



Administrative Report

To: Warden MacDonald and Members of Essex County Council

From: Sandra Zwiers, MAcc, CPA, CA, Chief Administrative Officer

Date: Wednesday, July 16, 2025

Subject: Windsor to Lakeshore Transmission Project – ERO Submission

Report #: 2025-0716-CAO-R05-SZ

Purpose

To seek County Council's endorsement of a letter of support for the Windsor to Lakeshore Transmission Project.

Background

As detailed on the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO), "The Government of Ontario has recently published its Integrated Energy Plan, Energy For Generations: Ontario's Integrated Plan to Power the Strongest Economy in the G7 (the Plan), which outlines the actions being proposed or taken by the provincial government to meet the challenge of generating and delivering the affordable, secure, reliable and clean energy Ontarians need. The 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 regional and bulk planning studies.

Consistent with this plan, and based on recommendations of the IESO, the Ministry of Energy and Mines (ministry) is proposing to take action to facilitate the development of a new transmission project that would enhance the electricity system connections in southern Ontario. The current proposal relates to a new transmission line between Windsor and Lakeshore:

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

To support the anticipated demand growth in the region 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, recommended to be in-service by 2032.”

The Province is seeking public feedback on this proposal. The comment period opened on June 16th and closes on August 15th, 2025. Administration is seeking approval from County Council to submit a letter of support for this transmission project.

Discussion

Supporting investments to improve our transmission corridor will have significant benefits to Essex County. Administration recommends submitting a letter of support identifying the following specific benefits:

1. Reliable Power for Residents and Businesses

Improving hydro services ensures reliable electricity for homes, farms, healthcare facilities, and businesses across Essex County. With fewer outages and better service, families enjoy greater comfort, and businesses can operate without costly interruptions—supporting both urban and rural areas, including key sectors like agriculture and manufacturing.

2. Support for Economic Growth and Agri-Business

Essex County has a strong agri-business sector, including greenhouses and food processing plants, which rely heavily on consistent hydro service. Improved hydro infrastructure helps attract and retain business investment, enabling local job creation and economic development across the region.

3. Sustainability and Climate Leadership

Enhanced hydro infrastructure—especially when tied to renewable sources—helps the County move toward greener energy solutions. Reducing reliance on fossil fuels aligns with local and provincial climate goals, and positions Essex County as a leader in sustainable urban and rural development.

4. Improved Quality of Life

With reliable electricity, residents benefit from a wider selection of heating, cooling, internet access, and remote work opportunities. Schools and healthcare services across the County—from Leamington

to LaSalle—can also deliver more consistent service when the power supply is stable and modernized.

5. Infrastructure Readiness for the Future

As Essex County grows and adapts to future demands—such as electric vehicles, digital services, and emergency preparedness—upgraded hydro infrastructure ensures we are equipped to meet these needs. It also supports smart energy systems that enhance long-term community resilience.

6. Stronger Rural and Agricultural Resilience

In our rural communities, reliable power is critical for livestock operations, irrigation systems, and greenhouse technologies. Modernizing hydro services ensures that these essential operations can function efficiently, even during extreme weather events or supply chain pressures.

In addition to the benefits described above, Administration recommends advocating for continued targeted consultation and collaboration with the County of Essex, the Municipality of Lakeshore and the Town of Tecumseh. The proposed transmission line will cross through the entirety of both local municipalities and ensuring open and transparent communication will increase the success of the project for all residents of the region.

Financial Implications

There is no cost to the County of Essex to support this project.

The Windsor to Lakeshore Transmission Project, once complete, will unlock development and sustainability potential for Essex County. It is anticipated that the increase in hydro capability will positively impact the region's economic viability and provide a necessary catalyst for growth.

Consultations

- Margaret Misek-Evans, CAO, Town of Tecumseh
- Tyson Cragg, CAO, Municipality of Lakeshore

Strategic Plan Alignment

Working as Team Essex County	Growing as Leaders in Public Service Excellence	Building a Regional Powerhouse
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scaling Sustainable Services through Innovation <input type="checkbox"/> Focusing “Team Essex County” for Results <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocating for Essex County’s Fair Share	<input type="checkbox"/> Being an Employer with Impact <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A Government Working for the People <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Promoting Transparency and Awareness	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Providing Reliable Infrastructure for Partners <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporting Dynamic and Thriving Communities Across the County <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Harmonizing Action for Growth <input type="checkbox"/> Advancing Truth and Reconciliation

Recommendation

That Essex County Council receive report number 2025-0716-CAO-R05-SZ, Windsor to Lakeshore Transmission Project – ERO Submission as information and direct administration to prepare a letter of support and submit it to the Environmental Registry of Ontario on behalf of the County of Essex.

Approvals

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandra Zwiers

Sandra Zwiers, MAcc, CPA, CA, Chief Administrative Officer

Appendix	Title
N/A	N/A