

FACT SHEET:

Bradford Bypass (aka The Holland Marsh Highway)



The Proposal

The [Bradford Bypass](#) is a proposed 16.2 km, rural 4-lane controlled access 400-series highway that would connect Highway 400 (Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury) and Highway 404 (Town of East Gwillimbury).

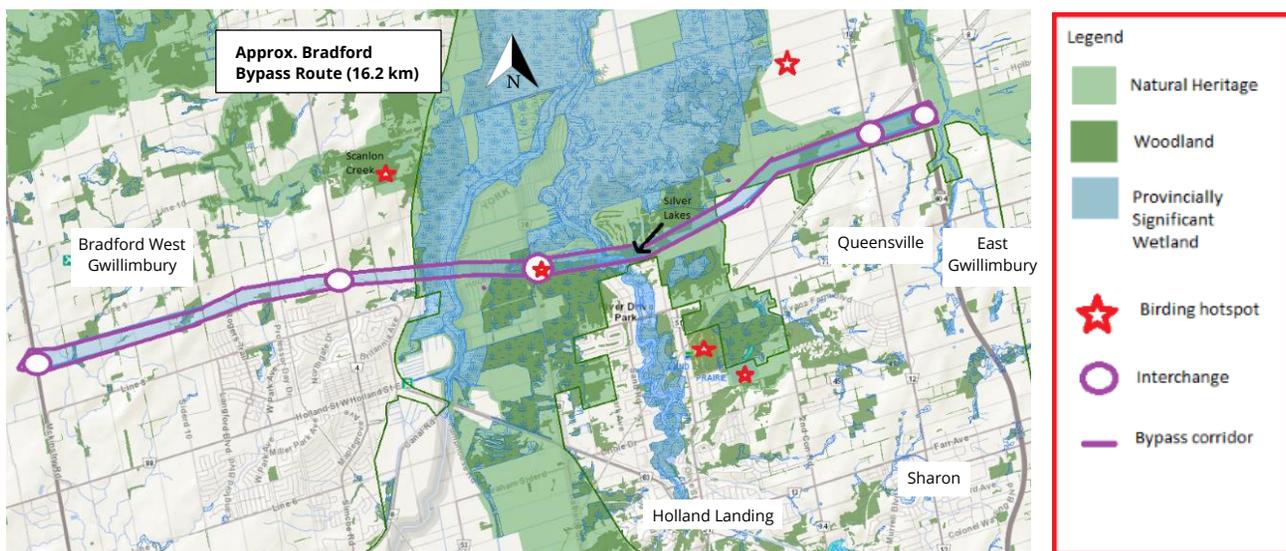
The Problems

1. The Environmental Assessment (EA) for this project is over twenty years old. As such, the EA pre-dates the [Greenbelt Plan](#) and [Lake Simcoe Protection Plan](#), and does not provide a [climate change impact assessment](#). The preliminary EA predicted **severe water quality impacts** to groundwater and surface water in the Lake Simcoe watershed for which there is still no mitigation plan. Additionally, the Bradford Bypass would transect some of the best agricultural land in Ontario, destroy sensitive wildlife habitat in Greenbelt lands, and adversely impact one of Ontario's largest remaining provincially significant wetlands.

2. The project is anticipated to **negatively impact**:

- 22.1 hectares of high-quality woodlands;
- 17.2 hectares of Holland Marsh (designated environmentally sensitive area);
- 9.5 hectares of designated provincially significant wetlands; and
- and 32.7 hectares of significant wildlife habitat.

Map showing the proposed Bradford Bypass corridor, cutting through designated provincially significant wetlands, woodlands, and natural heritage features.



3. There are other **alternatives to the Bradford Bypass that have not been given due consideration**, such as improved transit service and upgrades to regional roads, which would serve the long-term interests of local communities. It is well known that highways do not solve traffic congestion issues, but rather encourage more vehicular travel. This in turn results in more vehicles on the road, more greenhouse gas emissions, and more pollution. Investing public dollars in this commuter highway is also short-sighted, especially as more individuals transition to remote work in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

4. Despite the sensitive location of the highway, and the outdated EA, **the provincial government recently moved to fast-track 400-series highways through the protected Greenbelt lands**. As a result, the Bradford Bypass would be exempted from even the most basic assessment processes and environmental studies Ontarians count on to protect their health, their communities, their food systems, and the environment.

Take Action

Without proper assessment, the Bradford Bypass threatens the long-term sustainability of the Lake Simcoe watershed and the lasting wellbeing of its residents.

Please contact your Federal MP to let them know you want a [federal assessment](#) of the potential impacts of, and alternatives to, the Bradford Bypass.

The Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition is a lake-wide member-based organization, representing 26 groups in the Lake Simcoe watershed, that provides leadership and inspires people to take action to protect Lake Simcoe.



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