



The Corporation of the Town of Tecumseh

Chief Administrative Officer

To: Mayor and Members of Council

From: Margaret Misek-Evans, Chief Administrative Officer

Date to Council: Tuesday, July 22, 2025

Report Number: CAO-2025-02

Subject: Windsor to Lakeshore Transmission Project – ERO Submission

Recommendations

It is recommended:

That Report No. CAO-2025-02, Windsor to Lakeshore Transmission Project – ERO Submission, **be received**;

And that Council **authorize** Administration **to submit** Report No. CAO-2025-02, Windsor to Lakeshore Transmission Project – ERO Submission to the Environmental Registry of Ontario as the Town's response to the proposal prior to the deadline of August 15, 2025;

And further, that the Chief Administrative Officer and members of the Senior Management Team **be authorized to engage** in consultation with Hydro One on the Windsor to Lakeshore Transmission Project for the purpose of identifying the exact path of the transmission line and negotiating a Community Support Agreement to address community impacts associated with the Project.

And furthermore, that Administration **report back** to Council as engagement progresses for direction, as required.

Executive Summary

The Government of Ontario has posted a proposal to the Environmental Registry of Ontario requesting comments regarding supporting critical transmission infrastructure in Southwestern Ontario, specifically the Windsor to Lakeshore Transmission Project, which will traverse the Town of Tecumseh. This report provides a summary of the project as well as comments for submission to the posting. Administration requests authorization to submit the comments prior to the deadline and to engage in consultations with Hydro One regarding the path of the Project and any community impacts. This may include negotiations on a Community Support Agreement.

Background

The Government of Ontario through the Ministry of Energy and Mines has set out a proposal on the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) pertaining to the Windsor to Lakeshore Transmission Project (<https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/025-0659>). The proposal is open for comment until August 15, 2025. The project is shown on Attachment 1 as number 5.

The Provincial Integrated Energy Plan highlights electricity transmission projects that should proceed with early planning and development work to alleviate existing transmission bottlenecks identified by the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) in their ongoing planning studies. The recent round of regional planning IESO conducted in the Windsor-Essex region (April 3, 2025) confirmed the need for the Windsor to Lakeshore Transmission Project, concluding that the most cost-effective solution is to connect at the Lauzon Transformer Station (TS) to meet regional capacity needs that will emerge in 2032.

Accordingly, the Ministry of Energy and Mines is taking steps to facilitate the development of a new transmission project, as follows:

- A double circuit 230-kilovolt transmission line from Lauzon TS in Windsor to Lakeshore TS in Lakeshore, and associated station facilities.

As shown in Attachment 1, this line will traverse the Town of Tecumseh. Attachment 2 shows Hydro One transmission lines in Lakeshore and Tecumseh, culminating at the Lauzon TS in Windsor. The route shown in Attachment 2 aligns with the recommended solution of doubling the existing 230kV line between Lauzon TS and Lakeshore TS, as proposed by the IESO in their April, 2025 report (Figure 34).

Comments

Hydro One Networks Inc. (Hydro One) has been designated by an Order in Council and Minister's directive to the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) as the transmitter for this project.

Said designation gave Hydro One regulatory clarity to initiate pre-development work on the project, including early engagement with the public and early consultations with potentially impacted Indigenous communities.

The Ministry is proposing to bring forward an Order in Council that would (subject to fulfillment of applicable consultation obligations, including Duty to Consult and receiving required approvals) declare the Windsor to Lakeshore Transmission Project a priority project under the Ontario Energy Board Act with the intention to be in-service by 2032.

Declaring the Windsor to Lakeshore Transmission Line a priority project would not change the requirement for the transmitter (Hydro One) to obtain all required government approvals, including under the Environmental Assessment Act and obtaining Leave to Construct from the OEB. Such approvals include requirements for Hydro One to consult with Indigenous communities, the public and stakeholders on the proposed project. As a stakeholder community for this project, Administration can confirm that Hydro One has not yet engaged with the Town.

Depending on the outcomes of consultation, the Ministry expects to bring this proposal forward for a possible decision later in 2025 to meet the IESO's recommended in-service date of 2032 for the transmission line.

Infrastructure projects such as transmission projects have the potential to impact land use, local environments and ecosystems. As noted above, such impacts will be considered during the process of obtaining required government permits and approvals prior to proceeding with project construction. Such considerations will be the subject of upcoming consultations with Indigenous communities, the public and stakeholders on the proposed project, including the determination of the exact path of the line, its impacts to the environment and any appropriate mitigation measures. Attachment 3 shows the location of the existing Hydro One corridor already accommodating a 230kv line from Lakeshore TS to Lauzon TS.

Based on the recent experience of the Municipality of Lakeshore with other projects outlined in Attachment 1, it is expected that Hydro One will contact the Town, as well as Lakeshore and Windsor, as stakeholders to consult on potential impacts and the exact path of the line through the respective municipalities.

Overall, Administration views this new transmission line project favourably as it will:

- Ensure future electrical capacity to accommodate the needs of current and future residents, farms, businesses and service providers in the Town and region. This includes stabilizing the supply to reduce occurrences of outages.
- Enable economic growth within the manufacturing and agri-business sectors, including large-scale industry with higher electrical needs relative to past industrial users.

- Presents an opportunity for partnership and engagement with Indigenous communities through the Hydro One First Nation Equity Partnership Model that offers First Nations the opportunity to advance the project together in partnership and a 50% equity stake in new transmission lines exceeding \$100 million. This represents an opportunity for reconciliation by creating economic opportunities.

Accordingly, direction is sought from Council to submit this report to the ERO as the Town's comments and request authorization to engage with Hydro One as a community stakeholder.

The County of Essex considered Report No. 2025-0716-CAO-R05-SZ on Wednesday, July 16th regarding this ERO posting. County Council received the report and authorized Administration to submit a letter in support of the transmission line project to the ERO.

Consultations

Development Services
County of Essex CAO
Municipality of Lakeshore CAO

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Link to Strategic Priorities

Applicable	2023-2026 Strategic Priorities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sustainable Growth: Achieve prosperity and a livable community through sustainable growth.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Community Health and Inclusion: Integrate community health and inclusion into our places and spaces and everything we do.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Service Experience: Enhance the experience of Team Tecumseh and our citizens through responsive and respectful service.

Communications

Not applicable ☒

Website ☐

Social Media ☐

News Release ☐

Local Newspaper ☐

This report has been reviewed by Senior Administration as indicated below and recommended for submission by the Chief Administrative Officer.

Prepared by:

Margaret Misek-Evans, MCIP, RPP
Chief Administrative Officer

Reviewed by:

Brian Hillman, MA, MCIP, RPP
Director Development Services

Recommended by:

Margaret Misek-Evans, MCIP, RPP
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment Number	Attachment Name
1	Hydro One – SW Ontario Transmission Projects
2	Map - Existing Transmission Lines in Relation to Town of Tecumseh
3	Map - Hydro Corridor within Town of Tecumseh