

Feedback and IESO Responses

South and Central Bulk Plan

On April 30, 2026, the IESO hosted a public webinar to provide the draft recommendations for feedback and comment. The following is a summary of the feedback the IESO received.

The IESO received written feedback submissions from:

- [1001490547 Ontario Inc.](#)
- [Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury](#)
- [GrandBridge Energy Inc](#)
- [London Hydro](#)
- [County of Middlesex](#)
- [Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation](#)
- [Ontario Rivers Alliance](#)
- [Power Workers' Union](#)
- [Township of Wellesley](#)

The presentation and the webinar recording, along with the IESO's responses to feedback are available on the [South and Central Bulk Plan webpage](#).

Note on Feedback Summary and IESO Responses

The IESO appreciates receiving feedback about our work. The responses to the submitted feedback are organized by theme.

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Theme	IESO Response to Feedback
Land Use and Growth Alignment Summary: Stakeholders consistently emphasized the need for transmission planning to align with municipal growth plans, development pressures, and land-use priorities. Municipalities (Township of Wellesley, County of Middlesex) want corridors that avoid planned growth areas and sensitive land uses. Growth-focused communities/stakeholders (Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury, 1001490547 Ontario Inc., London Hydro) stress that infrastructure must keep pace with development demand. The Power Workers’ Union expressed concern that planning process is too conservative and does not sufficiently reflect high-growth demand scenarios and that there is a risk to underbuilding transmission infrastructure, creating future reliability risks.	The IESO recognizes the importance of aligning bulk transmission planning with municipal planning and growth priorities. The South and Central Bulk Plan is co-ordinated with the regional planning process to ensure needs and solutions are shared between studies and impacts evaluated. The regional planning process incorporates inputs from municipal growth forecasts, regional plans, and local development trends to ensure alignment with anticipated demand and land-use changes. At the same time, bulk system planning is conducted at a high level to identify system needs and potential infrastructure requirements. Detailed routing, siting, and land-use considerations are addressed during subsequent project development stages led by transmitters, including environmental assessments and community consultation processes. The IESO will continue to co-ordinate with municipalities through the regional planning processes to ensure that transmission development considers local growth objectives and minimizes land-use conflicts where feasible, using the best available information into the process at the time. Municipalities are encouraged to share new potential loads with their Local Distribution Company to ensure the need is captured in local and regional planning activities.
Capacity, Timing, and Delivery Certainty Summary: There is concern that electricity capacity is either already insufficient or uncertain, with major implications for growth and reliability. There is also a desire to understand how the timing of elements that would impact any interdependencies related to current	Ensuring adequate and timely electricity supply to meet forecast growth is a core objective of the South and Central Bulk Plan. The plan is informed by the IESO’s Annual Planning Outlook, which forecasts significant increases in electricity demand driven by population growth, electrification, and economic development. To address uncertainty in the pace and location of growth, the plan uses a staged and portfolio-based

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regional planning initiatives within the bulk plan area. Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury highlights immediate constraints blocking development and investment. 1001490547 Ontario Inc. and London Hydro emphasize large forecasted load increases requiring new infrastructure. County of Middlesex raises concerns about timing of corridor protection relative to planning clarity. GrandBridge Energy Inc. expressed their support for Portfolio B, but indicated that more information about the implementation triggers, as well as timing, staging, dependencies, and need dates as they related to the current Kitchener-Waterloo-Cambridge-Guelph Integrated Regional Resource Plan would be helpful to ensuring continued co-ordination between bulk system, municipal growth, and local distribution planning.	approach, categorizing projects as: • Implementation-ready (near-term needs) • Future consideration (dependent on longer-term conditions or specific triggering events) This approach enables the IESO to: • Advance projects required to maintain reliability in the near term • Maintain flexibility to respond to evolving demand and policy signals • Avoid over- or under-building infrastructure The IESO will continue to monitor demand, connection activity, and regional developments to refine timing and sequencing of investments, based on the best available information about the timing, location and certainty of new growth and development.
Transparency and Planning Rationale Summary: Multiple submissions call for clearer explanation of how decisions are made, especially when recommendations change or involve major trade-offs. 1001490547 Ontario Inc. questions removal of a previously identified “no-regrets” project; strongly advocates for reinstating the Trafalgar–Oakville 230 kV line. County of Middlesex requests clearer methodology, mapping, and evaluation criteria.	The IESO is committed to transparency in its planning processes and rationale for decisions. Throughout the development of the South and Central Bulk Plan, the IESO has: • Provided regular updates through quarterly engagement sessions and targeted outreach to communities in the plan area, in alignment with key milestones • Shared system needs, assumptions, and planning data • Presented multiple portfolios of options and evaluation criteria • Sought and incorporated stakeholder feedback

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Ontario Rivers Alliance calls for full disclosure of assumptions, costs, and modelling inputs; raised concerns about the large gap between the low and high demand growth scenarios and costs to ratepayers.	at key planning stages The draft recommended portfolio reflects a comprehensive evaluation of considerations including: • Reliability performance • Economic performance • System operability and resilience • Stakeholder feedback • Implementation considerations The IESO continues to recognize the need to support demand growth in the Southwest Mississauga area. While the Trafalgar–Oakville line was previously identified as part of bulk options, further analysis has determined that it primarily addresses local supply needs and is more appropriately considered through regional planning. As such, this need will be assessed through the GTA West IRRP, and stakeholders are encouraged to participate in that process to help inform next steps. The IESO considers affordability alongside reliability and sustainability, and advances transmission investments in a staged and prudent manner based on changing system conditions such as actual demand growth and generation connections. While overall system costs increase to support a larger system, analysis through the Annual Planning Outlook indicates that per-unit electricity costs are expected to remain relatively stable as demand grows alongside infrastructure. Further detail on assumptions, methodologies, and rationale will be provided in the final report. The IESO will also continue to respond to stakeholder feedback through published response documents as part of its engagement process.

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Impacts of Transmission Infrastructure on Land, Environment, and Communities Summary: There is concern about the physical footprint and impacts of new transmission infrastructure, particularly in rural/agricultural and environmentally sensitive areas. County of Middlesex focuses on agriculture, natural heritage, and cumulative impacts and requests that co-location with existing infrastructure corridors. Township of Wellesley highlights urban expansion plans and concerns with a proposed transmission line locating within this Urban Area of the township. Ontario Rivers Alliance emphasizes environmental impacts (e.g., hydropower, climate); calling for evaluation of long-duration storage, renewables, and hybrid portfolios.	The IESO acknowledges the importance of minimizing impacts to land, the environment, and communities. At the bulk planning stage, the IESO considers land-use and environmental factors at a high level, including opportunities to reduce impacts through approaches such as corridor co-location and the use of existing infrastructure pathways where feasible. More detailed assessment of environmental, agricultural, and community impacts occurs by the Transmitter, during project development, including: • Environmental Assessment processes • Indigenous consultation and engagement • Municipal and community consultation These processes are led by the Transmitter and are designed to assess site-specific impacts and identify mitigation measures in accordance with regulatory requirements. The IESO considers non-wires alternatives through its planning processes; however, these solutions typically depend on sufficient underlying transmission infrastructure to deliver and integrate power reliably. Bulk planning establishes that foundational high-voltage system, after which regional planning processes (Integrated Regional Resource Plans) assess how non-wires alternatives can be applied to address local needs in a coordinated and effective manner. Due to the scale of transfer requirements and areas of impact considered through bulk planning, non-wires alternatives are not typically a viable solution to meet these types of needs, although cumulative impacts of committed programs are accounted for at the provincial level when developing Annual Planning Outlook forecasts. The IESO will continue to work with partners to ensure that future

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	infrastructure development is carried out considering local and environmental priorities.
Importance of Early, Ongoing, and Meaningful Engagement Summary: Stakeholders want earlier and more collaborative engagement, especially before decisions are advanced. County of Middlesex calls for early municipal involvement before corridor decisions. Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury and London Hydro emphasize partnership and coordination. Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation (MSIFN) emphasized concerns regarding impacts on unceded lands, including submerged lands beneath Lake Ontario, as well as traditional harvesting areas and cultural heritage sites located both on-shore and in-water. They are rights-bearing landscapes and waters under active jurisdictional interest of MSIFN and other Michi Saagiig Nations. MSIFN expressed concerns that the IESO's planning approach does not reflect a rights-based approach for meaningful engagement. Indigenous rights, treaty jurisdiction, and territorial impacts are not presented as core screening or decision criteria in the portfolio evaluation. MSIFN mentioned that there is a need for meaningful engagement before corridor identification or protection decisions are finalized, and a need to treat corridor preservation as a rights-triggering activity, not a preliminary technical step.	The IESO values Indigenous and stakeholder input and recognizes the importance of ongoing, meaningful engagement. The South and Central Bulk Plan has been developed through a multi-year engagement process that included: • Public webinars and information sessions • Sharing of draft materials and analysis • Opportunities for written feedback at multiple stages Feedback received has informed the refinement of planning options and draft recommendations. Engagement will continue beyond the release of the final report, particularly as projects move into development and implementation phases. The IESO is committed to continuing engaging with municipalities, Indigenous communities, industry stakeholders, and the public to support coordinated planning and informed decision-making. The IESO is committed to transparency in our planning process and encourage stakeholders and communities to participate in the process. Community feedback and perspectives are valuable in the development of the final recommendations. The IESO remains committed to ongoing, meaningful dialogue with communities to help shape long-term planning in regions across Ontario, as their input is appreciated in helping shape an inclusive and collaborative planning process. The IESO recognizes the importance of early and meaningful engagement and values the insights, perspectives offered by Indigenous communities. Input into draft recommendations for the South and Central Ontario Bulk Plan can be

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	provided to the IESO by continuing to provide written feedback in response to engagement sessions or posted documents, or by requesting a dedicated one-on-one meeting with the Indigenous Engagement Team. While environmental requirements are outside the scope of the South and Central Ontario Bulk Plan, the successful proponent selected to develop, construct and operate the Toronto Third Line will be responsible for obtaining all required permits and approvals, including completing any required Environmental Assessment. Where an Environmental Assessment is required, Indigenous consultation will be undertaken as part of that process and may be triggered by other applicable regulatory processes. The relevant Crown entity is responsible for consultation but may delegate certain aspects of the Duty to Consult in respect of any transmission project that is recommended by the South and Central Ontario Bulk Plan to the respective project proponent. A project proponent will be responsible for conducting an Environmental Assessment as part of the project development process. If the project meets criteria under the Impact Assessment Act, a federal impact assessment may be triggered.
Economic Growth, Competitiveness and Affordability Summary: Several submissions frame electricity infrastructure as foundational to economic development. Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury links grid constraints directly to lost investment and jobs. London stakeholders highlight electricity as critical for investment attraction and	The IESO recognizes that reliable and adequate electricity infrastructure is a critical enabler of economic development, investment, and housing growth across Ontario. The South and Central Bulk Plan is designed to support: • Growing industrial and commercial demand • Electrification of key sectors • Integration of new large loads and emerging industries • Provincial housing and economic growth

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sector growth. 1001490547 Ontario Inc. links transmission to major data centre and mixed-use development viability.	objectives By strengthening the bulk transmission system, the plan helps ensure that electricity supply can meet current and future needs, supporting regional competitiveness and long-term economic prosperity. At the same time, the IESO’s mandate requires balancing reliability, affordability, and sustainability, and the plan is designed to achieve these objectives in an integrated manner.
Indigenous Equity Participation Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation (MSIFN) highlighted a concern regarding economic reconciliation, and how it must be linked to transmission, generation and storage expansion. MSIFN raised a concern that there is no explicit recognition of First Nation equity participation in transmission development, distribution expansion, and related generation and storage requirements. MSIFN stated that this remains a critical gap given the scale of capital investment required (multi-billion-dollar infrastructure) and established precedents for Indigenous equity participation in Ontario energy infrastructure.	The IESO recognizes that Indigenous engagement and economic participation are critical to the success of electricity infrastructure projects in Ontario. The IESO is subject to policy direction from the Ministry of Energy and Mines with respect to the inclusion of requirements related to Indigenous economic participation in any IESO programs or procurements. The IESO will share MSIFN’s feedback with the Ministry to inform the approach for any transmission projects arising from the South and Central Ontario Bulk Plan. The IESO offers funding support through the Indigenous Energy Support Program (IESP). The IESP promotes broad equitable participation in Ontario’s energy sector for Indigenous communities and organizations, including by offering funding to support assessment and development of opportunities for partnerships and participation in new or existing energy infrastructure projects. The IESO Indigenous Engagement Team encourages Indigenous communities to reach out with any questions that they may have regarding the IESP at iesp@ieso.ca.

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Need for Strategic, Long-Term and Integrated Planning Summary: Stakeholders want planning that is integrated across systems, forward-looking, and considers cumulative effects. Ontario Rivers Alliance calls for province-wide cost integration and scenario analysis. County of Middlesex emphasizes cumulative infrastructure impacts. London Hydro and Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury highlight alignment with long-term growth and infrastructure plans. Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation (MSIFN) raised concerns regarding cumulative effects across multiple interconnected projects. The key issue, bulk planning is occurring: • At a scale that aggregates impacts across multiple regions, • But without a corresponding regional cumulative effects framework.	The South and Central Bulk Plan is part of a broader, integrated electricity planning framework in Ontario. It is informed by and co-ordinated with: • The Annual Planning Outlook • Regional electricity planning processes (IRRPs) • Provincial policy direction • Ongoing generation and procurement initiatives Bulk and regional planning processes are interdependent, with bulk infrastructure enabling regional solutions and regional needs informing bulk system requirements. The use of a portfolio-based approach allows the IESO to consider system needs holistically and evaluate how different combinations of projects perform under a range of future scenarios, including varying demand levels and supply outcomes. The IESO will continue to update plans as new information becomes available through its annual planning cycle to ensure that investments remain co-ordinated, flexible, and responsive to changing conditions. For transmission projects that fall within Ontario's approved Class Environmental Assessment (EA) for Transmission Facilities, the project proponent (for example, Hydro One or another eligible transmitter) is responsible for carrying out the Class EA planning process under the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act and the approved Class EA document. That process includes environmental analysis, consultation with Indigenous communities and other potentially affected parties, consideration of alternatives, and

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	the identification of mitigation, monitoring and documentation measures.
Miscellaneous The Power Workers’ Union expressed their preference that the implementation-ready projects with clear near-term need should not be delayed through the Transmission Selection Framework (TSF). They specifically cite that the submarine HVDC transmission line from Bowmanville Sub-station to Hearn Sub-station, the “Toronto Third Line”, should not be eligible for TSF.	The IESO has launched a competitive procurement process for the Toronto Third Line project—the underwater transmission line will be the first of its kind in Ontario—that will ensure a transparent and cost-effective approach to selecting a transmitter to design, build, and operate the high-voltage line. Designed to strengthen grid resilience, diversify supply pathways, and relieve emerging constraints on the existing transmission system in and around Toronto, the project represents a critical investment in the city’s energy future.