

# Project Update

**Subject:** Transit and Rail Project Assessment Process  
East End Transit Terminal, City of Windsor, Ontario

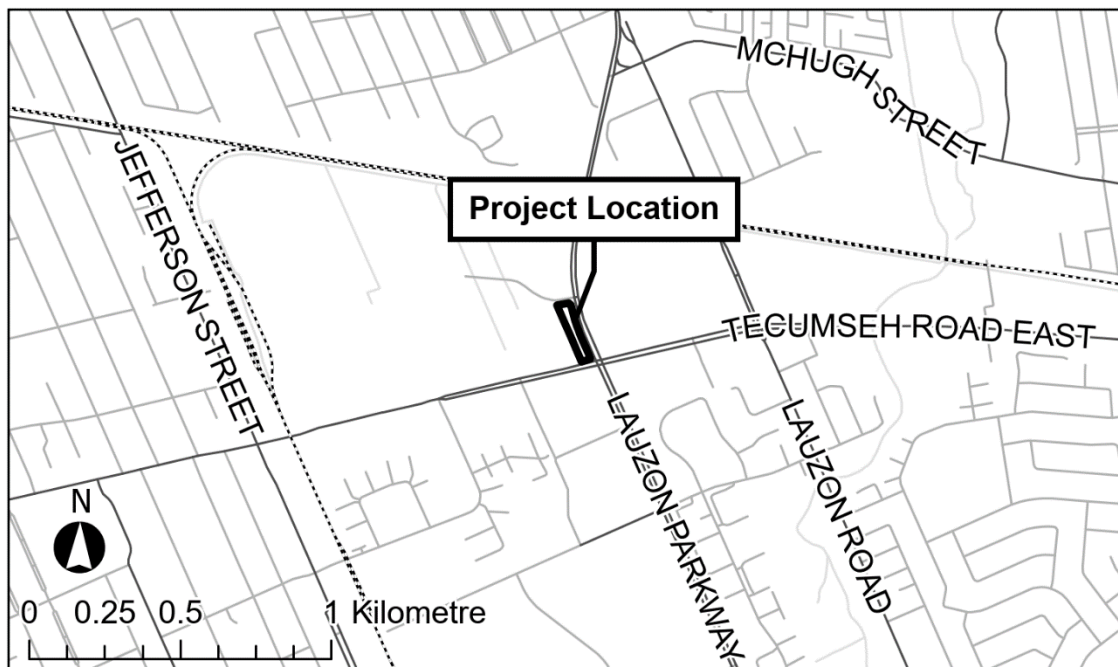
**Date:** September 17, 2024

The City of Windsor (City) retained Dillon Consulting Limited to complete the Transit and Rail Project Assessment Process (TRPAP) for a new transit terminal in the east end of Windsor. This document provides an update and responses to public comments received regarding the latest round of consultation for the project.

The East End Transit Terminal is planned to be located at the northwest corner of the intersection of Lauzon Parkway and Tecumseh Road East, as shown on **Figure 1**. Further information about the project can be found on the project webpage at:

<https://www.citywindsor.ca/residents/construction/environmental-assessments-master-plans/transit-and-rail-project-assessment-process-east-end-transit-terminal>

**Figure 1: Project Location**



## Study Process

The environmental impact of this project is being assessed in accordance with the TRPAP, as outlined in Ontario Regulation 231/08 under the *Environmental Assessment*

Act. An Environmental Project Report (EPR) is being prepared to document the preferred design, consultation completed, impact assessment, and mitigation measures.

### **Public Open House and Draft EPR Review**

A Public Open House was held on June 27, 2024 to provide information about the preferred design, anticipated impacts, mitigation measures, and next steps. The draft EPR was made publicly available for an initial 30 calendar day review period starting on June 27, 2024. The deadline for comments regarding the Public Open House and the draft EPR was July 29, 2024.

Discussions during the Public Open House were largely focused on the transit user experience. Some attendees expressed support for the project and highlighted the importance of the transit terminal. Others had questions regarding planned transit service improvements, which are outside the scope of this study but were responded to by Transit Windsor staff. Specific comments were provided regarding the location and design of the transit terminal, which are reflected in the summary of written comments (**Table 1**).

A total of 29 written comments have been received, including 21 comments from members of the public (primarily area residents and transit users) and 8 comments from agencies. This update focuses on comments from members of the public, which are summarized in **Table 1** along with corresponding responses from the project team. Comments from agencies are currently being addressed by the project team and will be documented in the final EPR.

On September 13, 2024, the City sent a notice of issue to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) to pause the 120-day TRPAP consultation period. The purpose of this pause is to allow sufficient time to address MECP's comments on the air quality impact assessment. Further details are provided in the notice of issue, a copy of which has been posted on the project webpage.

### **Next Steps**

This update is being provided for information purposes and will ultimately be incorporated into the final EPR. The final EPR will be made available for a 30-day public comment period following an update to City Council, which is tentatively planned for October 2024.

**Table 1: Summary of Public Comments and Project Team Responses**

Topic	Public Comments	Project Team Responses
Connectivity	<p>The planned location for the East End Transit Terminal is less preferred than the existing location as it is separated from Tecumseh Mall and other destinations in the area. A transit connection between the East End Transit Terminal and Tecumseh Mall was suggested.</p>	<p>The existing transit terminal location at Tecumseh Mall is no longer feasible for continued long-term use by Transit Windsor. A transit connection to Tecumseh Mall is not considered necessary given the proximity of the planned terminal location to Tecumseh Mall (approximately 200 metres).</p>
Intersections	<p>The adjacent intersections are dangerous for pedestrians, particularly those with mobility issues or other disabilities. Suggestions related to intersection improvements included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completing traffic studies;</li> <li>• Re-evaluating the Lauzon Parkway/Tecumseh Road East intersection;</li> <li>• Adding zebra crossings (pedestrian crossings) and refuge islands;</li> <li>• Constructing a pedestrian bridge over Lauzon Parkway;</li> <li>• Lengthening light cycles in the area;</li> <li>• Prohibiting right turns on red lights; and,</li> <li>• Adding a second setback stopping bar to prevent cars from blocking the transit terminal driveway.</li> </ul>	<p>A Traffic Impact Study (TIS) was completed as part of this study to understand existing traffic conditions and assess the impacts of the new transit terminal on the surrounding road network. The TIS recommends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Signage and pavement markings (hatching) at the planned East End Transit Terminal driveway on Catherine Street to help limit the number of times the driveway is blocked by eastbound vehicles queued at the Lauzon Parkway and Catherine Street intersection; and,</li> <li>• Pavement markings to allow westbound vehicles on Catherine Street to bypass buses waiting to turn into the East End Transit Terminal.</li> </ul> <p>The above TIS recommendations are subject to further review by the City’s Transportation Planning and Traffic Operations Divisions considering other potential future projects planned in the area. It is anticipated additional roadway and intersection improvements will be required in the near future to accommodate future development in the area. As other anticipated area improvements proceed, a more fulsome TIS for the area is planned to identify required roadway improvements.</p> <p>The pedestrian crossing comments have been presented to the City’s Transportation Planning Division and potential solutions will be considered during upcoming Capital Budgets. The suggestions have been noted; however, they are not planned to be implemented at this time.</p>
Comfort	<p>More/improved facilities for passengers were recommended, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shade trees in the waiting area and grassed areas;</li> <li>• Heated/cooled shelters;</li> <li>• Seating;</li> <li>• Secure bike parking, including a roof and security camera;</li> <li>• Washrooms; and,</li> <li>• Publicly accessible building with customer service.</li> </ul>	<p>The ability to incorporate trees and seating into the terminal design is being reviewed. It is anticipated trees can be added to the grassed areas shown on the preliminary site plan, and there may be an opportunity to add potted trees to the platform area seasonally. Larger shade trees within the platform area would interfere with the site lighting and thereby introduce potential safety issues as they reach maturity. Opportunities for seating onsite are being reviewed; it is expected benches will be incorporated on the platform in the final layout. These features are subject to review through the ongoing Site Plan Control process.</p> <p>As shown on the conceptual site plan, a bike locker station is planned on the east side of the transit terminal, near the staff parking lot. The lockers will provide secure, covered bike storage. Security cameras are planned to be included at the transit terminal.</p> <p>Washrooms and publicly accessible buildings are not proposed as these are not typical features of transit terminals in Windsor or other municipalities for a transfer station with minimal wait times and high frequency buses.</p>

Topic	Public Comments	Project Team Responses
Site Access	<p>Questions were raised regarding how vehicles, pedestrians, and cyclists will access the site. It was suggested that the entrance should be on Tecumseh Road. More footpaths into/out of the terminal area were recommended, especially for people coming from the west on Tecumseh Road.</p> <p>It was noted the terminal does not include public parking or space for car drop-offs.</p>	<p>Buses and staff vehicles will access the site via the entrance on Catherine Street. Access for other vehicles is not permitted. Tecumseh Road is designated as a Class II Arterial Road; direct access to this type of road is discouraged where other alternatives exist as per Section 7.2.6.5 of the City of Windsor Official Plan (2012).</p> <p>There is an existing multi-use trail along Lauzon Parkway at this location. The transit terminal will include sidewalks that connect to this multi-use trail.</p> <p>A pedestrian connection into the south side of the terminal is not proposed because the intent is to limit the number of pedestrian crossings to the platform (conflict points) that bus drivers will need to be aware of. However, an additional footpath across the corner from Tecumseh Road East to Lauzon Parkway will be considered to improve connectivity for people coming from the west on Tecumseh Road.</p> <p>Public parking and space for car drop-offs are not typical features of transit terminals in Windsor.</p>
Environmental Impacts	<p>Concerns were raised regarding the following impacts to the natural environment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Removal of the existing trees from the site;</li> <li>• Impacts to air quality and water quality due to excess exhaust from buses and cars on Lauzon Parkway; and,</li> <li>• Impacts to trails and parks along Little River and the East Riverside area.</li> </ul>	<p>Natural environment investigations have been completed to assess the impact of developing the site, as described on page 5 of the Public Open House display panels. The City plans to plant new trees offsite nearby with a 1:1 replacement ratio at a minimum, among other mitigation measures.</p> <p>An air quality impact assessment is being completed for the project and will be documented in the final Environmental Project Report.</p> <p>No concerns regarding source water protection have been identified. The project location is not within a surface water intake protection zone, highly vulnerable aquifer, or a significant groundwater recharge area.</p> <p>The project is contained to the location at the northwest corner of Tecumseh Road East and Lauzon Parkway. The trails and parks along Little River and the East Riverside area are over 800 metres from the project location and therefore no impacts are anticipated.</p>
Operations	How many routes are planned for this location?	All routes operating from the Tecumseh Mall Terminal are planned to be relocated to this location.
	Will the infrastructure in this area support this new terminal?	Existing infrastructure in the area has been reviewed as part of the design; no concerns have been identified.
	Will there be an area for parking extra buses?	Drivers on a break will park either at a bus bay or on the west curb line. Buses that are out of service will be driven to the Transit Windsor bus depot off Central Avenue.
Other	Consider all the construction work happening in the east end.	Other construction projects in the area will be considered by the City when implementing this project.
	Add art by local artists, murals on the decorative fence, maybe a pride flag.	The City will explore opportunities to incorporate art or other aesthetic improvements into the transit terminal in the future, when further information regarding the operation of the site is available. The City also intends to review grant opportunities for aesthetic improvements.

Topic	Public Comments	Project Team Responses
	<p>Questions were raised regarding increased crime rates associated with transit terminals, whether the terminal will attract homeless people to the area, and whether extra policing or security will be provided.</p>	<p>The Site Plan Control process integrates consultation with Windsor Police Services. This terminal will include security features similar to all City facilities, including video surveillance, access controls, and site lighting.</p>
	<p>What are the plans for future growth at this site?</p>	<p>This study is focused on relocating the existing transit terminal to maintain service for the routes currently operating from the Tecumseh Mall Terminal. The design of this facility considers future growth and provides greater capacity than what is currently required. Should growth beyond what is currently forecasted be required in the future, that will be reviewed at the time.</p>
	<p>Make sure buses have paper maps available for passengers, especially seniors.</p>	<p>Transit Windsor has indicated there will be no changes to the current distribution of Transit Windsor paper maps, which are available at all Customer Care Centres, Windsor International Transit Terminal, and from 311 upon request.</p>