

'Shovels in the ground': Ontario awards contract to connect Highway 400 to Bradford Bypass

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The Ontario government is set to begin construction on a new interchange at Highway 400 and Simcoe County Road 88, a key component of the much-debated Bradford Bypass project.

The new four-lane, 16-kilometre highway will connect highways 400 and 404 through Bradford and East Gwillimbury.

Despite environmental concerns raised by local groups, the province has said the significant infrastructure project will work to reduce gridlock across the Greater Golden Horseshoe, improve commute times and create employment opportunities in the region.

This summer, shovels will hit the ground to initiate the project, which also includes widening Simcoe County Road 88 and adding a new southbound lane on Highway 400 to connect to the future Bradford Bypass.

Project details

The construction contract has been awarded to Dufferin Construction Company. The project involves several key components:

- Building a southbound lane on Highway 400 that will connect to the Bradford Bypass.
- Reconstructing the Highway 400-Simcoe County Road 88 interchange and its underpass bridge.
- Widening Simcoe County Road 88 from two to four lanes.
- Expanding the Highway 400 platform to accommodate future growth, eventually widening it to 10 lanes.

“These investments will help tackle gridlock, shorten travel times, and drive economic growth,” said Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation, in a news release.

Caroline Mulroney, MPP for York-Simcoe, added, “The people of York-Simcoe have been asking for the Bradford Bypass for nearly 50 years.

This project will ease congestion around Bradford West Gwillimbury and benefit commuters across York Region and Simcoe County.”

James Leduc, mayor of Bradford West Gwillimbury, emphasized the broader impact of the project: “This development will not only benefit residents of Bradford West Gwillimbury, but will also stimulate regional economic growth and create new employment opportunities.”

The Bradford Bypass project is expected to support up to 2,200 jobs annually during its construction phase and contribute up to \$286 million to Ontario’s economy.

In May, the Ontario government awarded the contract for the detailed design of the west section of the Bradford Bypass, which will stretch 6.5 kilometres from Highway 400 to Simcoe County Road 4.

This bypass, the province said, will be a crucial link for communities in York Region and Simcoe County, enhancing access to jobs and housing.