

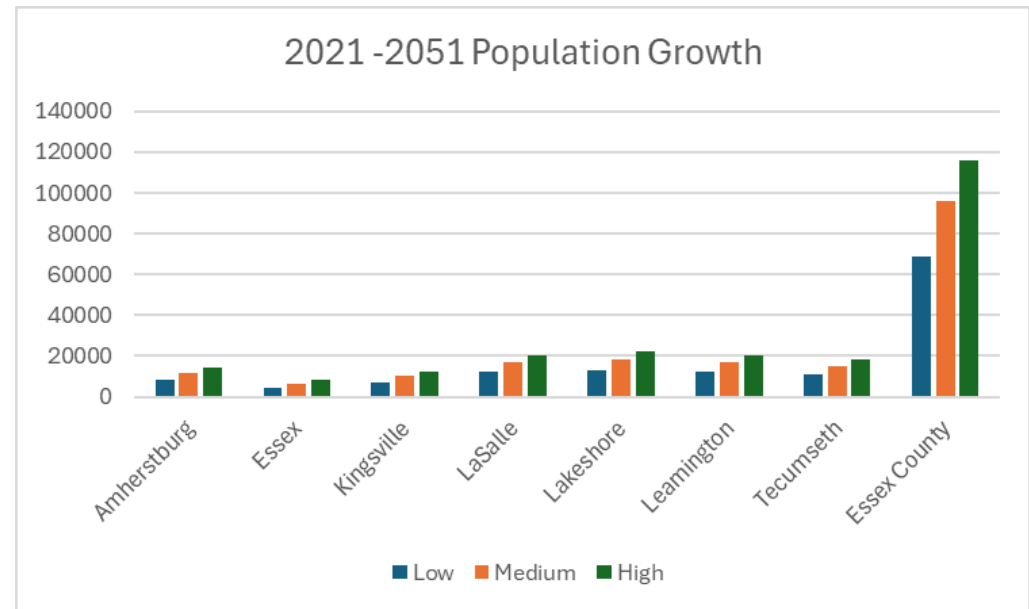
# Essex County Transportation Master Plan

## Presentation to Council

November 20, 2024

# Growth to 2051

The Transportation Master Plan will assess the County's mobility needs to accommodate growth to 2051



Source: Official Plan May 2024 (Draft)

# Study Objectives

- Develop a multi-generational plan
  - Address short term needs
    - Mobility (connectivity / linkages / multi-modal)
    - Policy
    - Operational (speed management / active transportation)
    - Goods movement
  - “Forward-thinking” - Protect for the longer-term needs & vision
  - Build on current road needs and programmes
  - Following the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment process

# Study Objectives

To plan for future growth, the County of Essex TMP will:



Facilitate long range planning and policy framework for transportation infrastructure for the next 30 years

Establish a blueprint to align infrastructure needs with anticipated growth and address traffic congestion and the environment

Develop a safe, sustainable, multi-modal strategy

Recognize and align unique needs for municipalities and all types of road users within the County

Enhance the County's connectivity to the internal and external transportation network

# County of Essex Strategic Plan (2023)

## Strategic Goals and Directions



Key visions from the County's Strategic Plan will inform the development of the transportation master plan:

1. Providing reliable infrastructure
2. Accommodating residential and economic growth
3. Regional collaboration/partnerships

# Guiding Documents

## Provincial

- Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) (2020)
- Detroit River International Crossing (DRIC) Environmental Assessment Report (2008)
- Southwest Transportation Plan (2020)
- Province-Wide Cycling Network Study (2018)
- Provincial Environmental Policies (various dates)



## County

- Essex County Official Plan (2014, pending update 2024), Policies, Bylaws
- Essex-Windsor Regional Transportation Master Plan (2005)
- County Wide Active Transportation Study Master Plan (2012, pending update 2024)
- Transit Assessment Report (2011)
- Essex County Asset Management Plan (2022)
- Regional Energy Plan (2018 initiation)
- Essex County Strategic Plan (2023)
- Ongoing Environmental Assessments

## Local

- Transportation Studies, Official Plans, and strategic documents of lower tier municipalities in the County (various dates)

# TMP Themes



Equity



Economic Growth



Road Safety



Resilience



Accessibility



Sustainability



# Project Milestones & Timeline

| <u>Milestone</u>  | <u>Timeline</u>   |
|---|-------------------|
| Project Award   | June 2023         |
| Notice of Study Commencement  | April 17, 2024    |
| PIC #1: Purpose, Background, Needs & Opportunities                      | June 27, 2024     |
| PIC #2: Preliminary Alternative Solutions                               | February 27, 2025 |
| PIC #3: Present Final Draft TMP   | May 2025          |
| Notice of Completion and Filing of the Environmental Study Report (ESR) | June 2025         |



# Initial Public Feedback

- Public outreach through notices in print media, social media, email blasts, direct mailing, project webpage
- Public Information Centre held June 27, 2024
- Preliminary feedback themes:
  - Additional connections (roads, bike lanes, trails sidewalks, transit)
  - Upgrades to walking / cycling infrastructure
  - Growth
  - Safety concerns
  - ATV/Side-by-side considerations
  - Trail consideration
  - Other (student transit, farm equipment)
- More Engagement Planned in November/December



# Defining Needs, Opportunities & Constraints

- To define the County's 2051 mobility needs:
  - Existing conditions were assessed
  - Guiding documents from the County, the Province, Local Municipal Partners were reviewed
  - A Regional Transportation Model was developed to forecasts travel demand to 2051
  - Initial feedback from stakeholders was sought through a project communications strategy



# Needs, Opportunities & Constraints

Taking into consideration:

1. The County's various directives (Official Plan / CWATS / Regional Energy Plan / Essex County Strategic Plan);
2. Provincial initiatives
3. Local municipality initiatives
4. Public feedback

The study team has developed study “Needs, Opportunities and Constraints” to help shape the alternative transportation solutions for 2051

# Needs, Opportunities and Constraints

The study has identified the following to date:

| Needs   | Opportunities  | Constraints   |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Address localized congestion</li><li>• Road safety concerns along key corridors</li><li>• Corridor protection</li><li>• Increase transit modal share</li><li>• Micro and shared mobility</li><li>• Active Transportation facility improvements:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Cycling &amp; pedestrian</li><li>○ Continuity linkages</li></ul></li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Transit: fixed, on-demand, dynamic routes</li><li>• Mobility hubs: ride sharing, micro-mobility, e-scooters, electric cargo bikes</li><li>• Lake-to-lake trail connection</li><li>• Railway corridor trails</li><li>• Traffic safety improvements</li><li>• Operational improvements (i.e., candidate locations of roundabouts)</li><li>• Road rationalisation</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Natural heritage features</li><li>• Cultural heritage sites</li></ul> |

# Alternative Solutions

- As part of the Class Environmental Assessment process, we must evaluate feasible alternative transportation solutions
- Following the current round of consultation, we will develop alternative Mobility Solutions to 2051
- The Alternative mobility solutions will be evaluated against transportation related criteria

# Evaluation Criteria (Example)

| Evaluation Criteria and Supporting Indicators  | “Do Nothing” / Business-As-Usual | Option 1 | Option 2 | Option 3 |
|--|----------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| <b>Transportation Service</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improves capacity and reduces delay</li> <li>Supports connectivity</li> </ul>   |                                  |          |          |          |
| <b>Transportation Equity</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protects vulnerable road users</li> <li>Provides viable alternative mobility options</li> </ul>                            |                                  |          |          |          |
| <b>Supports County Objectives</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mitigates effects of climate change</li> <li>Creates healthy communities and supports economic development</li> </ul> |                                  |          |          |          |
| <b>Environmental Impact</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce greenhouse gas emissions</li> <li>Minimizes impact to environmental features</li> </ul>                              |                                  |          |          |          |
| <b>Cost</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimizes capital and operating/maintenance costs</li> </ul>  |                                  |          |          |          |



# Next Steps

1. Develop Alternative Mobility Solutions to 2051
2. Evaluate Alternative Mobility Solutions
3. Conduct PIC #2 (February 2025)
4. Develop 2051 Transportation Strategy and Phasing
5. Draft Transportation Master Plan for public review and comment
6. Conduct Final Consultation Sessions (Spring 2025)
7. Council Approval
8. Study Completion (Targeted for Spring 2025)



BURNSIDE

**Thank you**