultation with the public, Indigenous Nations, regulatory agencies and stakeholders is a key element of the Class EA process. Three (3) Public Information Centers will be conducted throughout this study to solicit public input. At this time, the Niagara Region is planning to host the Public Information Centre (PIC) #1. The purpose of the first PIC is to share information about the project background, Class EA Study process, the problem to be addressed by this study, and obtain preliminary input from the public for consideration into the Study process. The PIC #1 will be held in **an online format**. You can participate in this PIC by attending an online presentation and/or by viewing information materials on Wood's Virtual Consultation Platform.

Online Presentation: The Study Team will deliver an online presentation on **March 24, 2021**, starting at **6:00 pm**. There will be an opportunity at the end of the presentation to ask any questions or submit comments. Please email mir.talpur@woodplc.com (**Mir Talpur, Environmental Planner**) to receive an invite to the online presentation.

Virtual Consultation Platform: Information materials related to the Online PIC #1 will be available on [Wood's Consultation Platform on project webpage](#) starting **March 24, 2021** and comments will be received until **April 7, 2021**.

Stay Connected

If you would like to receive future notices via email, or if you have any questions or comments, please contact one of the Study Team Members identified below:

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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.