

Work on Ontario's Bradford Bypass takes another step forward

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BRADFORD, ONT. — The Ontario government will advance work on the Bradford Bypass through the award of a contract for tree clearing, which is underway. Crews are clearing a path along the planned route for the highway's west section to tackle gridlock across York Region and Simcoe County.

"Gridlock is not only increasing the prices of items on store shelves, it's dramatically impacting the quality of life for families, workers and millions of people across Ontario, which is why it's so important to build a new highway," said Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation.

Crews have begun removing trees between Highway 400 and Simcoe County Road 4, with work expected to be completed in the new year. This work will help streamline utility relocations and clear a path as work continues on the Bradford Bypass.

A [new report](#) from the Canadian Centre for Economic Analysis finds gridlock in Ontario is significantly impacting commuters' quality of life and costing the economy \$56 billion a year, further emphasizing the need to move forward on the \$28 billion plan to build, repair and upgrade critical highway and road infrastructure projects.

This latest contract award builds on substantial progress made over the last year to advance work on the Bradford Bypass. Earlier this year, the province awarded a [contract for the detail design](#) of the west section of Bradford Bypass, as well as a [contract](#) for a construction manager to join the existing design team to help ensure quality control, safety and delivery of the west section of the bypass. In July, crews began [building a lane on Highway 400](#) that will connect to the future Bradford Bypass. A new bridge was recently completed at Simcoe County Road 4 to keep traffic moving in West Gwillimbury while Bradford Bypass is under construction.

Once complete, the 16.3-kilometre Bradford Bypass will connect Highway 404 in the east to Highway 400 in the west and will help save commuters 35 minutes of driving each way. During construction, the project is expected to support up to 2,200 jobs annually and contribute up to \$286 million to Ontario's GDP.