

Southwestern Ontario Transportation Planning Study Phase 3 Summary

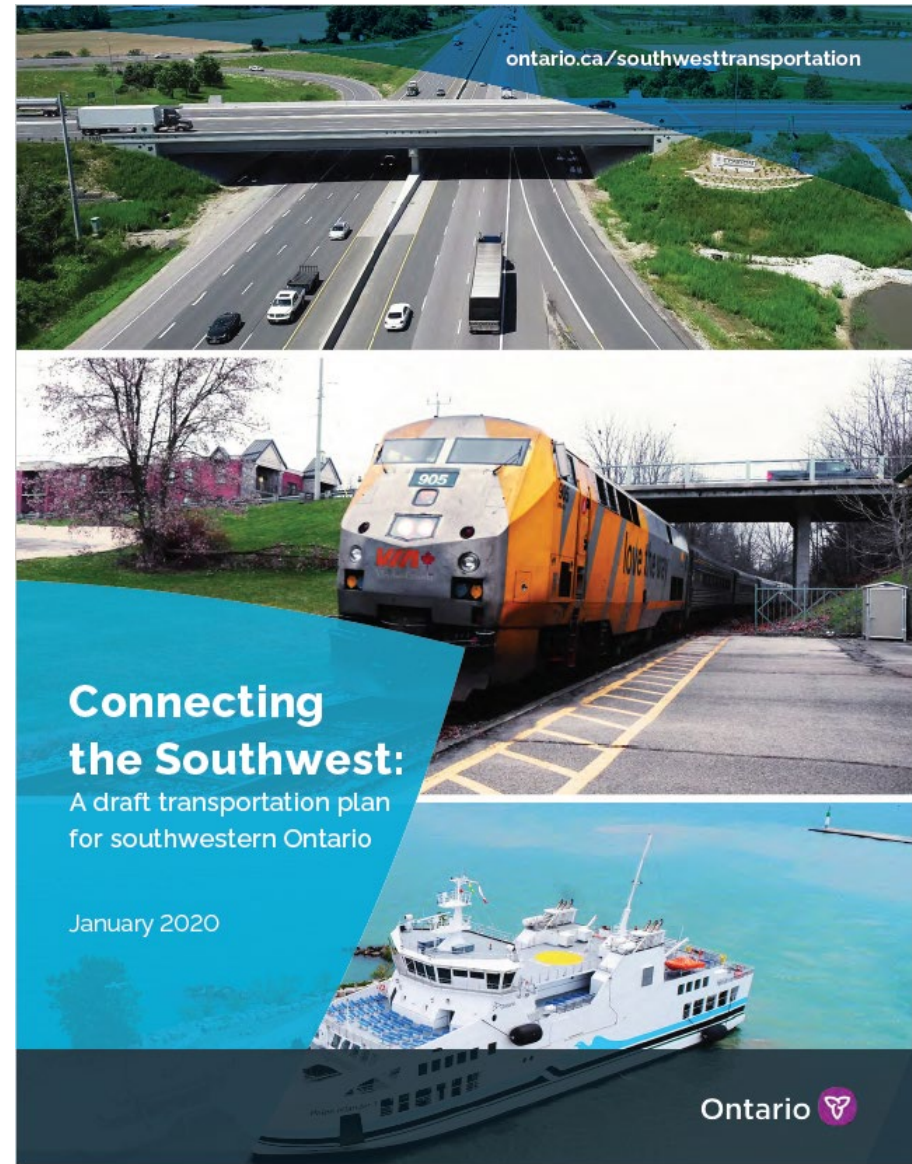
Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) posting #019-7709

Supporting Material

Study Overview

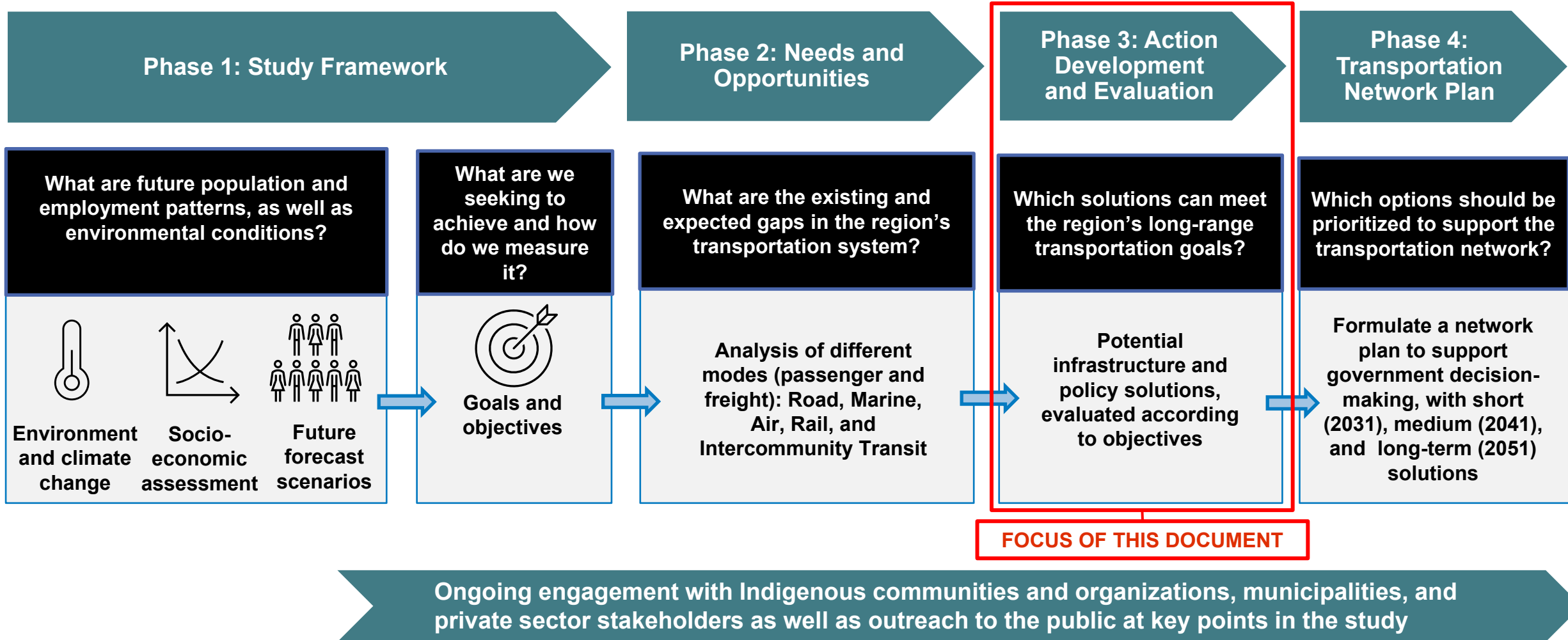
The Southwestern Ontario Transportation Planning Study will identify recommended transportation initiatives in the region over a 30-year horizon, such as:

- **Infrastructure** improvements, including maximizing the efficiency of existing infrastructure
- **Service and operational** improvements
- **Safety and emergency management** improvements
- Improvements to **ancillary transportation** facilities such as rest stops
- Approaches and processes or models to implement **innovative solutions**, as appropriate



Transportation Planning Study Phases

The Southwestern Ontario Transportation Planning Study is structured according to the following work phases:



Definitions

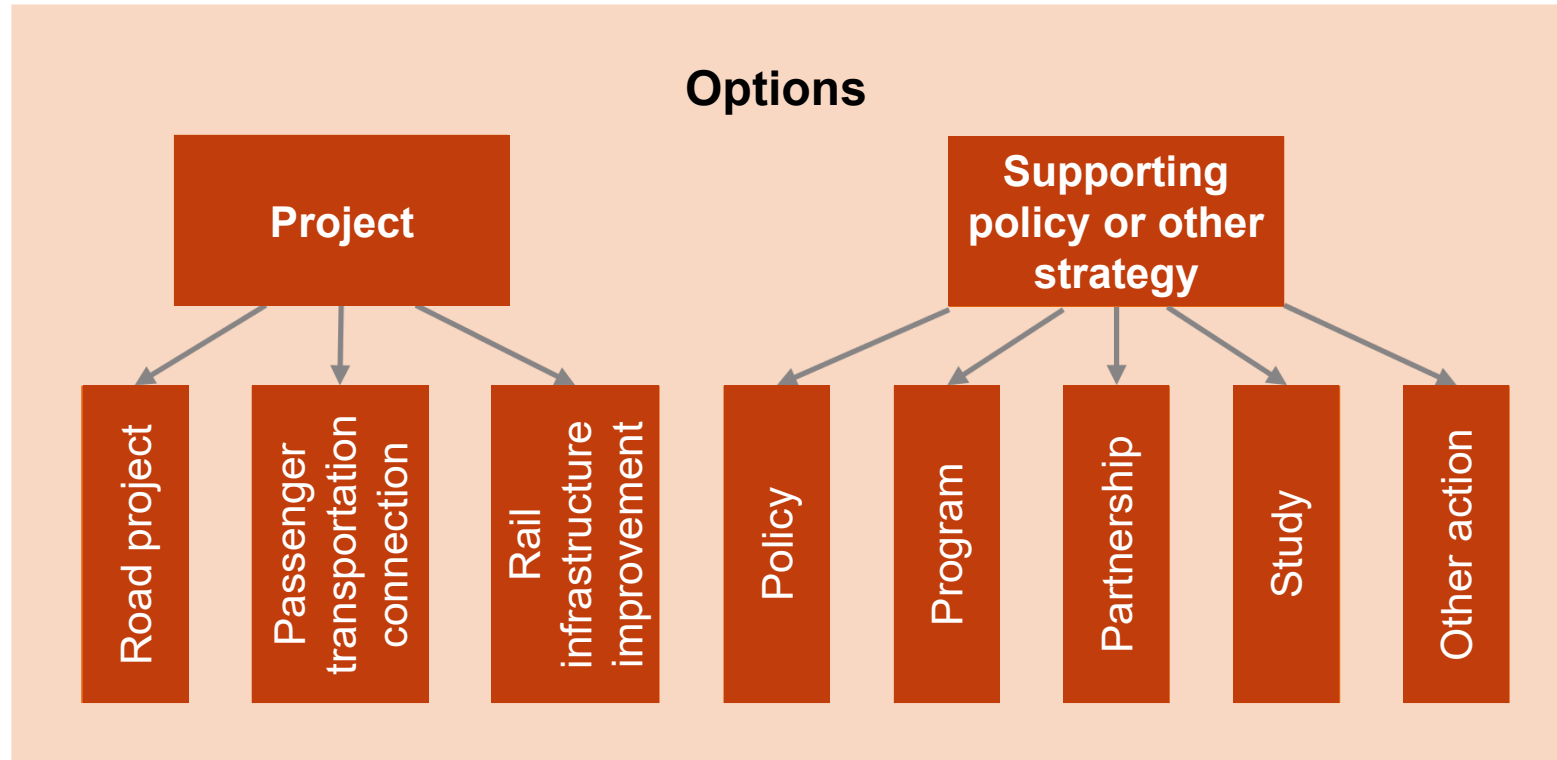
- **Vision:** Broad statement that describes a desired end state
- **Goal:** General outcomes that represent aspects of the overall vision
- **Objective:** A more specific or targeted way of attaining a goal in a measurable manner (the objectives help inform how actions are evaluated in Phase 3)
- **Option:** Any potential intervention that advances the study goals and objectives and/or addresses a need or leverages an opportunity
- **Option Group:** A collection of highly-related or synergistic options
- **Action:** An option that has been evaluated and recommended for the final plan



What is an Option? What is an Action?

There are two main types of options described below:

- Projects are supply side interventions that create new capacity in the transportation system
- Supporting policy and other strategies influence demand for the transportation system or otherwise shape its planning, design, operation, or maintenance



Options and actions must address matters of regional and/or provincial interest

Options are for planning purposes only and **do not represent government commitments**

Development of the Long List of Options

Options on the long list were informed by:

- Analysis conducted as part of this study to identify **needs and opportunities**
- **Existing plans, reports and strategies** from within southwestern Ontario and select relevant plans outside of the region
 - *Connecting the Southwest: A Draft Transportation Plan for Southwestern Ontario*
 - *Southwestern Ontario Transportation Task Force*
 - *Connecting the GGH: A Transportation Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe*
 - Topic- or area-specific studies within southwestern Ontario
 - Official Plans and Transportation Master Plans within southwestern Ontario
- **Study engagement** (ongoing)

Disclaimer: Inclusion of a project in the long list should not be read to constitute any level of government approval, or intent to include the project in the final transportation plan. The options noted on the long list are drawn from a variety of sources, could be implemented by a variety of different actors, and are at different stages of planning.



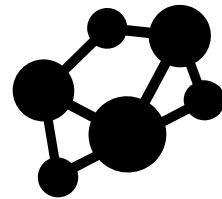
Long List of Options

Goal 1: Connecting People and Places

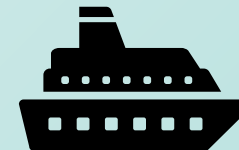
Options under Goal 1 seek to achieve the following outcomes:



Minimize travel delay



Connect urban and rural areas, including Indigenous communities



Connect communities without road access

Goal 1. Connecting People and Places



Outcome: Minimize travel delay

Implement targeted improvements along provincial highways with high traffic volumes and congestion, including through infrastructure projects and other supporting strategies

Example options include:

- *Continue expansion of the Increased Speed Limits Pilot Program*
- *Explore opportunities for ramp metering and Advanced Traffic Management System (ATMS) on 400-series highways*
- *Study congestion mitigation measures for Highways 6, 10, 21, and 40*

OPTION GROUPS

Improve performance and resilience of Highway 401 between Highway 402 and the Greater Golden Horseshoe

Promote transit-oriented land use, such as development of housing along rapid transit corridors

Work with the federal government to explore opportunities to reduce border crossing delays through improved operations, increased capacity, and addressing regulatory challenges

Goal 1. Connecting People and Places



Outcome: Connect urban and rural areas, including Indigenous communities

OPTION GROUP

Improve transit connectivity in rural and/or underserved areas including through on-demand, microtransit, and other alternative service models

Example options include:

- *Improve or provide new intercommunity passenger transportation connections with high travel demand and low access to major hubs*
- *Explore incentives for employers to align work hours with service schedules*



Outcome: Connect communities without road access

OPTION GROUP

Support ferry-based transportation through schedule improvements, amenities, fare adjustments, and increased engagement with community needs

Long List of Options

Goal 2: Supporting a Competitive Business Environment

Options under Goal 2 seek to achieve the following outcomes:



**Facilitate
goods movement**



**Strengthen
connections to jobs**



**Increase access to
recreation and tourism**

Goal 2. Supporting a Competitive Business Environment



Outcome: Facilitate goods movement

OPTION GROUPS

Explore opportunities to streamline regulation for the trucking industry, including the development of a Long Combination Vehicle network and facilitating inspections

Strengthen connections from marine ports, airports, and railyards to road network to support safe and efficient movement of goods

Facilitate marine goods movement through improvements to ports and through ferry services where appropriate

Support agricultural industries through infrastructure and programs that improve access to agrarian communities and accommodate large and slow-moving vehicles

Promote use of freight rail to relieve environmental and traffic impacts of road-based goods movement

Ensure shortline railways remain able to support local industrial economies

Goal 2. Supporting a Competitive Business Environment



Outcome: Strengthen connections to jobs

OPTION
GROUPS

Promote transportation sector employment opportunities, including airports, ports, railyards, and public transit operations

Develop southwestern Ontario as an aviation education and maintenance destination



Outcome: Increase access to recreation and tourism

OPTION
GROUPS

Support marine tourism, including cruises and destinations accessed by ferry

Ensure transportation networks support tourism industry, such as providing improved wayfinding and access to destinations

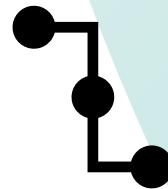
Long List of Options

Goal 3: Providing More Choice and Convenience

Options under Goal 3 seek to achieve the following outcomes:



**Provide a range of
transportation options**



**Integrate transportation
services and modes**



**Improve
competitiveness of
non-auto options**

Goal 3. Providing More Choice and Convenience



Outcome: Provide a range of transportation options

OPTION GROUPS

Prepare for new cross-border passenger transit and rail services

Continue to work with the federal government to explore the opportunity for High Frequency Rail

Implement transportation demand management measures to alleviate traffic and environmental impacts of travel, such as carpool lots, remote work, and road pricing systems



Outcome: Integrate transportation services and modes

OPTION GROUPS

Support and expand regional transit coordination initiatives

Work with local and regional service providers to develop mobility hubs and improve integration between passenger rail and local transit networks

Improve first- and last-mile connectivity to and from transit nodes

Support interconnections between regional airports and their surrounding transportation networks

Goal 3. Providing More Choice and Convenience



Outcome: Improve competitiveness of non-auto options

OPTION GROUPS

Improve effectiveness and competitiveness of inter-community transit

Expand and promote passenger rail services, in partnership with federal government, municipalities, Metrolinx, and VIA Rail

Enhance separation between passenger and freight rail, in partnership with Transport Canada, Class I railways and other stakeholders

Long List of Options

Goal 4: Increasing Health, Safety and Inclusion

Options under Goal 4 seek to achieve the following outcomes:



Improve highway safety



Mitigate adverse environmental impacts of transportation network



Connect to critical services



Transportation equity

Goal 4. Increasing Health, Safety and Inclusion



Outcome: Improve highway safety

OPTION GROUPS

Implement targeted measures to reduce collisions involving adverse weather, vulnerable road users, road-rail crossings and to increase compliance with rules of the road

Mitigate impacts of road-rail crossings, including through enhanced separation

Increase availability and quality of rest areas for commercial and passenger vehicles



Outcome: Mitigate adverse environmental impacts of transportation network

OPTION GROUP

Improve connectivity and quality of interregional cycling network

Goal 4. Increasing Health, Safety and Inclusion



Outcome: Connect to critical services

OPTION
GROUP

Provide equitable access to critical services and employment using public transit



Outcome: Transportation equity

OPTION
GROUPS

Identify and implement transportation initiatives tailored to the needs of and opportunities related to Indigenous communities

Combat human trafficking through training to increase recognition and reporting, posting educational material with the Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline and working with key partners, including MTO agencies, to increase awareness of human trafficking

Assess and address transportation needs in equity-deserving communities (e.g., Indigenous and racialized communities, low-income communities, rural communities, and persons with disabilities) through service guidelines, funding considerations, and other policy mechanisms

Long List of Options

Goal 5: Preparing for the Future

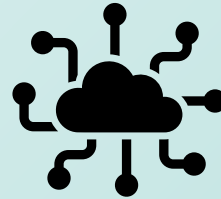
Options under Goal 5 seek to achieve the following outcomes:



**Improve network
resilience and
reliability**



**Ensure effective
investment**



**Improve availability
and quality of data**



**Prepare for emerging
and disruptive
technologies**

Goal 5. Preparing for the Future



Outcome: Improve network resilience and reliability

OPTION
GROUP

Increase network resilience and reliability by expanding the Emergency Detour Route (EDR) network, improving incident response, increasing use of intelligent transportation systems (ITS) and other measures



Outcome: Ensure effective investment

OPTION
GROUPS

Explore opportunities to improve financial sustainability of regional airports

Explore new funding opportunities for transit services

Example options include:

- *Identify long-term funding opportunities for rural and intercommunity services*
- *Explore a second intake of the Community Transportation Grant Program*
- *Provide dedicated funding for tourist-centric transportation services*

Goal 5. Preparing for the Future



Outcome: Improve availability and quality of data

OPTION GROUPS

Increase visibility and availability of real-time traveller information on highways, incorporating new data sources and improving data quality

Expand the availability of information about special commercial vehicle policy areas and heavy vehicle permissive routes to both operators and the public

Establish data collection programs on airports, ports and ferry service providers

Enhance consistency and accessibility of data on passenger transportation system performance and operations to operators, municipalities, and riders



Outcome: Prepare for emerging and disruptive technologies

OPTION GROUPS

Prepare for new and emerging railway and airport technologies

Prepare provincial highway network and border crossings for new and emerging technologies, including incubating autonomous vehicle technologies

Long List of Options

Goal 6: Ensuring Environmental Sustainability

Options under Goal 6 seek to achieve the following outcomes:



**Reduce environmental impact
of transportation system**



**Build climate resilience
and adaptation**

Goal 6. Ensuring Environmental Sustainability



Outcome: Reduce environmental impact of transportation system

OPTION GROUPS

Support the adoption of zero-emission buses

Continue to support and advance efforts to make the marine sector more environmentally sustainable

Support the adoption of electric vehicles through collaborations with industry partners to encourage private investment into low-emission technology solutions and expansion of the alternative fueling station network



Outcome: Build climate resilience and adaptation

OPTION GROUPS

Manage and respond to climate risks on highway infrastructure to promote resilience

Work with transportation industry stakeholders to mitigate climate risks on infrastructure and provide support for climate resilience

Establish resources to enable integration of climate change considerations into future transportation plans

Options Evaluation Approach

Options Evaluation Approach

As summarized in the previous section, this study is exploring **numerous potential options** for improving the regional transportation system in southwestern Ontario.

To determine **which options should be included as actions for implementation** in the final plan and to inform phasing of those actions, each potential option will be evaluated.

To do this, **evaluation criteria will be developed in line with the objectives under each goal**. The criteria will help measure the extent to which the options would contribute to achieving the plan's vision and goals.



Options Evaluation Approach

Goal	Evaluation Criteria Topics
Goal 1 – Connecting People and Places	To what extent does the option help minimize travel time and travel delays or improve connectivity for rural or island communities?
Goal 2 – Supporting a Competitive Business Environment	To what extent does the option improve/support goods movement, provide access to recreational or tourist destinations or strengthen multi-modal access to jobs?
Goal 3 – Providing More Choice and Convenience	To what extent does the option support a range of mobility options including competitive and reliable non-automobile options or improve integration across services and modes?
Goal 4 – Increasing Health, Safety and Inclusion	To what extent does the option improve road safety, strengthen access to critical services, support active transportation, mitigate adverse impacts, facilitate equitable access to daily needs or engage communities?
Goal 5 – Preparing for the Future	To what extent does the option support resiliency to climate change and other emergencies, access to information, value for money or the integration of emerging technologies?
Goal 6 – Ensuring Environmental Sustainability	To what extent does the option reduce greenhouse gas emissions or minimize impacts on natural heritage, cultural heritage, and archaeological resources?

Next Steps

Feedback received from the posting to the Environmental Registry of Ontario will be considered to inform how best to refine the long list of options and how to achieve the optimal transportation network for the region.

