

TPA Process Phase Consultation and Engagement

C7 – Indigenous Correspondence

Correspondence

From: Matthew O'Neil <MONEil@regionofwaterloo.ca>
Sent: February 10, 2021 12:57 PM
To: 'Todd Williams'
Cc: 'Wayne (HDI) Hill'
Subject: Stage 2 ION - HDI Comments on the Draft Environmental Project Report
Attachments: S2ION TPA Notice of Commencement.PDF

Good afternoon Todd,

As per my voicemail this morning, does HCCC/HDI have any comments on the Draft Environmental Project Report (EPR) for the Region of Waterloo's Stage 2 ION LRT project? The Notice of Commencement (attached) was advertised and mailed on December 10, 2020. The Draft EPR and appendices (technical reports, including the Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment) are available for review on the project website: www.regionofwaterloo.ca/Stage2ION and the public comment period is open until February 12th. Please advise if you require additional time to review. Comments can be submitted directly to me.

In addition, the Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment draft report will be sent to you in the next couple weeks for review and comment. The Stage 2 AA won't be included in the Final EPR, it is being completed in parallel.

Thank you,

Matthew O'Neil, P.Eng.

Manager (Acting), Rapid Transit Coordination
Region of Waterloo | Transportation and Environmental Services
20 Weber St E, Kitchener, ON N2H 1C3
519-505-3518 (cell) | TTY 519-575-4608
moneil@regionofwaterloo.ca

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From: Matthew O'Neil <MONeil@regionofwaterloo.ca>
Sent: February 10, 2021 12:06 PM
To: 'Mark LaForme (Mark.LaForme@mncfn.ca)'
Cc: 'Megan DeVries (megan.devries@mncfn.ca)'
Subject: Stage 2 ION - MCFN Comments on the Draft Environmental Project Report
Attachments: S2ION TPA Notice of Commencement.PDF

Good afternoon Mark,

As discussed just now, does the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation have any comments on the Draft Environmental Project Report (EPR) for the Region of Waterloo's Stage 2 ION LRT project? The Notice of Commencement (attached) was advertised and mailed on December 10, 2020. The Draft EPR and appendices (technical reports) are available for review on the project website: www.regionofwaterloo.ca/Stage2ION and the public comment period is open until February 12th. Please advise if you require additional time to review. Comments can be submitted directly to me.

Regards,

Matthew O'Neil, P.Eng.

Manager (Acting), Rapid Transit Coordination
Region of Waterloo | Transportation and Environmental Services
20 Weber St E, Kitchener, ON N2H 1C3
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From: Matthew O'Neil <MONEil@regionofwaterloo.ca>
Sent: February 10, 2021 1:07 PM
To: Dawn LaForme
Cc: 'Robin Linn (rlinn@sixnations.ca)'; 'Tanya Hill-Montour (tanyahill-montour@sixnations.ca)'
Subject: Stage 2 ION - Six Nations of the Grand River Comments on the Draft Environmental Project Report
Attachments: S2ION TPA Notice of Commencement.PDF

Good afternoon Dawn,

As discussed this morning, does the Six Nations of the Grand River have any comments on the Draft Environmental Project Report (EPR) for the Region of Waterloo's Stage 2 ION LRT project? The Notice of Commencement (attached) was advertised and mailed on December 10, 2020. The Draft EPR and appendices (technical reports, including the Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment) are available for review on the project website: www.regionofwaterloo.ca/Stage2ION and the public comment period is open until February 12th. Please advise if you require additional time to review. Comments can be submitted directly to me.

Regards,

Matthew O'Neil, P.Eng.

Manager (Acting), Rapid Transit Coordination
Region of Waterloo | Transportation and Environmental Services
20 Weber St E, Kitchener, ON N2H 1C3
519-505-3518 (cell) | TTY 519-575-4608
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From: Robin Vanstone <rvanstone@sixnations.ca>
Date: March 4, 2021 at 5:06:10 PM EST
To: Matthew O'Neil <MONeil@regionofwaterloo.ca>
Cc: Tanya Hill-Montour <tanyahill-montour@sixnations.ca>
Subject: Re: Stage 2 ION - Six Nations of the Grand River Comments on the Draft Environmental Project Report

Hi Matthew,

I'm sorry, I will have comments to you by the end of next week.

Regards,

Robbin

From: Matthew O'Neil <MONeil@regionofwaterloo.ca>
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 4:46 PM
To: Robin Vanstone <rvanstone@sixnations.ca>
Cc: Tanya Hill-Montour <tanyahill-montour@sixnations.ca>
Subject: RE: Stage 2 ION - Six Nations of the Grand River Comments on the Draft Environmental Project Report

Hi Robbin,

We are starting to collect final comments on the EPR. Do you have any comments so far that we could incorporate into the EPR?

Thanks,
Matthew

From: Robin Linn <rlinn@sixnations.ca>
Sent: February 19, 2021 3:25 PM
To: Matthew O'Neil <MONeil@regionofwaterloo.ca>
Cc: Tanya Hill-Montour <tanyahill-montour@sixnations.ca>

Subject: RE: Stage 2 ION - Six Nations of the Grand River Comments on the Draft Environmental Project Report

Good Afternoon Matthew,

Yes, thank you. I am currently reviewing the files now. I have had other constraints on my time so it is not going as quickly as I had hoped but I will certainly get back to you when I am finished reviewing them.

Have a great weekend.

Regards,

Robbin

From: Matthew O'Neil <MONeil@regionofwaterloo.ca>
Sent: February 19, 2021 3:18 PM
To: Robin Linn <rlinn@sixnations.ca>
Cc: Tanya Hill-Montour <tanyahill-montour@sixnations.ca>
Subject: RE: Stage 2 ION - Six Nations of the Grand River Comments on the Draft Environmental Project Report

Hi Robbin,

Were you able to open and view the files ok?

Thanks,
Matthew

From: Robin Linn <rlinn@sixnations.ca>
Sent: February 11, 2021 9:16 AM
To: Matthew O'Neil <MONeil@regionofwaterloo.ca>
Cc: Tanya Hill-Montour <tanyahill-montour@sixnations.ca>; Dawn LaForme <dlaforme@sixnations.ca>
Subject: RE: Stage 2 ION - Six Nations of the Grand River Comments on the Draft Environmental Project Report

Thank you Matthew, I appreciate your quick response to my concerns.

Robbin

From: Matthew O'Neil <MONeil@regionofwaterloo.ca>
Sent: February 11, 2021 8:49 AM
To: Robin Linn <rlinn@sixnations.ca>
Cc: Tanya Hill-Montour <tanyahill-montour@sixnations.ca>; Dawn LaForme <dlaforme@sixnations.ca>
Subject: RE: Stage 2 ION - Six Nations of the Grand River Comments on the Draft Environmental Project Report

Robbin,

As discussed yesterday, I apologize that our communication strategy was not effective enough. I will be sure to send future Notices by email in addition to mailing them.

Six Nations involvement and input is important to us and we are very keen to include you in the process and your comments in the Environmental Project Report. Despite the “public comment period” deadline, our schedule can accommodate your review and comments. I will have a USB stick delivered to you with the Draft EPR and appendices digital PDF files, it should arrive today or tomorrow.

The Natural Heritage Report and the Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment will be the same as the version’s previously sent to Dawn LaForme.

Again, I’m sorry about the missed connection here, and I look forward to working with you on this project.

Best Regards,
Matthew

From: Robin Linn <rlinn@sixnations.ca>

Sent: February 10, 2021 2:39 PM

To: Matthew O'Neil <MONeil@regionofwaterloo.ca>; Dawn LaForme <dlaforme@sixnations.ca>

Cc: Tanya Hill-Montour <tanyahill-montour@sixnations.ca>

Subject: RE: Stage 2 ION - Six Nations of the Grand River Comments on the Draft Environmental Project Report

Good Afternoon Matthew,

Thank you for following up on this project. However, after having briefly looked at the Draft Environmental Project Report and seeing the size of the files to be reviewed and being unable to access it easily, I am concerned that you would wait until two days before the comment period closed before you followed up on this project. Unfortunately, our internet connection is not always the most reliable and we are operating on minimal staff at the moment so capacity to review this document (along with the many others that cross our desks) is stretched.

Six Nations of the Grand Rivers’ “Aboriginal” and Treaty Rights throughout Southern Ontario are well documented through archaeological findings, historical facts and written Treaty Agreements. The Haldimand Treaty and the 1701 Fort Albany/Nanfan Treaty have been recognized in past court proceedings and are presented as factual evidence in the ongoing litigation between Six Nations of the Grand River and Crowns Canada and Ontario.

Six Nations of the Grand River is concerned about any development relating to air, land, water and resources which occur throughout our treaty territory and any archeological issues associated with such development(s). We feel that meaningful and appropriate consultation occurs when we at Six Nations of the Grand River are engaged in the early stages of any given project and that engagement would be ongoing throughout the project. All consultations with the people of Six Nations should be carried out in

good faith and should be based on the principles of: mutual respect, transparency and accountability with the goal being to build relationships with one another. Both the Provincial Policy Statement and the Greater Golden Horseshoe Growth Plan recognize the unique role Indigenous communities have in land use planning and development and it is our hope that we can be viewed as more than a check box to be ticked off.

I am sure that you would agree that sending us a 'notification' of a stage of a project, does not constitute "meaningful" consultation or engagement.

I have to admit to some concern that with a project the size of this that we are not receiving more effective communication regarding updates.

We will be unable to meet your deadline of February 12, 2021 to review this project.

Regards,

Robbin Vanstone

*Consultation Supervisor
Lands and Resources
Six Nations of the Grand River
519-753-0665 ext. 5433
rlinn@sixnations.ca*



From: Matthew O'Neil <MONeil@regionofwaterloo.ca>
Sent: February 10, 2021 1:07 PM
To: Dawn LaForme <dlaforme@sixnations.ca>
Cc: Robin Linn <rlinn@sixnations.ca>; Tanya Hill-Montour <tanyahill-montour@sixnations.ca>
Subject: Stage 2 ION - Six Nations of the Grand River Comments on the Draft Environmental Project Report

Good afternoon Dawn,

As discussed this morning, does the Six Nations of the Grand River have any comments on the Draft Environmental Project Report (EPR) for the Region of Waterloo's Stage 2 ION LRT project? The Notice of Commencement (attached) was advertised and mailed on December 10, 2020. The Draft EPR and

appendices (technical reports, including the Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment) are available for review on the project website: www.regionofwaterloo.ca/Stage2ION and the public comment period is open until February 12th. Please advise if you require additional time to review. Comments can be submitted directly to me.

Regards,

Matthew O'Neil, P.Eng.

Manager (Acting), Rapid Transit Coordination

Region of Waterloo | Transportation and Environmental Services

20 Weber St E, Kitchener, ON N2H 1C3

519-505-3518 (cell) | TTY 519-575-4608

moneil@regionofwaterloo.ca

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From: Matthew O'Neil <MONEil@regionofwaterloo.ca>
Sent: March 4, 2021 4:45 PM
To: 'Todd Williams'
Cc: 'Wayne (HDI) Hill'
Subject: RE: Stage 2 ION - HDI Comments on the Draft Environmental Project Report

Hi Todd,

We are now collecting final comments on the EPR. Please confirm if you have any comments so we can include them in the EPR.

Regards,
Matthew

From: Matthew O'Neil
Sent: February 10, 2021 12:57 PM
To: 'Todd Williams' <williams.todde@gmail.com>
Cc: Wayne (HDI) Hill <tworowarchaeology@gmail.com>
Subject: Stage 2 ION - HDI Comments on the Draft Environmental Project Report

Good afternoon Todd,

As per my voicemail this morning, does HCCC/HDI have any comments on the Draft Environmental Project Report (EPR) for the Region of Waterloo's Stage 2 ION LRT project? The Notice of Commencement (attached) was advertised and mailed on December 10, 2020. The Draft EPR and appendices (technical reports, including the Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment) are available for review on the project website: www.regionofwaterloo.ca/Stage2ION and the public comment period is open until February 12th. Please advise if you require additional time to review. Comments can be submitted directly to me.

In addition, the Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment draft report will be sent to you in the next couple weeks for review and comment. The Stage 2 AA won't be included in the Final EPR, it is being completed in parallel.

Thank you,

Matthew O'Neil, P.Eng.
Manager (Acting), Rapid Transit Coordination
Region of Waterloo | Transportation and Environmental Services
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From: Matthew O'Neil <MONEil@regionofwaterloo.ca>
Sent: March 4, 2021 4:48 PM
To: 'Mark LaForme (Mark.LaForme@mncfn.ca)'
Cc: 'Megan DeVries (megan.devries@mncfn.ca)'
Subject: RE: Stage 2 ION - MCFN Comments on the Draft Environmental Project Report

Hi Mark,

We are starting to collect final comments on the EPR in preparation for a April 6 publish date (Notice of Completion). Do you have any comments on the EPR that we could incorporate?

Thanks,
Matthew

From: Matthew O'Neil
Sent: February 10, 2021 12:06 PM
To: Mark LaForme (Mark.LaForme@mncfn.ca) <Mark.LaForme@mncfn.ca>
Cc: Megan DeVries (megan.devries@mncfn.ca) <megan.devries@mncfn.ca>
Subject: Stage 2 ION - MCFN Comments on the Draft Environmental Project Report

Good afternoon Mark,

As discussed just now, does the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation have any comments on the Draft Environmental Project Report (EPR) for the Region of Waterloo's Stage 2 ION LRT project? The Notice of Commencement (attached) was advertised and mailed on December 10, 2020. The Draft EPR and appendices (technical reports) are available for review on the project website: www.regionofwaterloo.ca/Stage2ION and the public comment period is open until February 12th. Please advise if you require additional time to review. Comments can be submitted directly to me.

Regards,

Matthew O'Neil, P.Eng.
Manager (Acting), Rapid Transit Coordination
Region of Waterloo | Transportation and Environmental Services
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From: Robin Vanstone <rvanstone@sixnations.ca>

Sent: March 10, 2021 2:49 PM

To: Matthew O'Neil <MONeil@regionofwaterloo.ca>

Subject: Re: Stage 2 ION - Six Nations of the Grand River Comments on the Draft Environmental Project Report

Attachments: RL -ROW Stage 2 ION.pdf

Good Afternoon Matthew,

Thank you for your patience. Please find attached Six Nations response to the Natural Heritage Report for the Stage 2 ION LRT project.

Regards,

Robbin Vanstone

Consultation Supervisor,
Lands Use Unit
Six Nations of the Grand River



March 10, 2021,

via email

Matthew O'Neil, Senior Engineer,
Rapid Transit
Region of Waterloo
20 Weber St E, 4th Floor
Kitchener, ON N2H 1C3

RE: Transit Project Assessment Process Stage 2 ION: LRT from Kitchener to Cambridge

The Six Nations of the Grand River is in receipt of the notice informing us of the above project. Thank you for respecting our land rights and the legal duty to consult with our community. Be advised, this project lies within our treaty land and is subject to the unresolved land rights issues of the Six Nations of the Grand River and litigations against Canada and Ontario.

Six Nations of the Grand Rivers' Aboriginal and Treaty Rights throughout Southern Ontario are well documented through archaeological findings, historical facts and written Treaty Agreements. The Haldimand Treaty and the 1701 Fort Albany/Nanfan Treaty have been recognized in past court proceedings and are presented as factual evidence in the ongoing litigation between Six Nations of the Grand River and Crowns Canada and Ontario.

The Supreme Court of Canada's key court cases Haida Nation, Taku River Tlingit First Nation, Mikisew Cree, Tsilhqot'in and Keewatin decisions confirms the legal obligation to consult with First Nations. Six Nations of the Grand River Elected Council requires that the Crown, proponents and municipalities consult with us in good faith in order to obtain our free prior and informed consent.

It is our cultural duty to try to protect the natural environment, which includes air, land, water and species to the best of our ability. This also includes protecting archaeological and natural resources.

As we are sure that you are aware, this project will have significant impacts on the natural environment. The Natural Heritage Report lists 93 wildlife species within the Study Area. Obviously, these species will be impacted. We are not only concerned with Species at Risk, Threatened and Endangered Species, and Species of Concern although they are all important as well, we are concerned with the well-being of all species. As humans we cannot continue to remove and destroy wildlife habitat.

We understand that there are often mitigation measures put in place to offset the effects development has on our natural environment. For instance, the necessity to create replacement habitats. We also appreciate that there are regulations in place to try to minimize those impacts. However, the

environmental protection laws put in place by both the Government of Ontario and the Government of Canada are not nearly strong enough. We must do better.

We have many questions regarding this project including, but not limited to:

1. What mitigation measures have been implemented to minimize the impacts to the habitats that are being displaced. Although not ideal, are replacement habitats being created?
2. How many trees are being removed and how many are being replanted?
3. Have safety measures been put in place to guard against train mortality rates?
4. There was discussion of a new trail alignment, how is this going to impact the species in the area?

Both the Provincial Policy Statement and the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe recognize “The First Nations and Métis communities within the Great Lakes region have a unique relationship with the land and its resources, which continues to shape the history and economy of the area today.”

We cannot continue to disregard the impacts that development has on the natural environment. We need to protect those species whose habitats are being impacted by development.

As part of our Haldimand Proclamation Treaty Territory, your municipality lies on traditional Six Nations Treaty Lands, and in the spirit of reconciliation, we would suggest that the time has come to create a new more equitable relationship with one another. We believe it is time to begin having meaningful discussions regarding this and other developments under your jurisdiction and within our Treaty Lands.

It is our hope that engagement with the Six Nations of the Grand River will lead to a mutually respectful and lasting relationship.

Thank you for your consideration regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Robbin Vanstone

Consultation Supervisor,
Six Nations of the Grand River.

From: Tanya Hill-Montour <tanyahill-montour@sixnations.ca>
Sent: March 11, 2021 10:08 AM
To: Matthew O'Neil <MONeil@regionofwaterloo.ca>
Cc: Lonny Bomberry <lonnybomberry@sixnations.ca>; Robin Vanstone <rvanstone@sixnations.ca>
Subject: Re: Stage 2 ION - Six Nations of the Grand River Comments on the Draft Environmental Project Report

Good Morning Matthew,

I am writing in regards to the stage 1 Archaeological assessment report (2019) Waterloo ION LRT transit project assessment. I have completed a comprehensive review of the mapping and recommendations of this report. The potential for Archaeological assessment was deemed by the standard and guidelines of the Ministry (MHCTS)

The investigations conducted over several years by Archaeological consulting companies resulted in recommending exemptions of further assessment within the corridor areas. As we are aware that Kitchener and surrounding areas are evident of significant artifact collections and Ancestral human remains finding. I would propose the areas that are identified of Archaeological potential, a on-site representative from our Nation be involved in the established investigation of possible recovery of Archaeological resources.

The strategies recommended for these project areas are feasible and any areas outside of study corridor limits is agreed to be further assessed by a stage 1 and 2 Archaeological assessment.

If you have any further questions, please reach out to me by the contact information below.
Kind Regards,

Tanya j. Hill-Montour B.A Hons.
Six Nations of the Grand River - Archaeology Supervisor.
c.226.388.0665
t.519.754.0665
e. tanyahill-montour@sixnations.ca

From: Matthew O'Neil <MONEil@regionofwaterloo.ca>
Sent: March 23, 2021 4:33 PM
To: Robbin Vanstone (rlinn@sixnations.ca)
Cc: Dawn LaForme; Gord Ryan; Tanya Hill-Montour (tanyahill-montour@sixnations.ca); Morneau, Denise
Subject: Stage 2 ION - Six Nations of the Grand River Comments on the Environmental Project Report
Attachments: DOCS_ADMIN-#3603483-v1-S2ION_Letter_to_Six_Nations_re_Natural_Heritage_Report_comments_2021-03-23.pdf

Good afternoon Robbin,

Please see attached for responses to your comments on the Natural Heritage Report.

Regards,

Matthew O'Neil, P.Eng.

Manager (Acting), Rapid Transit Coordination
Region of Waterloo | Transportation and Environmental Services
20 Weber St E, Kitchener, ON N2H 1C3
519-505-3518 (cell) | TTY 519-575-4608
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TRANSPORTATION AND
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
Rapid Transit
20 Weber Street East, 4th Floor
Kitchener ON N2H 1C3
Telephone: 519-575-4400
Fax: 519-575-4026
www.regionofwaterloo.ca

March 23, 2021

via email

Robbin Vanstone, Consultation Supervisor
Six Nations of the Grand River
2498 Chiefswood Road
PO Box 5000
Ohsweken, ON N0A 1M0

**RE: Stage 2 ION: LRT from Kitchener to Cambridge Transit Project Assessment Process
Draft Environmental Project Report (EPR) Natural Heritage Report Comments**

Dear Robbin:

We received your comments on the Draft EPR Natural Heritage Report via email on March 10, 2021. Please see below for the Region of Waterloo's responses to these comments.

Comment: What mitigation measures have been implemented to minimize the impacts to the habitats that are being displaced. Although not ideal, are replacement habitats being created?

Region Response: The Region acknowledges the importance of all wildlife species and their habitats. The proposed new Stage 2 ION stations are not expected to significantly impact wildlife habitat as they are located either on street, or in existing industrial or residential areas. Given that wildlife found within the study area are acclimatized to the presence of road infrastructure, disturbance to wildlife from any increase in noise, light and visual intrusion potentially caused by the operation of Stage 2 ION is not expected to have any significant adverse impacts.

Mitigation measures to be implemented to protect wildlife and wildlife habitat include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Several bird species listed under the Migratory Birds Convention Act (MBCA) are located within the study area. The MBCA prohibits the killing, capturing, injuring, taking or disturbing of migratory birds (including eggs) or the damaging, destroying, removing or disturbing of nests. All works will be completed in accordance with the MCBA.

- Tree removals during construction will occur outside the breeding window, before April 1 or after August 15.
- In the event that these activities must be undertaken from April 1 to August 15, a nest survey will be conducted by a qualified avian biologist to identify and locate active nests of these species, as well as other bird species covered by the MBCA.
- Lights with shields will be used to focus the light beams onto the facilities only and away from natural heritage features adjacent to the Stage 2 ION LRT to reduce potential disturbance caused by light pollution.
- Wildlife incidentally encountered during construction will be protected and will not be knowingly harmed.
- In the event that an endangered or threatened species (pursuant to the Endangered Species Act) is detected while the project is being constructed, due diligence will be exercised and the MNRFB will be contacted for confirmation of appropriate action in accordance with the legislation.

Potential impacts to wildlife and wildlife habitat and mitigation measures will be further investigated and refined during a future design phase. Commitments are made in the EPR to prepare site-specific Environmental Impact Studies (EISs) during a future design phase. Based on the results of the EISs, additional site-specific measures will be identified to avoid, minimize, mitigate and compensate for impacts to natural heritage features. This will include the identification of restoration and enhancement opportunities to offset the potential loss of habitats from the LRT.

Comment: How many trees are being removed and how many are being replanted?

Region Response: Based on the information available during the Preliminary Design natural heritage investigations, removal of approximately 21.5 ha of naturalized and/or planted areas is estimated. This will be further investigated and refined during a future design phase. During this future design phase, a detailed tree inventory and assessment will be carried out by a certified arborist to identify tree removals, injuries and retention, and site-specific tree protection measures, including transplanting and tree replacements.

Comment: Have safety measures been put in place to guard against train mortality rates?

Region Response: Future assessments will be undertaken during detailed design. Through detailed design, site-specific mitigation (e.g. eco-passages, exclusionary fencing) will be identified to reduce or prevent animal mortality, where required.

Comment: There was discussion of a new trail alignment, how is this going to impact species in the area?

Region Response: Existing trails will be retained and/or restored as part of the project. The design of a new trail alignment will be advanced during a future design phase and best management practices and mitigation measures will be identified at that time to maintain natural heritage features.

We look forward to working with Six Nations of the Grand River as we advance the Stage 2 ION project towards implementation.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matthew O'Neil".

Matthew O'Neil, P.Eng.
Manager (Acting), Rapid Transit Coordination
Region of Waterloo

Cc: Gord Ryan, Director, Rapid Transit
Denise Morneau, Senior Project Manager, WSP

From: Matthew O'Neil <MONEil@regionofwaterloo.ca>
Sent: March 23, 2021 4:33 PM
To: Tanya Hill-Montour (tanyahill-montour@sixnations.ca)
Cc: Dawn LaForme; Robbin Vanstone (rlinn@sixnations.ca); Gord Ryan; Morneau, Denise; Lonny Bomberry (lonnybomberry@sixnations.ca)
Subject: Stage 2 ION - Six Nations of the Grand River Comments on the Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment
Attachments: DOCS_ADMIN-#3603644-v1-S2ION_Letter_to_Six_Nations_re_Stage_1_AA_comments_2021-03-23.pdf

Good afternoon Tanya,

Please see attached for responses to your comments on the Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment Report.

Regards,

Matthew O'Neil, P.Eng.

Manager (Acting), Rapid Transit Coordination
Region of Waterloo | Transportation and Environmental Services
20 Weber St E, Kitchener, ON N2H 1C3
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Rapid Transit
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Kitchener ON N2H 1C3
Telephone: 519-575-4400
Fax: 519-575-4026
www.regionofwaterloo.ca

March 23, 2021

via email

Tanya Hill-Montour, Archaeology Supervisor
Six Nations of the Grand River
2498 Chiefswood Road
PO Box 5000
Ohsweken, ON N0A 1M0

**RE: Stage 2 ION Transit Project Assessment Process Draft Environmental Project Report
Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment Comments**

Dear Tanya:

We received your comments on the Draft EPR Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment Report via email on March 11, 2021. Please see below for the Region of Waterloo's responses to these comments.

Comment: As we are aware that Kitchener and surrounding areas are evident of significant artifact collections and Ancestral human remains finding. I would propose the areas that are identified of Archaeological potential, a on-site representative from our Nation be involved in the established investigation of possible recovery of Archaeological resources.

Region Response: The Region will continue to engage with the Six Nations of the Grand River during the future design phase.

Comment: The strategies recommended for these project areas are feasible and any areas outside of study corridor limits is agreed to be further assessed by a stage 1 and 2 Archaeological assessment.

Region Reponse: Prior to the completion of the Transit Project Assessment Process, the Region received permission to enter approximately half of the properties identified as requiring a Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment (AA). Fieldwork was conducted on these properties and a draft Stage 2 AA was completed. The draft Stage 2 AA was provided to Six Nations of the Grand River on March 19, 2021. Future Stage 2 AA work will be completed during a future design

phase and prior to disturbance of the ground. When planning Stage 2 AA field work Region staff will contact you to provide an opportunity for participation in the field work.

We look forward to working with Six Nations of the Grand River as we advance the Stage 2 ION project towards implementation.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matthew O'Neil". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Matthew" and the last name "O'Neil" clearly distinguishable.

Matthew O'Neil, P.Eng.
Manager (Acting), Rapid Transit Coordination
Region of Waterloo

Cc: Gord Ryan, Director, Rapid Transit
Denise Morneau, Senior Project Manager, WSP