

SCARBOROUGH BLUFFS WEST REVITALIZATION STUDY

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Virtual Information Session – May 14, 2024



Land Acknowledgement

The land being studied for this project is the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. I also acknowledge that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 signed with the Mississaugas of the Credit, and the Williams Treaties signed with multiple Mississaugas and Chippewa bands.



Agenda

- Project History and Project Intent
- Terms of Reference and Environmental Assessment (EA) Process
- Project Study Areas
- Review Problem/Opportunity Assessment
- Project Objectives
- Round 1 Consultation – What We Heard
- Existing Conditions
- Identification and Evaluation of Alternatives
- Evaluation Criteria
- EA Consultation Activities
- Next Steps and Open Discussion



Project Overview



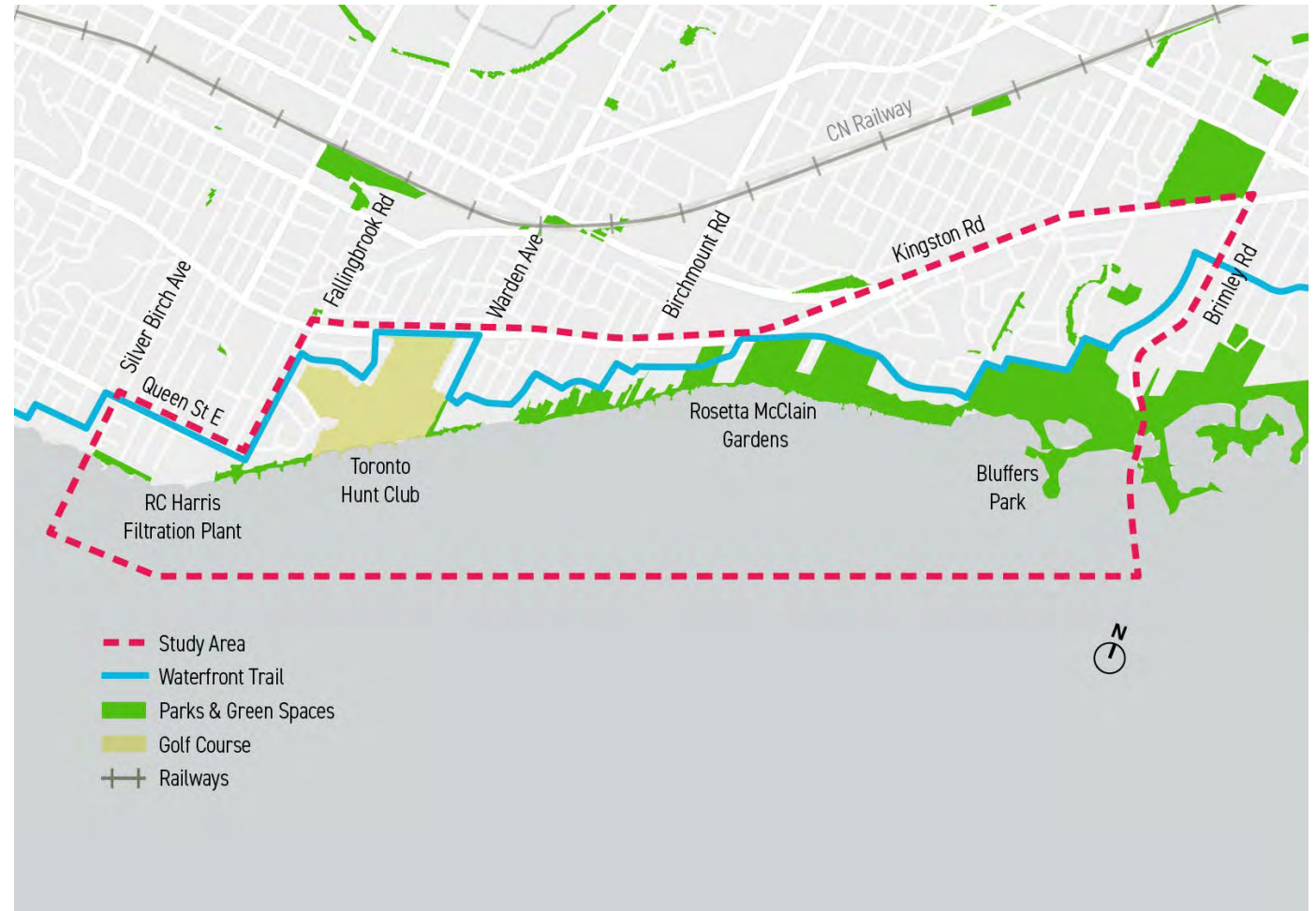
History of Waterfront Revitalization Plans and Policies

Long history of planning for and policies around Toronto Waterfront Revitalization provides the basis for the Scarborough Bluffs West Revitalization Project. Some key studies are:

- The Waterfront Plan for the Metropolitan Toronto Planning Area, 1967
- Regeneration: Toronto's Waterfront and Sustainable City, 1991
- Integrated Shoreline Management Plan, 1996
- City of Toronto Accessibility Design Guidelines, 2004
- City of Toronto Official Plan (2023 consolidated)
- Toronto Waterfront Aquatic Habitat Restoration Strategy, 2007
- Fish Community Objectives for Lake Ontario, 2013
- The Living City Policies, 2014
- City of Toronto Bikeways Implementation Plan
- Update on the Next Phase of Waterfront Revitalization, 2022

Project Intent

- Assess opportunities to improve access to and the long-term protection of **4.5 km of shoreline** between the Eastern Beaches (Balmy Beach) and Bluffer's Park.
- Focus on opportunities to conserve and enhance natural features and minimize hazards, while improving how the public accesses, moves through, and experiences the waterfront.



Environmental Assessment (EA) Process

The study is proceeding as an Individual EA (IEA) under the Ontario EA Act for which there are two phases:

Phase 1 - Terms of Reference (ToR) – WE ARE HERE

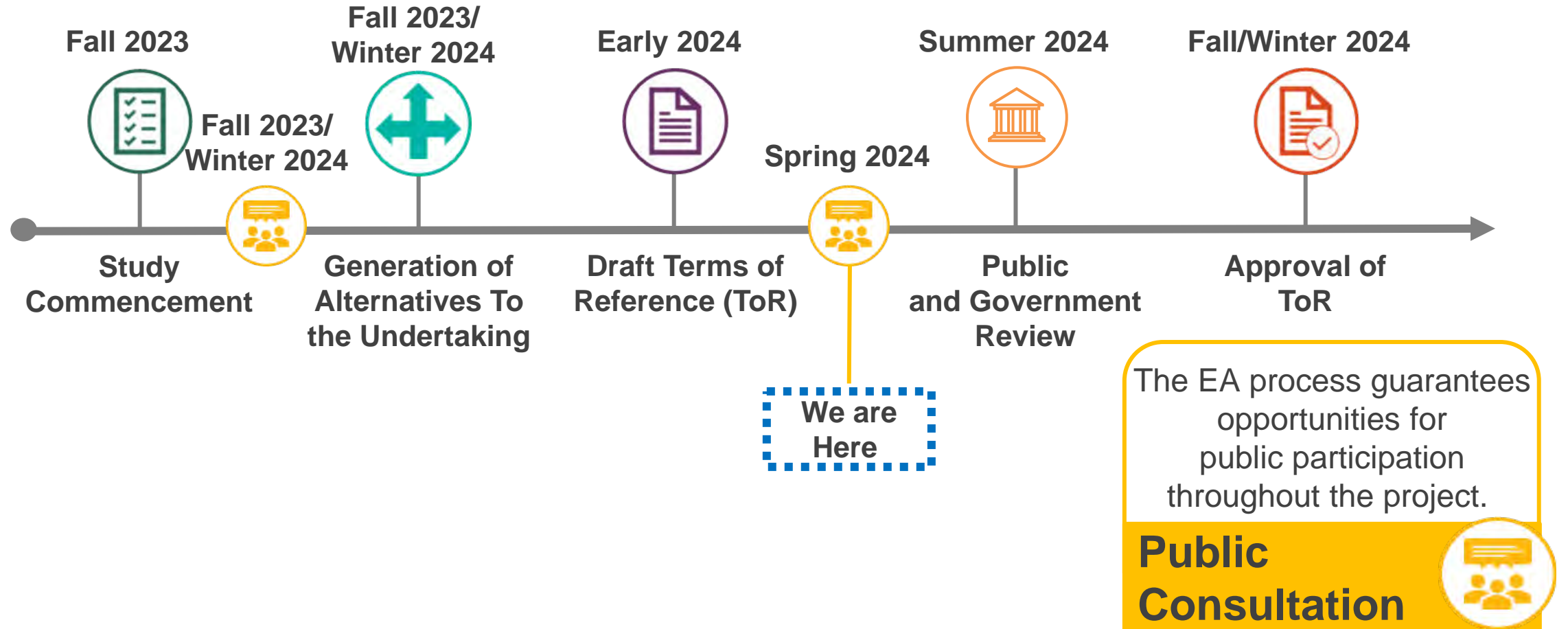
- Provides a roadmap for environmental effects to be examined, consultation to be undertaken, problems and opportunities to be addressed, and how EA will be prepared
- The ToR will describe:
 - Project Purpose;
 - Study Areas and Project Timelines;
 - Problem/Opportunity Assessment;
 - Overview of Existing Environment (Natural and Human);
 - Evaluation of “Alternatives To” – different ways to solve the problem or address the opportunity;
 - Framework for Identification and Evaluation of “Alternative Methods” – different ways to implement the preferred “Alternative to”;
 - Preliminary comparative evaluation criteria; and
 - The consultation plan for the IEA.

Phase 2 - IEA Preparation

- Alternatives are generated that address the problems and opportunities and then evaluated against the environmental effects identified in the ToR

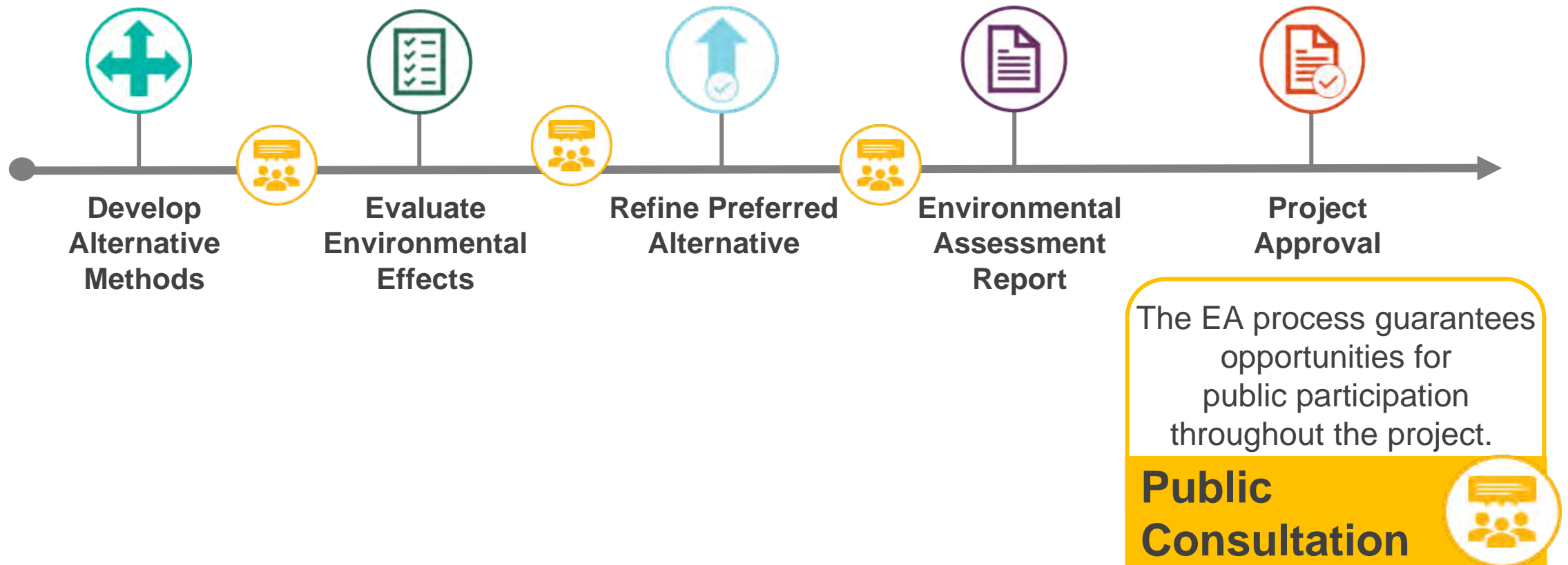
Environmental Assessment (EA) Timeline

Phase 1 - Terms of Reference

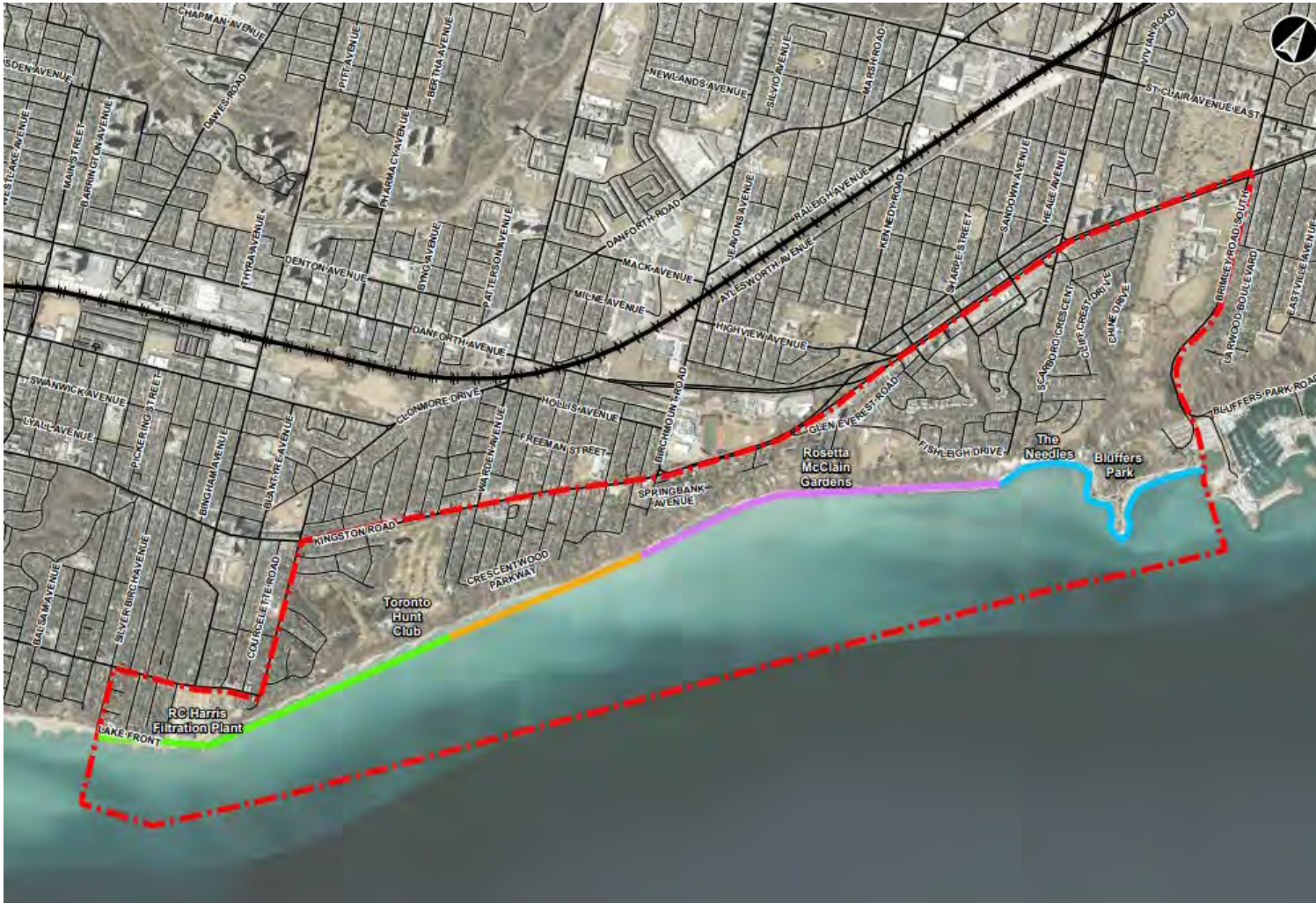


Environmental Assessment (EA) Timeline





Phase 2 – Environmental Assessment



Project Study Area - Segments



To facilitate the Alternatives development and evaluation process, the Project Study Area has been divided into **four shoreline segments**:

-  Segment 1 Silver Birch Avenue to Warden Avenue
-  Segment 2 Warden Avenue to Birchmount Road
-  Segment 3 Birchmount Road to the East End of Fishleigh informal access
-  Segment 4 East End of Fishleigh informal access to Bluffers Park (the Needles)

Draft Terms of Reference Material



Problems and Opportunities Assessment

Input during Consultation Round 1 refined the problems and opportunities to be addressed:

- Improve how people access, move through and experience the waterfront
- Balance conservation of natural features and habitat with sensitive revitalization
- Protect Toronto Water infrastructure along the shoreline and ensure outfalls continue to flow unimpeded
- Address shoreline erosion and slope stability
- Explore feasibility of a connected trail along the Lake Ontario shoreline



Project Objectives

The project objectives listed below will be used to structure the evaluation of alternatives

Conserve and enhance habitats and natural features on land and in the water

- Balance habitat loss with habitat creation and enhancement of existing habitat

Manage public safety and property risk

- Provide safe access to and along the waterfront, manage risks from erosion to users and property, and provide access for emergency services vehicles.

Provide an enjoyable waterfront experience

- Provide trail connections to and along the waterfront along with a diversity of recreational experiences

Consistency and coordination with other initiatives

- Ensure consistency with local, regional, provincial and national plans and policies including climate change policies and on the compatibility with adjacent projects

Achieve value for cost/cost effectiveness

- Ability to deliver value for cost



Input from the first round of Consultation confirmed these objectives.

Consultation Round 1 – What We Heard

Input during Consultation Round 1 was largely focused on the following topics:

- **Access to Shoreline**
- **Erosion**
- **Environmental Conservation**
- **Cost Effectiveness/Project Timeline**

What We Heard

Access to Shoreline

- Strong desire for safe and formal access for all abilities to and along the waterfront
- Concerns about the inability for EMS and City workers to access the site
- There are already sufficient areas of the shore that could be accessed, and this area should be left alone



What We Heard

Erosion

- Concerns regarding the impacts of climate change and fluctuating lake levels
- Desire for greater erosion protection measures to prevent landslides
- Questions about addressing immediate erosion concerns such as Crescentwood Park and damage to existing shore protection works, as well as erosion on private property



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What We Heard

Environmental Conservation

- Strong desire to conserve greenspace, and plant, wildlife, and fish habitat
- Some people have the impression that the area is untouched and would like to keep “wild” and “isolated nature” of the bluffs and shoreline
- Concern regarding increased human use and trash leading to greater stress on the environment



What We Heard

Cost Effectiveness/Project Timeline

- Desire to expedite the Terms of Reference and Environmental Assessment process
- Concerns regarding the cost of the project versus other City priorities



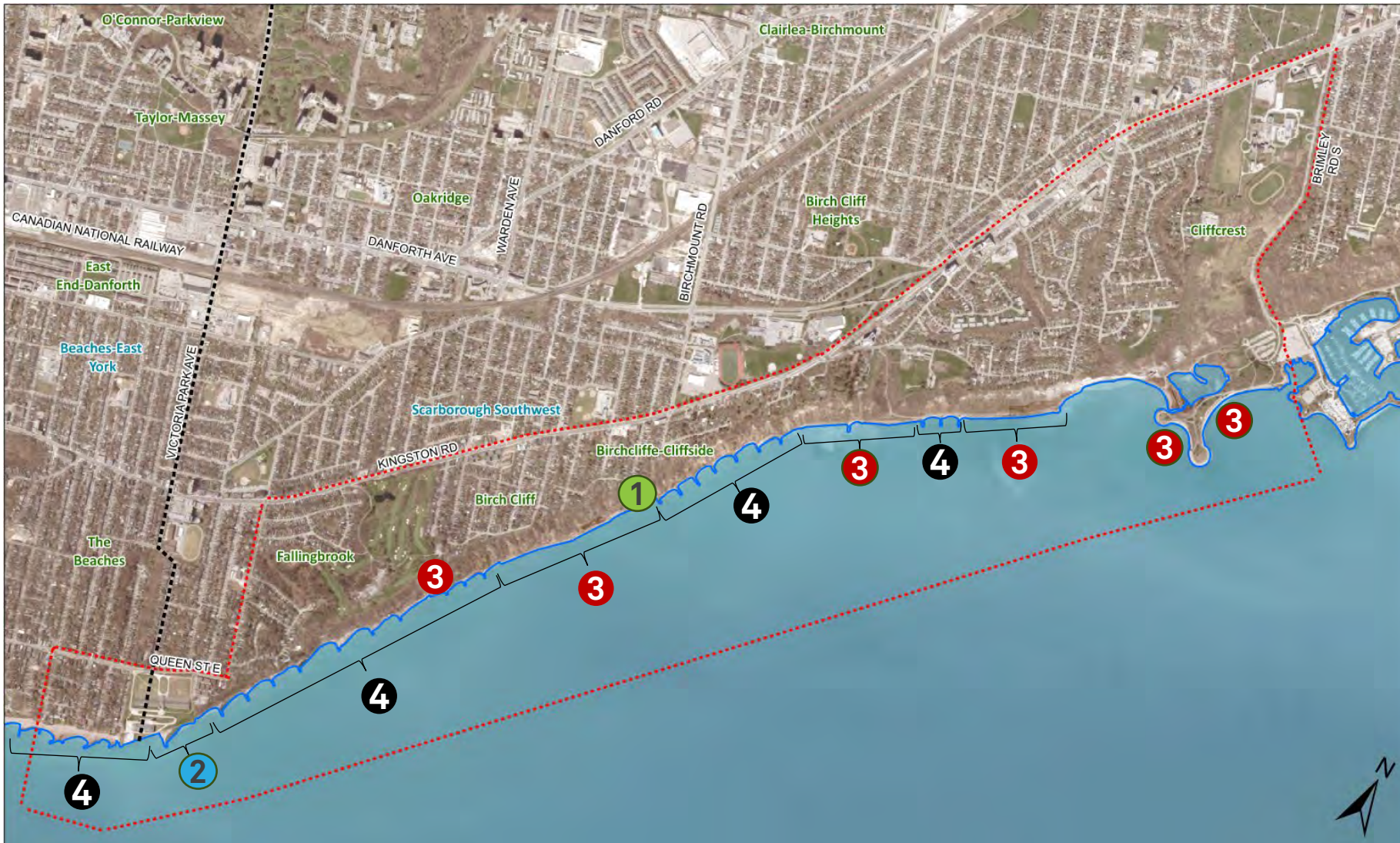
Existing Ecological Conditions – Impacts of Unmanaged Use

- Study area has been impacted by past and on-going human use
 - Informal trails
 - Unmanaged access
 - Garbage and litter
- Wildlife is generally urban tolerant and present in surrounding neighbourhoods and parks
- Many vegetation communities are dominated by exotic species (e.g., dog strangling vine)
- Fish habitat has been altered by past shoreline works



Existing Coastal Conditions – Protected Shoreline

Of the existing project area shoreline, 94% is currently protected (modified)



1 Sheet Pile Wall



2 Concrete Seawall



3 Armourstone Revetment



4 Beach & Groyne System



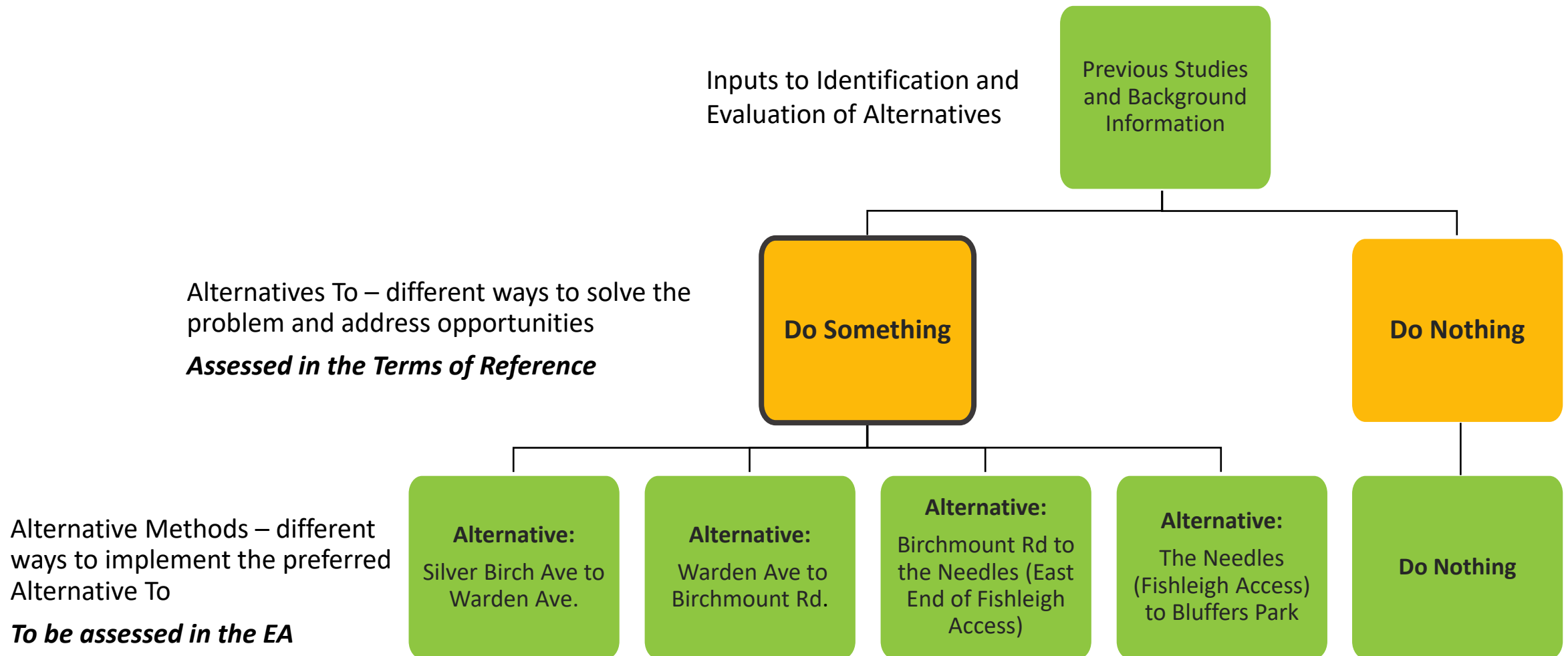
Existing Conditions Assessment

Terms of Reference will provide a Summary of Existing Conditions. Key points are:

- 94% of the shoreline has some form of protection. The only natural shore is at the Needles on the west side of Bluffers park
- Certain areas along top of Bluffs are at high risk of failure
- The Kingston Road corridor will see intensified use as development occurs
- Denser communities cause more people to rely on parks for recreation and relaxation
- No extensive designated bikeway network through the project site
- There is a lack of formal access to the shoreline that links to transit, active transportation and parking
- Tableland parks have no programming and few facilities
- No marine archaeology sites identified. Land based archaeological studies to be conducted for any ground disturbing activities



Identification and Evaluation of Alternatives



Evaluation of Alternatives To The Undertaking

Two alternatives to Solve the Problem and Address the Opportunity

1. Do Nothing

- Avoidance of new construction costs and environmental effects during construction
- No resolution of long-term erosion risk
- No active transportation connection across SBW Project site
- Lack of proper access to the shoreline for EMS, City staff, and the public will remain
- Continued impact to ecological integrity of site due to unmanaged use (e.g., garbage, foot paths, etc.)

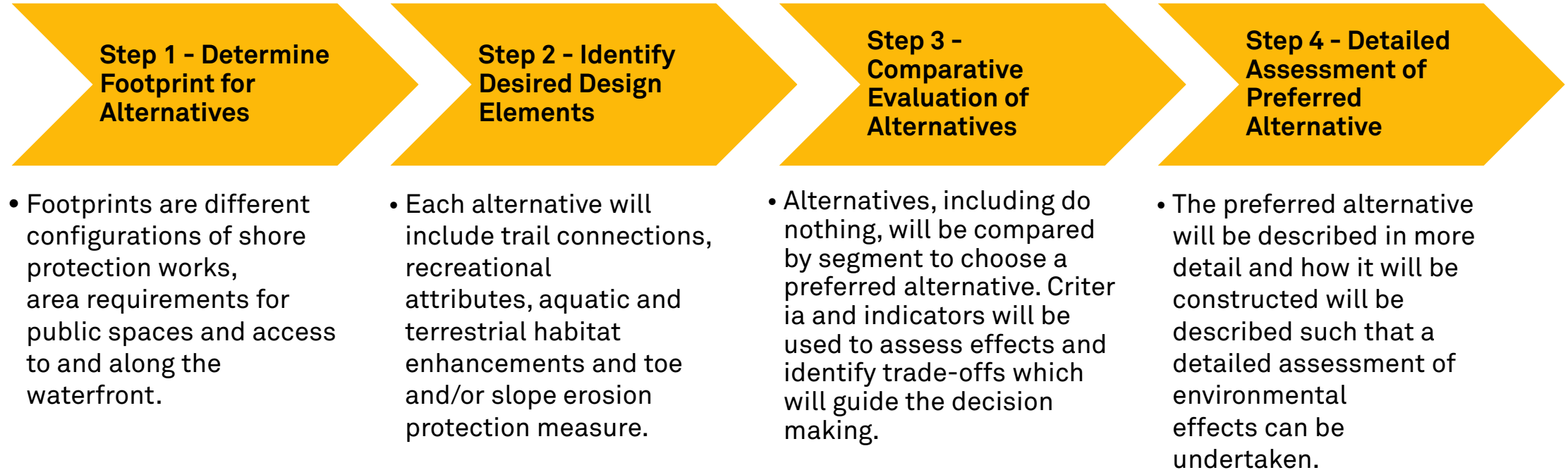
2. Do Something

- Consistent with City, TRCA, and Provincial planning and policies with respect to the waterfront and the need to integrate erosion protection works with habitat improvements and improved public access
- Addresses long-term erosion risk
- Addresses unmanaged use along the waterfront and lack of access for EMS, City staff and users
- Additional waterfront parkland and public access
- Opportunity to enhance aquatic and terrestrial habitats

In summary, the “Do Something” alternative will be carried forward to the development of ‘Alternative Methods’ during the EA.

Identification and Evaluation of Alternatives Methods

Alternative methods will be identified by segment based on following steps:



Alternative Methods are different ways to implement the preferred Alternative To

Preliminary Evaluation Criteria

The evaluation criteria measure the ability of each alternative to meet the project objectives.

Naturalization



- Extent of aquatic habitat enhanced or diminished
- Extent of terrestrial habitat created, enhanced, or diminished
- Potential impact on Species at Risk

Risk



- Ability to minimize public safety risk and property loss as a result of slope and shoreline erosion/failure
- Ability to improve Emergency Services access to the waterfront
- Ability to minimize public safety risk for trails along water's edge

Access and Experience



- Improve public access to the waterfront
- Potential for changes to the use of the waterfront for recreation
- Ability to integrate within community
- Opportunities for viewsheds or scenic lookouts

Consistency and Compatibility



- Ability to integrate with City and other agency plans and initiatives
- Ability to protect source water protection areas
- Potential impact on archaeological resources, built heritage resources, and cultural heritage landscapes

Fiscal Viability



- Estimated capital costs
- Maintenance and operations costs (shoreline works only)

Are there any other criteria that should be considered when evaluating alternatives during the Environmental Assessment process?

Next Steps



Consultation Activities for the EA

Activity	During ToR	During EA*
Community Advisory Group (CAG) Meetings	2	3
Public events and surveys	2	3
Property owner meetings	Key milestones and as required/requested	Key milestones and as required/requested
Indigenous engagement	Throughout entire project	Throughout entire project
Public notices/emails/admail	Key milestones (project start, public events, etc.)	Key milestones (project start, public events, etc.)
Project website and social media	Throughout entire project	Throughout entire project

Next Steps

Next Steps	Timeline
Consultation Round 2	April to May 2024
Notice of Draft ToR – Agency, Public, and Indigenous Review	Summer 2024
Issue Notice of Submission – Agency, Public, and Indigenous Review	Fall 2024
Notice of Commencement for EA	Winter 2025

How to Stay Involved

- Sign up for email list at **toronto.ca/scarboroughbluffswest**
- Participate in online survey and in-person event in May 2024 (details to follow)
- Submit comments and questions to scarboroughbluffswest@toronto.ca or leave a message at 416-397-7311 (call 416-392-8833 for urgent questions)
- Review the draft Terms of Reference when available and provide your comments
- Review the final Terms of Reference to see how your comments were addressed and to provide additional comments

Residents will be notified when the EA commences and the next round of consultation begins, tentatively planned for early 2025.



Thank You

