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# Backgrounder

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May 1, 2008

## Transportation Investments in Windsor and Essex County

The Governments of Canada and Ontario recognize that Windsor and Essex County contribute significantly to the prosperity of the provincial and national economies, particularly Canada – U.S. trade. That is why both levels of government have been making significant transportation investments in this area.

Recognizing that the long-term solution will take time, federal, provincial and local governments are also implementing short- and medium-term measures to relieve congestion and improve traffic flows to existing crossings until a new crossing is in place.

### Let's Get Windsor-Essex Moving Strategy

The *Let's Get Windsor-Essex Moving* strategy is a \$300-million joint commitment by the Government of Canada and the Province of Ontario to improve traffic flow and reduce congestion at the Windsor-Detroit Gateway. The fourth phase of the Highway 401 widening project is included as part of the strategy.

Recent progress on the *Let's Get Windsor-Essex Moving* strategy includes:

- a pedestrian overpass on Huron Church Road at Assumption High School
- new Intelligent Transportation Systems to improve traffic management, video monitoring, and driver information
- new signs directing trucks to the Detroit-Windsor Truck Ferry
- intersection improvements on Highway 3 at Outer Drive and Walker Road and Huron Church Road at Industrial Drive
- the start of construction on the Walker Road CPR Grade Separation.

For more information on the status of the *Let's Get Windsor-Essex Moving* strategy, please visit [www.ontario.ca/transportation](http://www.ontario.ca/transportation).

### Highway improvements from Windsor to Tilbury

The Government of Canada and the Province of Ontario have invested more than \$273 million to date to widen Highway 401. The work involves five phases:

#### Phase One - Essex Road 42 to Highway 77

With an investment of more than \$60 million, construction of this section of Highway 401 has been completed and improvements included:

- widening Highway 401 from four to six lanes to reduce congestion
- installing a concrete median barrier to enhance safety
- improving the Essex Road 42 and Highway 77 interchanges, including commuter parking lots, new lighting and turning lanes on both Highway 77 and Essex Road 42.

Phase Two - Manning Road to Puce Road

With an investment of more than \$52 million for improvements to this section of the highway, construction has been completed. Improvements included:

- widening Highway 401 from four to six lanes to reduce congestion
- installing a concrete median barrier to enhance safety
- improving the Manning Road and Puce Road interchanges to increase safety and traffic flow
- adding a new service road and commuter parking lot at the Manning Road interchange
- six structure rehabilitations, two structure replacements and one interchange improvement.

Phase Three - Highway 77 to Essex Road 27

With an investment of more than \$61 million, work has been completed. Improvements included:

- widening Highway 401 from four to six lanes to reduce congestion
- installing a concrete median barrier to enhance safety
- replacing the St. Joachim Road (French Line Road) Bridge, rebuilding the ramps and adding lighting at the interchange
- rehabilitating and widening the Ruscom River Bridge
- rehabilitating two underpass structures
- upgrading the Windsor South truck inspection station to a commercial vehicle inspection facility.

Phase Four - Highway 3 to Manning Road

With an investment of more than \$100 million, work has begun and is expected to be completed in 2010. Improvements include:

- widening Highway 401 from four to six lanes to reduce congestion
- installing a concrete median barrier to enhance safety
- replacing the Dougall Parkway, Walker Road, Provincial Road and railway bridges
- rehabilitating five underpass structures
- upgrading high mast lighting.

Phase Five - Puce Road to Essex Road 27

Work will begin this spring and is expected to be completed in the fall of 2009. Improvements will include:

- widening Highway 401 from four to six lanes to reduce congestion
- installing a concrete median barrier to enhance safety
- rehabilitation of the Maidstone Township Road 3 and the Rochester Township Road 2 underpasses
- replacement of the Belle River Road overpass
- widening and rehabilitation of the Belle River Bridge and the Duck Creek Bridge
- repairs to the Big Creek Bridge
- interchange improvements
- a new commuter parking lot at the Belle River Road interchange.

Phases one to three were funded through the Canada-Ontario Strategic Highway Infrastructure Program, a joint federal-provincial funding program for transportation infrastructure improvements in Ontario.

Through the Border Infrastructure Fund, the Government of Canada and the Province of Ontario are undertaking the construction of phases four and five.

These projects will help improve the safety, efficiency and capacity of this important trade corridor, which leads to the busiest commercial land border crossing in North America.

