

Exclusion Zone within the Study Area

The Study Area set out in the City of Hamilton Terms of Reference is very large. It covers the area from Highway 401 in the north to the QEW and Highway 403 in the south, and from Highway 6 in the west to Guelph Line in the east. At the outset, it was reasonable to assume that there would be significant portions of the Study Area which would not be affected by the transport of aggregate materials from the proposed St Marys Flamborough Quarry.

Indeed the Terms of Reference specifically contemplates this possibility. In the first paragraph of Section 4.0, it states: ***“... If the proponent can demonstrate why some travel directions from the quarry would not be used, or that the volume of truck traffic would be so low throughout the entire life of the facility so as to not result in any appreciable negative effects, then routes in these directions would not need to be assessed.”***

The Study Area has been assessed and the delineation of a preliminary Exclusion Zone has been identified. The purpose of the Exclusion Zone is to identify that portion of the Study Area within which no alternative haul routes would be identified during the course of this study.

The delineation of the preliminary exclusion zone has been based upon three factors.

1. The Aggregates Market

The market for aggregates from Flamborough Quarry is a function of the anticipated number of construction and building projects within a two hour driving time of the site. The population and employment allocations set out in the provincial Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, 2006, have been used as a reasonable basis for forecasting where construction projects may occur over the next 15 years. The anticipated directional orientation of the aggregates market relative to the location of the site and major roadways is shown on an accompanying board. The aggregates market is largely oriented to the east of the proposed quarry with Highway 401 providing the most direct and convenient route.

2. The Study Area Characteristics

Large portions of the study area are rural and are serviced by a combination of arterial and collector roads as well as local roads. Many of the local roads within the study area are currently unsuited for heavy truck traffic. Within the study area are several hamlets (such as Carlisle and Kilbride) which although built along arterial roads and designated truck routes feature residences, schools, shops and other communal activities which render the streets through these villages unsuited to designation as a quarry haul route. There are also large portions of the study area that do not contain any roadways that would service delivery to destination markets within projected growth areas.