

Transportation Master Plan

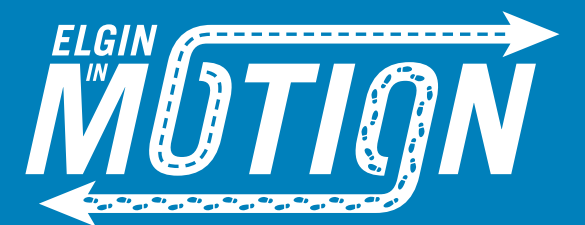
# Phase 1: Needs and Opportunities ***PUBLIC CONSULTATION***

June 23 – July 14 2021





# INTRODUCTION





# Welcome

## Study Purpose

The County of Elgin has initiated a study to develop the County’s first **Transportation Master Plan (TMP)**, a long-term strategy to guide the planning, expansion and management of **a multi-modal transportation system—the infrastructure and services that move people and goods**. Transportation includes roads, public transit services, goods movement systems, and cycling and walking networks. The TMP will provide strategies and policies that align with the County of Elgin’s growth and support its vision for the future transportation system.

The TMP will:

- Set the direction for developing the County’s multi-modal transportation system;
- Lead the County toward a more safe, accessible, equitable and sustainable transportation network, supporting local and inter-regional connections for all travel modes including the provision of transit, while strengthening local economic and tourism opportunities; and
- Support the transportation and growth management strategies of the Official Plan, provide policy directions and inform long-range financial planning.

At this point in the study, we are establishing the transportation **needs and opportunities** that the TMP will serve to address.

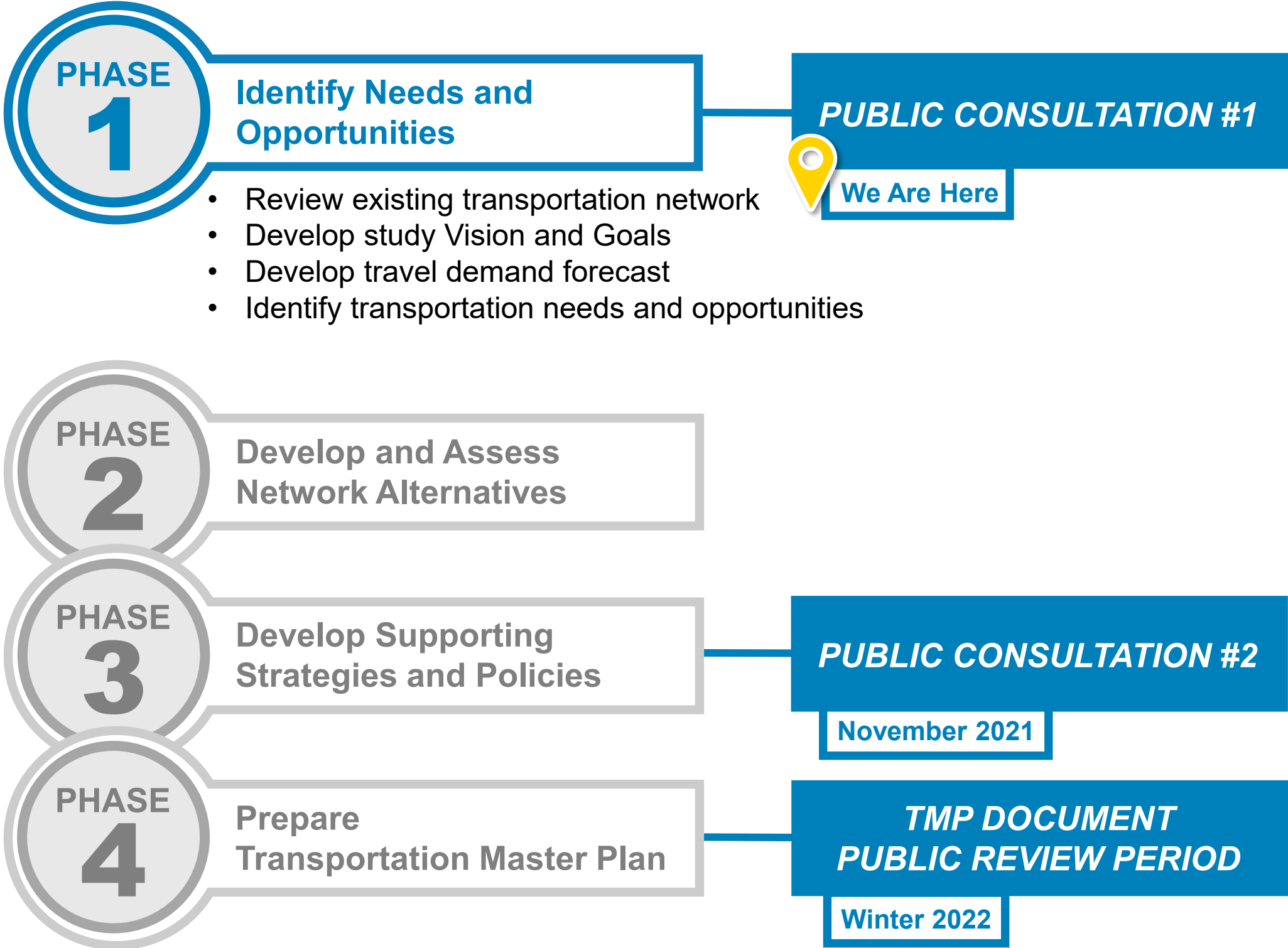
## CONSULTATION OBJECTIVES

We want you to help us shape transportation in Elgin County. The purpose of this consultation is to:

- Introduce *Elgin in Motion*, the County’s first TMP study, to members of the public.
- Invite feedback on the draft transportation Vision and Goals.
- Identify transportation needs, issues, priorities and opportunities.

*Elgin in Motion* is the County’s first TMP study! You can watch a short video about what the TMP is all about [here](#).

# Study Process



## HELP SHAPE THE TMP

The TMP study provides opportunities to share your input and help the TMP best reflect the values of County residents.

We need your feedback to help Elgin become one of the most livable Counties in Ontario. We want to hear your priorities, concerns and issues about the transportation system to help develop appropriate mobility solutions and help identify what the TMP should address.

To provide your input during Phase 1 of the TMP study, visit [engageelgin.ca](https://engageelgin.ca) where you can:

- ✓ Learn more about *Elgin in Motion*
- ✓ Register to get involved
- ✓ Complete the online survey
- ✓ Pinpoint areas of concern in the mapping activity
- ✓ See the latest updates

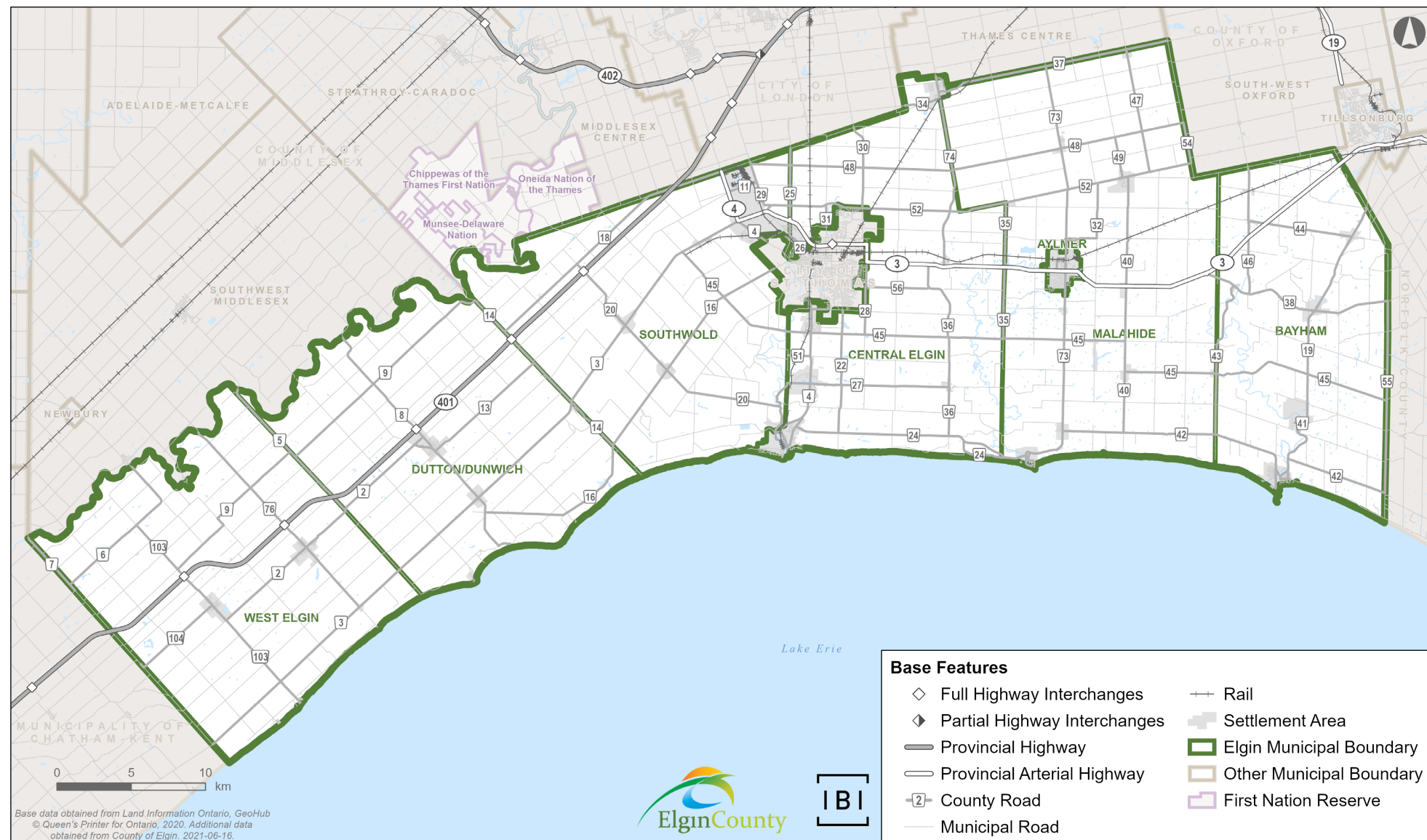


# County Context

Elgin County covers **1,800 square kilometres** in land area along approximately **120 kilometres** of Lake Erie shoreline. Transportation connections between the County's many hamlets and communities and with neighbouring municipalities (such as St. Thomas and London) are essential to supporting the quality of life in the County.

Elgin County has grown to a population of over **50,000** people and is projected to grow to **100,000** in the next 30 years!

- A **growing County** means it's more important than ever to have a TMP to guide the movement of people and goods.
- Agriculture, tourism, and a developing manufacturing and logistics industries are important **drivers of the County's economy**. Provincial Highways 401, 3 and 4 provide convenient access for visitors and for industry to connect to broader markets.
- Elgin County is an upper-tier municipality with **seven local (lower-tier) municipalities**. In the area of transportation, the County's focus is on providing connectivity between local municipalities and with neighbouring municipalities.
- The TMP will strive to respond to the transportation needs of both **urban** and **rural** residents.





# Planning Context

## Planning and Policy Alignment

The TMP study is informed by local, regional and provincial plans and policies, and requires a coordinated approach between land use planning and transportation planning. This will ensure the TMP meaningfully reflects the priorities of the County and its seven member municipalities, conforms to Provincial direction, and considers the plans of adjacent areas.

### **PROVINCIAL AND REGIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES**

- Provincial Policy Statement
- Connecting the Southwest: A Draft Transportation Plan for Southwestern Ontario
- Transportation Plans and Initiatives of Adjacent Municipalities and Indigenous Nations:
  - City of St. Thomas
  - Norfolk County
  - Oxford County
  - Middlesex County
  - City of London
  - Municipality of Chatham-Kent
  - Chippewas of the Thames First Nation
  - Munsee-Delaware Nation
  - Oneida Nation of the Thames

### **COUNTY OF ELGIN PLANS AND POLICIES**

- 2020-2022 Strategic Plan
- Official Plan and ongoing Official Plan 5-Year Review
- Cycling Master Plan
- Corporate Asset Management Plan Transportation Network
- County of Elgin Roads Plan and Policies
- Elgin County Trails Study
- Economic Development and Tourism Work Plan
- Completed Environmental Assessment Projects

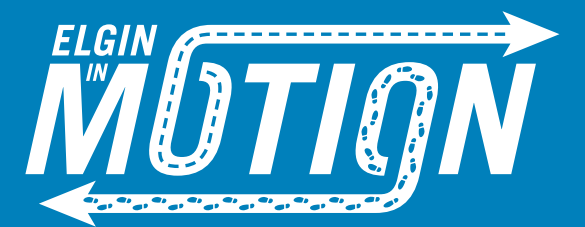
### **LOCAL MUNICIPAL PLANS AND POLICIES**

- Strategic Plans and Official Plans of the County's Lower-Tier Municipalities:
  - Municipality of West Elgin
  - Municipality of Dutton Dunwich
  - Township of Southwold
  - Municipality of Central Elgin
  - Town of Aylmer
  - Township of Malahide
  - Municipality of Bayham





# *VISION, GOALS AND PRINCIPLES*





# Vision

The draft **Transportation Vision** is a statement of the TMP's aspirations and articulates the desired future state of the County of Elgin as it relates to its transportation system. The Vision will shape decision-making to help lead the County to where it wants to be at the end of the TMP horizon.

Recommendations within the TMP will be developed to help progress toward achieving the Vision.

 **CLICK TO SHAPE THE TMP**

Do you agree with the draft Vision statement? Are there changes that could improve it? Share your input by taking the survey at [engageelgin.ca](https://engageelgin.ca)

By 2051, Elgin County's **transportation network** will be efficient, dependable and flexible in meeting the evolving needs of residents and businesses across the County, while reducing its impact on the environment and climate change. The network will provide travel options regardless of income or ability.




# Goals

The draft **Goals** break down the Vision into a set of desired outcomes. They further guide decision-making during the TMP study.


Defining the study's Goals is a necessary step in the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment process. It is important that the Goals align with what the residents and stakeholders in the County of Elgin want the transportation system to be as these goals will be used to evaluate potential recommendations later in the study.

 **CLICK TO SHAPE THE TMP**


How important is each of the draft Goals?  
Please share comments you may have about how the Goals can be improved by taking the survey at [engageelgin.ca](https://engageelgin.ca)




**EFFICIENT COUNTY AND INTER-REGIONAL CONNECTIONS**  
Provides safe, efficient and dependable multi-modal connections between communities in the County and inter-regionally, and supports the provision of transit.




**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**  
Minimizes disruption of local natural habitats, waterways, agricultural land and natural heritage features, and also reduces greenhouse gas emissions.




**HEALTHY COMMUNITIES**  
Improves local mobility options, including cycling and transit, for daily living and supports the development of complete communities.



**FUTURE READINESS**  
Is future-looking, responsive to changes and trends, and adopts or is prepared for new emerging mobility options where appropriate.



**ECONOMIC PROSPERITY**  
Supports prosperity in the County by helping goods move to and from markets in the County and beyond, and by enhancing the tourism experience.



**FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY**  
Represents cost-effective County spending on infrastructure and operations and takes advantage of partnership opportunities.



# Guiding Principles

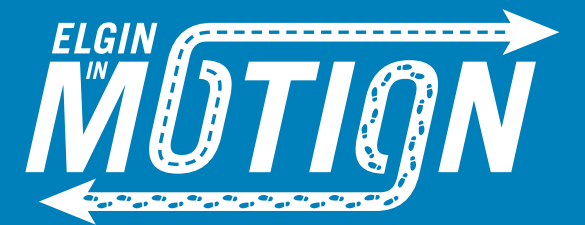
The **Guiding Principles** shape how the TMP study is conducted, reflecting best practices adapted to suit the County's needs.

1. Plan for an efficient and accessible multi-modal transportation network, supporting cycling and transit as feasible travel options.
2. Support the safe and dependable movement of people and goods.
3. Plan for transportation equity to ensure the transportation network meets the mobility needs of all County residents.
4. Encourage efficiency and compatibility by integrating transportation and land use planning.
5. Contribute to building healthy and complete communities.
6. Protect transportation corridors for all modes to meet the needs of future residents and visitors.
7. Provide meaningful opportunities to engage with the community and other stakeholders.
8. Support and emphasize fiscal responsibility to be able to deliver programs and services now and in the future.
9. Support strategies to reduce negative impacts on the environment and be resilient to the impacts of climate change.
10. Consider the values of residents and develop solutions that are context-specific to protect and enhance the character and cultural heritage of Elgin County.





# COUNTY CONNECTIONS

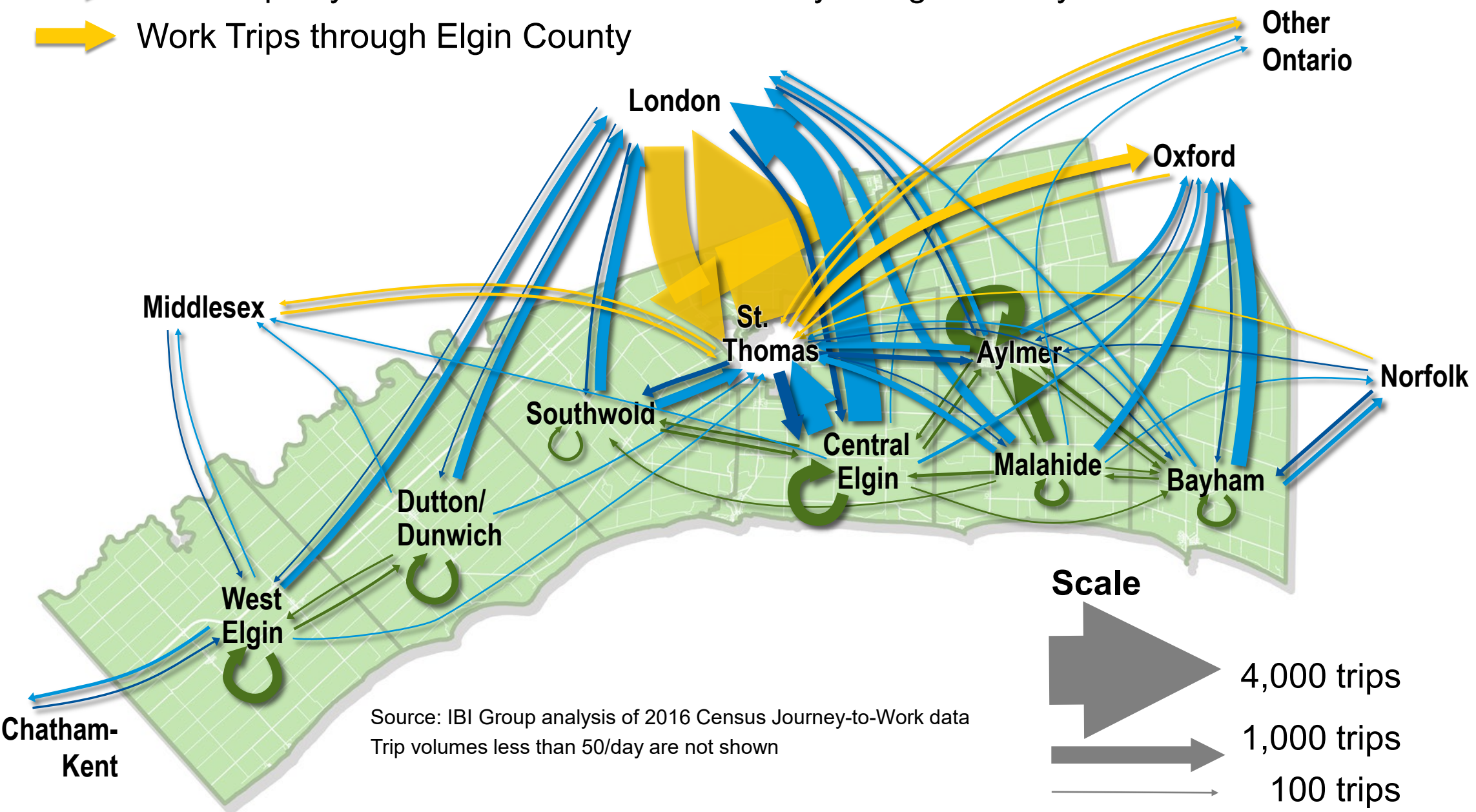




# Commuting Connections

## Census Journey-to-Work Trips (2016)

- Work Trips by County residents within Elgin County
- Work Trips by County residents to outside of Elgin County
- Work Trips by residents outside of the County to Elgin County
- Work Trips through Elgin County



According to the 2016 Census, of the nearly **17,000 employed residents** of Elgin County with a **fixed place of work**:

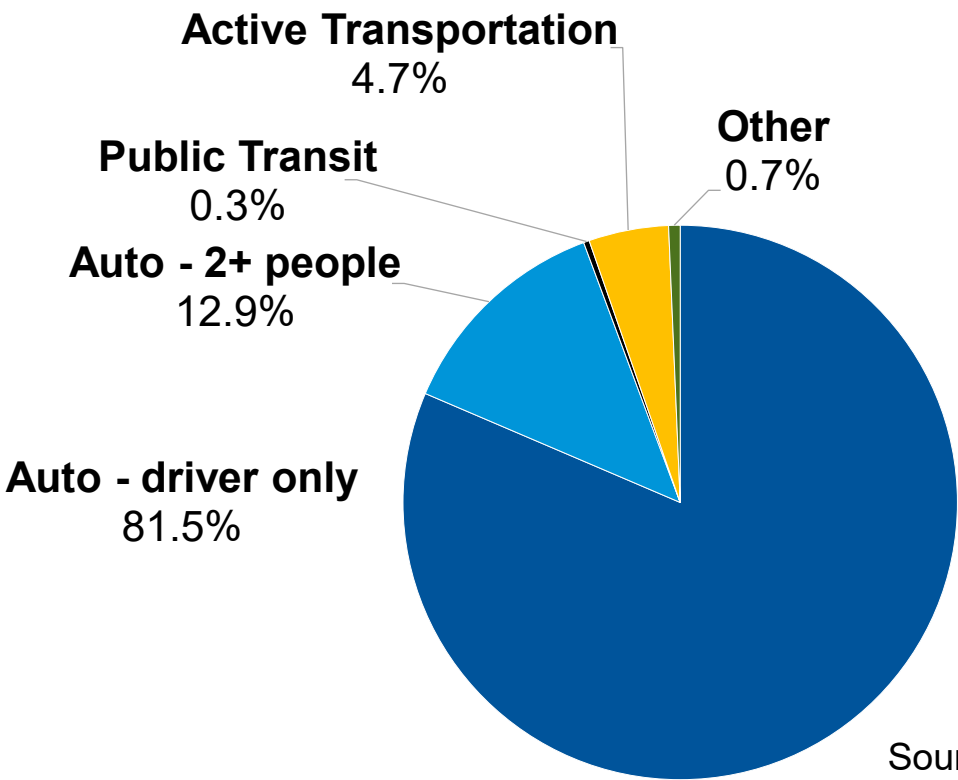
- 37% work within the County
- 27% work in London
- 19% work in St. Thomas
- 17% work elsewhere.

Elgin County is also the workplace of 1,450 St. Thomas residents and 1,825 residents from other municipalities. This shows the interconnectedness of the County both between local municipalities and with neighbouring municipalities. Elgin County's transportation network connects workers with their livelihoods within and outside of the County, among other vital travel needs and connections.



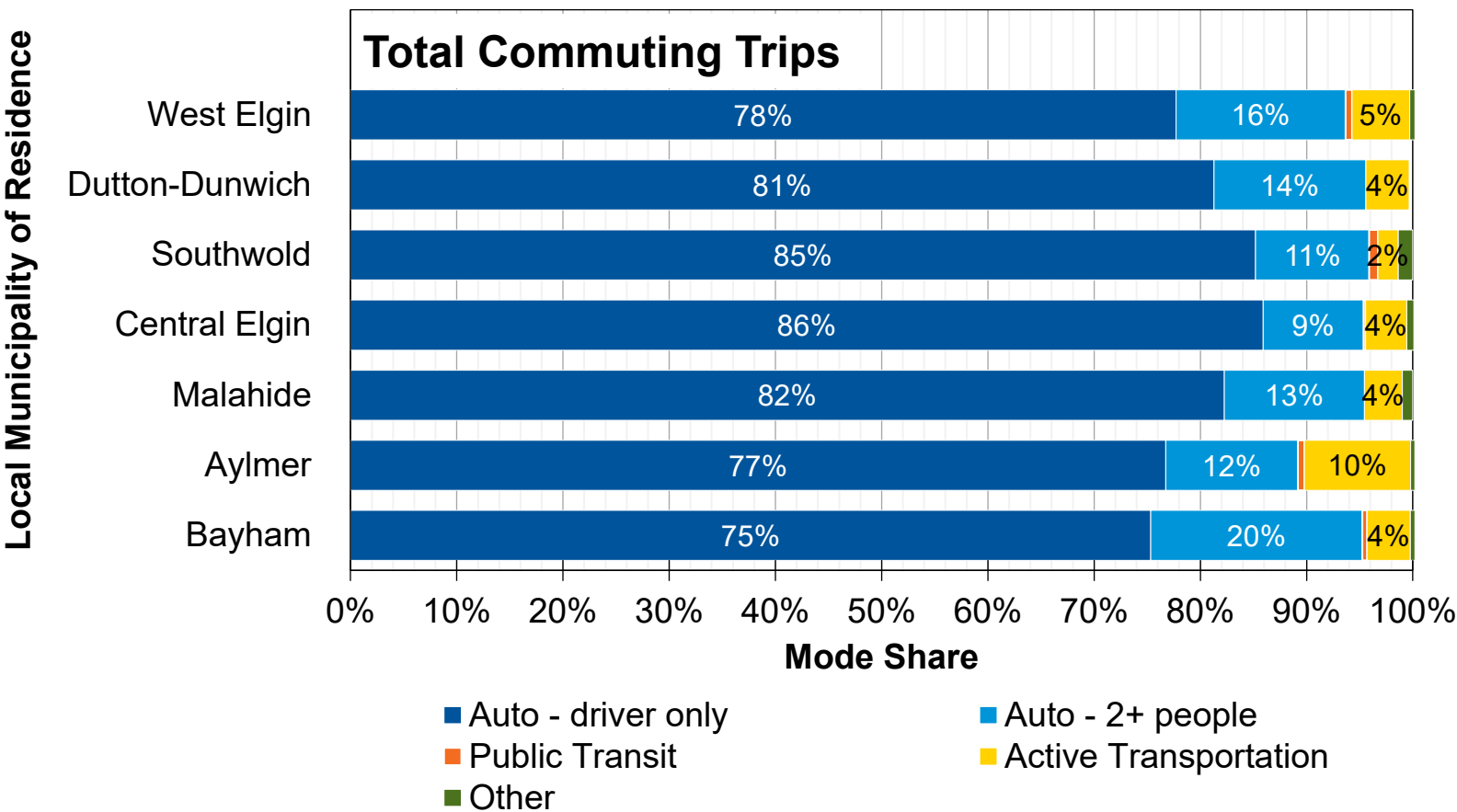
# How Elgin County Residents Travel to Work

Mode of Travel to Work by Elgin County Residents



Source: IBI Group analysis of 2016 Census Journey-to-Work data for residents with a fixed place of work outside of home

Mode of Travel to Work by Residents of Local Municipalities



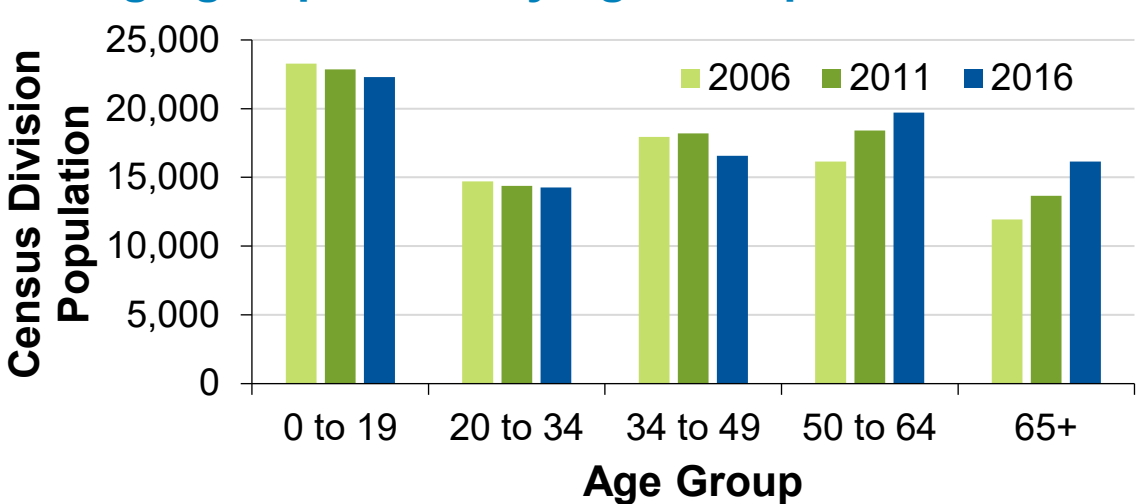
- As a result of relatively long travel distances and limited alternatives to auto travel, **94% of commuting travel by Elgin County residents is carried out by car**. Among auto commuting trips, 86% of commuters travel in single-occupant (driver-only) vehicles.
- Active transportation such as walking and cycling becomes more viable for shorter local trips.
- TMP will aim to increase the feasibility of non-auto travel modes.

**Transportation equity** is important to ensuring the TMP supports a transportation network that meets the mobility needs of all residents in the County.



# Changing Travel Needs

Changing Population by Age Group



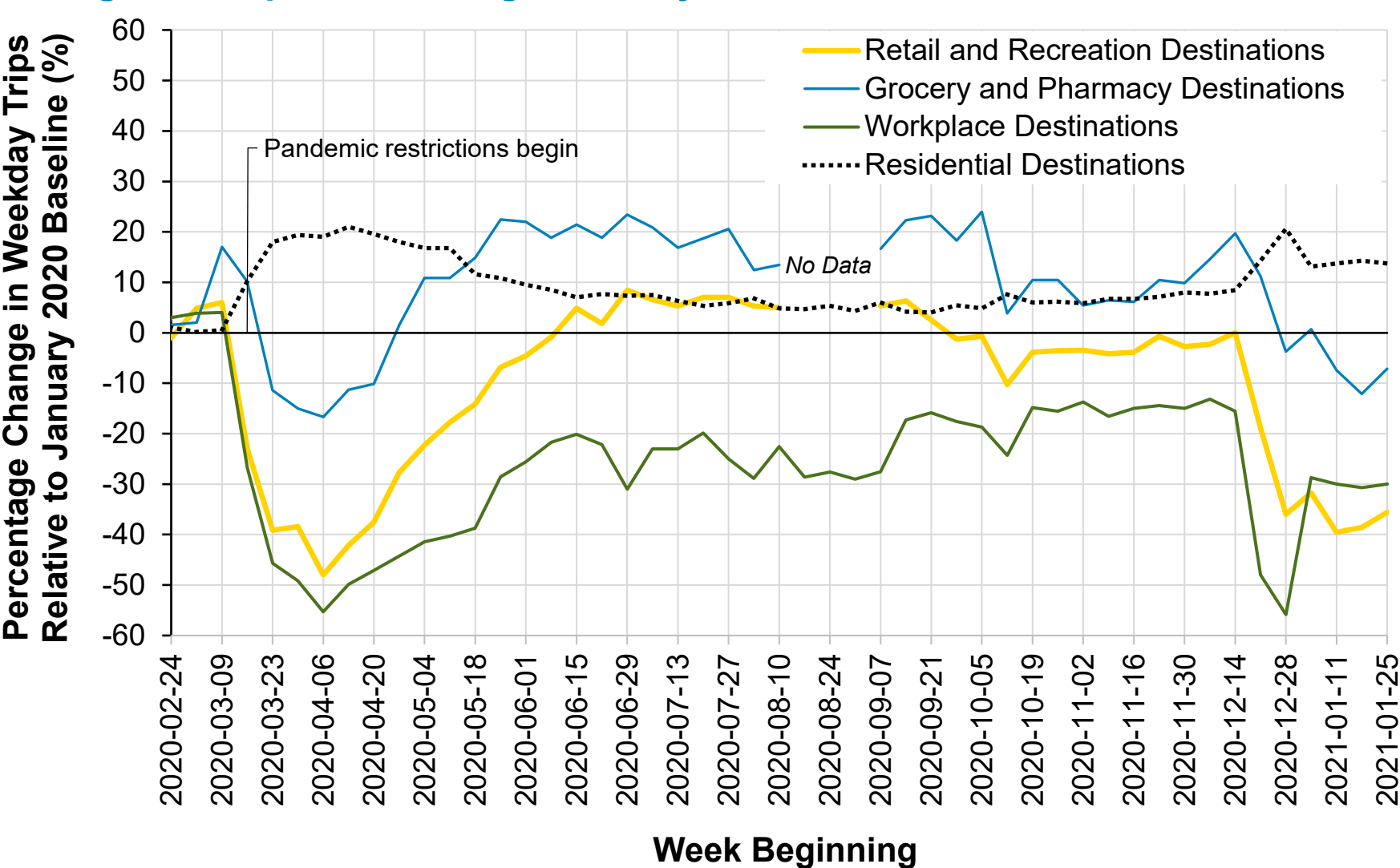
Source: IBI Group Analysis of Census Data for Elgin Census Division (includes Elgin County and City of St. Thomas)

- While the population of Elgin County and St. Thomas increased 6% between 2006 and 2016, the population aged 65+ increased 35%.
- The TMP will aim to ensure travel mobility for residents aging out of driving, while providing options that also serve the transportation needs of younger age cohorts.

CLICK TO SHAPE THE TMP 

Share any comments you may have on changing travel trends and opportunities the TMP should consider by taking the survey at [engageelgin.ca](https://engageelgin.ca)

Changes in Trip Rates to Elgin County Destinations due to COVID-19



Source: IBI Group Analysis of Google Community Mobility Data, 2021

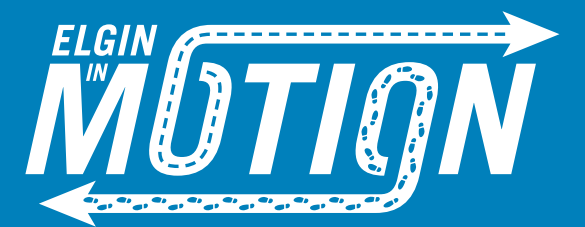
## The COVID-19 pandemic may result in long-lasting changes to transportation

- The pandemic has changed how, when and where people travel in the County.
- The shift to working from home more often may last beyond the pandemic, together with an increased emphasis on local transportation to support local trips.





***ISSUES, NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES***





# Road Network

The County of Elgin is responsible for **689 kilometres** of County roads.

The TMP will aim to address issues and challenges identified with the County's Road network, and to act on opportunities to better accommodate growth in the County.

The TMP will include a framework to identify the degree of County interest in each road segment to help prioritize improvements and to identify potential changes in road jurisdiction.

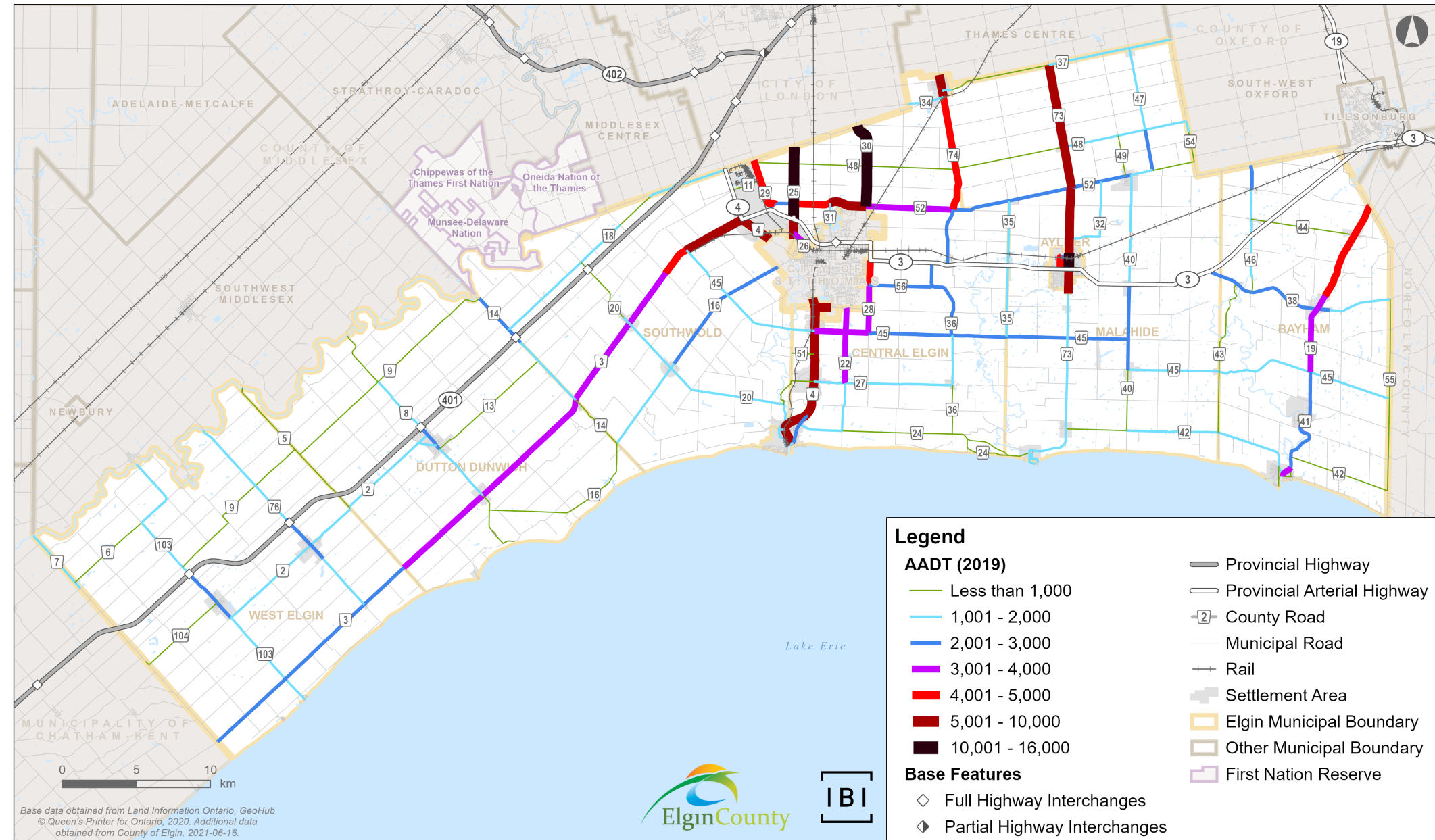
The TMP will also review the County Road classification system and clarify the role of each County Road segment.

**CLICK TO SHAPE THE TMP**



What concerns do you have as you travel the County road network? Share your input by taking the survey at [engageelgin.ca](https://engageelgin.ca)

## Average Annual Daily Traffic (AADT) on Elgin County Roads



**PIN THE MAP**

Pinpoint areas of concern or other transportation issues using the mapping activity. Share your input at [engageelgin.ca](https://engageelgin.ca)



# Active Transportation

The TMP will update the current **Elgin-St. Thomas Cycling Master Plan** to increase active transportation amenities, improve safety and better connect communities.

- Enhancing safe active transportation options and improving connections between travel modes is important to developing a robust multi-modal transportation system.
- The TMP will establish recommended locations for cycling infrastructure, multi-use trails and connecting links.

**CLICK TO SHAPE THE TMP**

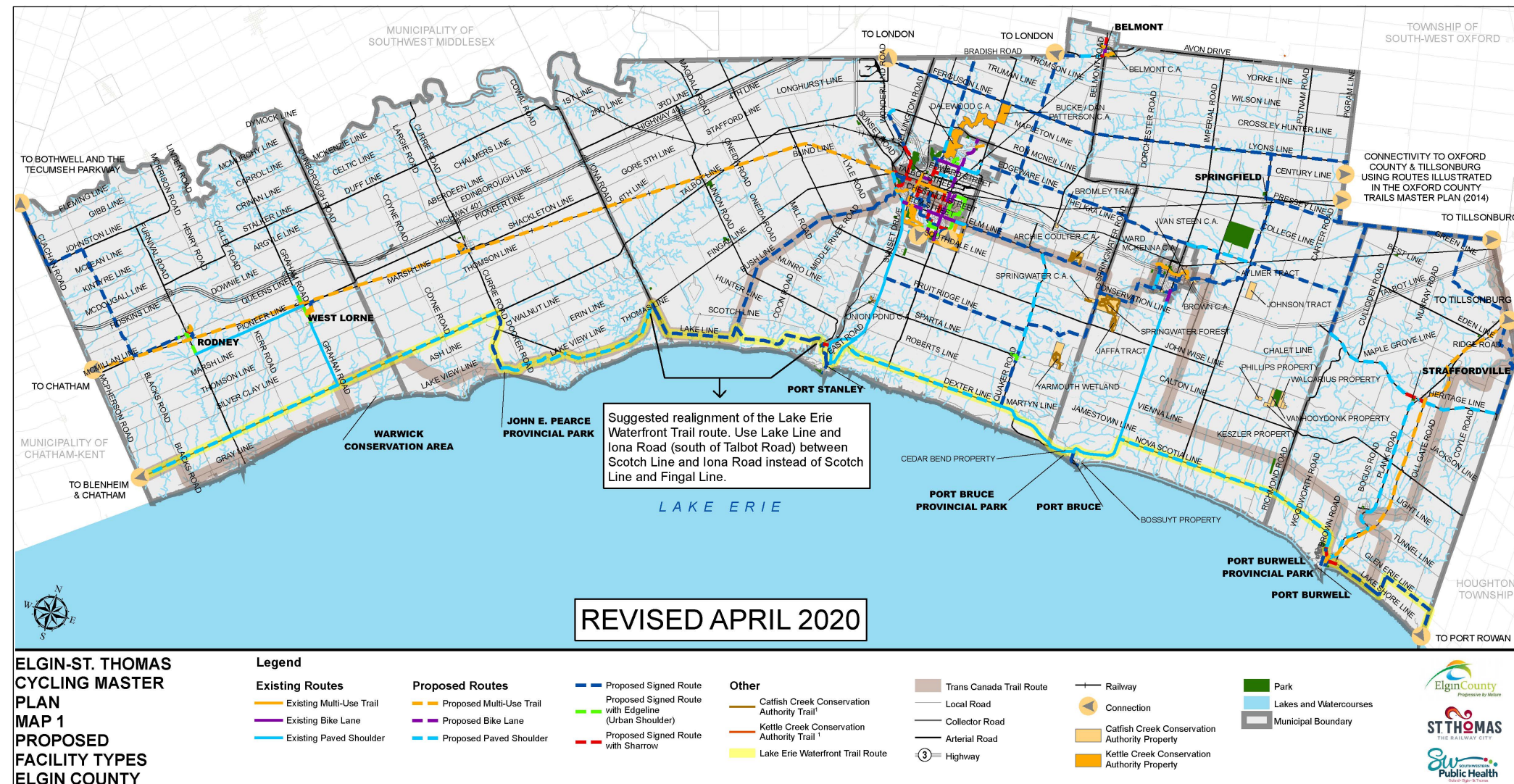


What would encourage you to walk, cycle or use mobility devices more often? Let us know by taking the survey at [engageelgin.ca](https://engageelgin.ca)



Active Transportation (AT) is human-powered travel such as **walking and cycling**, as well as travel with the use of **mobility aids**. The TMP will consider strategies to improve AT infrastructure and facilities.

## Elgin-St. Thomas Cycling Master Plan, 2020





# Public Transit

Public transit services can reduce car dependence and provide a more economical and environmentally sustainable way to travel to daily needs such as employment, shopping, education and social visits. However, the provision of transit services in rural areas is challenged by long distances and relatively low demand for services.

**The TMP will support the advancement of innovative public transit options in the County.**

As part of the TMP, a **Transit Feasibility Analysis** will identify key areas for transit connections within the County and to neighbouring municipalities. The analysis will look to recommend priority areas for pilot projects, transit policies and service partnerships.

**CLICK TO SHAPE THE TMP** 

Do you want to see public transit service in Elgin County? What public transit connections would serve you best? Share your thoughts at [engageelgin.ca](https://engageelgin.ca)

## Existing Transit Services in and around Elgin County

- **T:GO Transit**, run by the Town of Tillsonburg, is an alternative and low-cost community transportation service. Route 3 connects Tillsonburg and Port Burwell and currently runs on Tuesdays and Fridays.
- **Four Counties Transit** is an on-demand service for residents in West Elgin, South West Middlesex, Newbury and Chatham-Kent (Ward 3).
- **Local Motion** operates within the city limits of St. Thomas. The 2020 Strategic Plan proposes a regional transit plan between St. Thomas, Elgin County and London. The service would initially include three routes (to the north, east and south), with potential to expand to the west based on the success of a three year pilot project.
- **Accessible transit services** includes St. Thomas Parallel Transit, Victorian Order of Nurses and Your Taxi – Wheelchair Bus and Wheelchair Taxi, among others.
- Nearby **inter-regional transit connections** include VIA Rail stops in London, Woodstock and Ingersoll.





# Goods Movement

The TMP will recommend ways to support the **efficient and reliable movement of goods** to, from and within Elgin County, while reducing the related safety and environmental impacts.

Elgin County's thriving agribusiness industry, comprising **nearly 1,500 farms**, relies on the transportation system to send farm products to markets and processors.

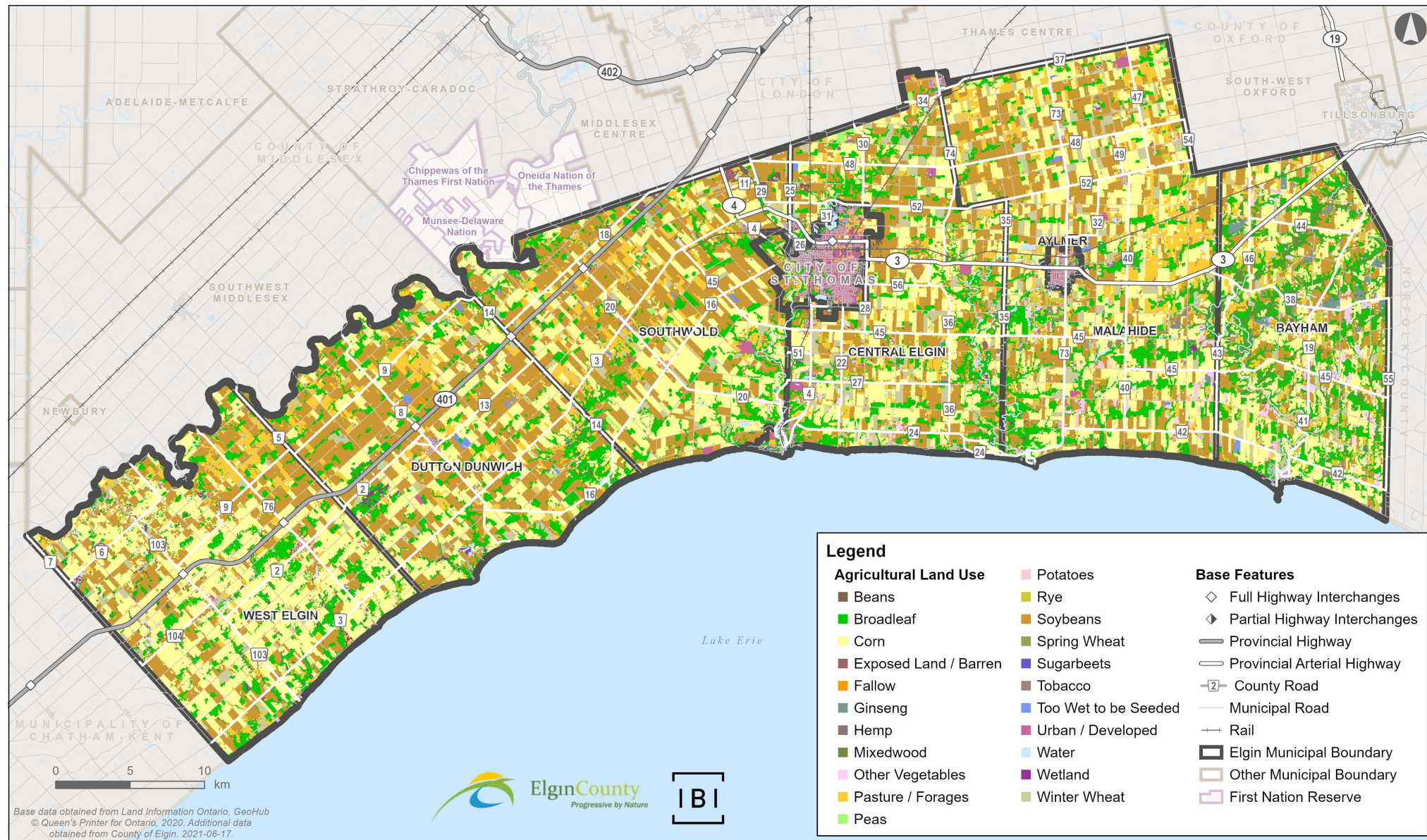
The County's **strategic location along Highway 401** greatly benefits manufacturing and transportation and logistics industries.

The TMP will also investigate strategies to **support freight rail transport**, e.g. via Canadian National Railway and Ontario Southland Railway connections in the county.

**CLICK TO SHAPE THE TMP** 

Let us know your thoughts about issues or opportunities regarding trucks and goods movement by taking the survey at [engageelgin.ca](https://engageelgin.ca)

## Elgin County's Crop Inventory, 2019



The TMP will consider how to support businesses while **managing the movement of freight** throughout Elgin County.



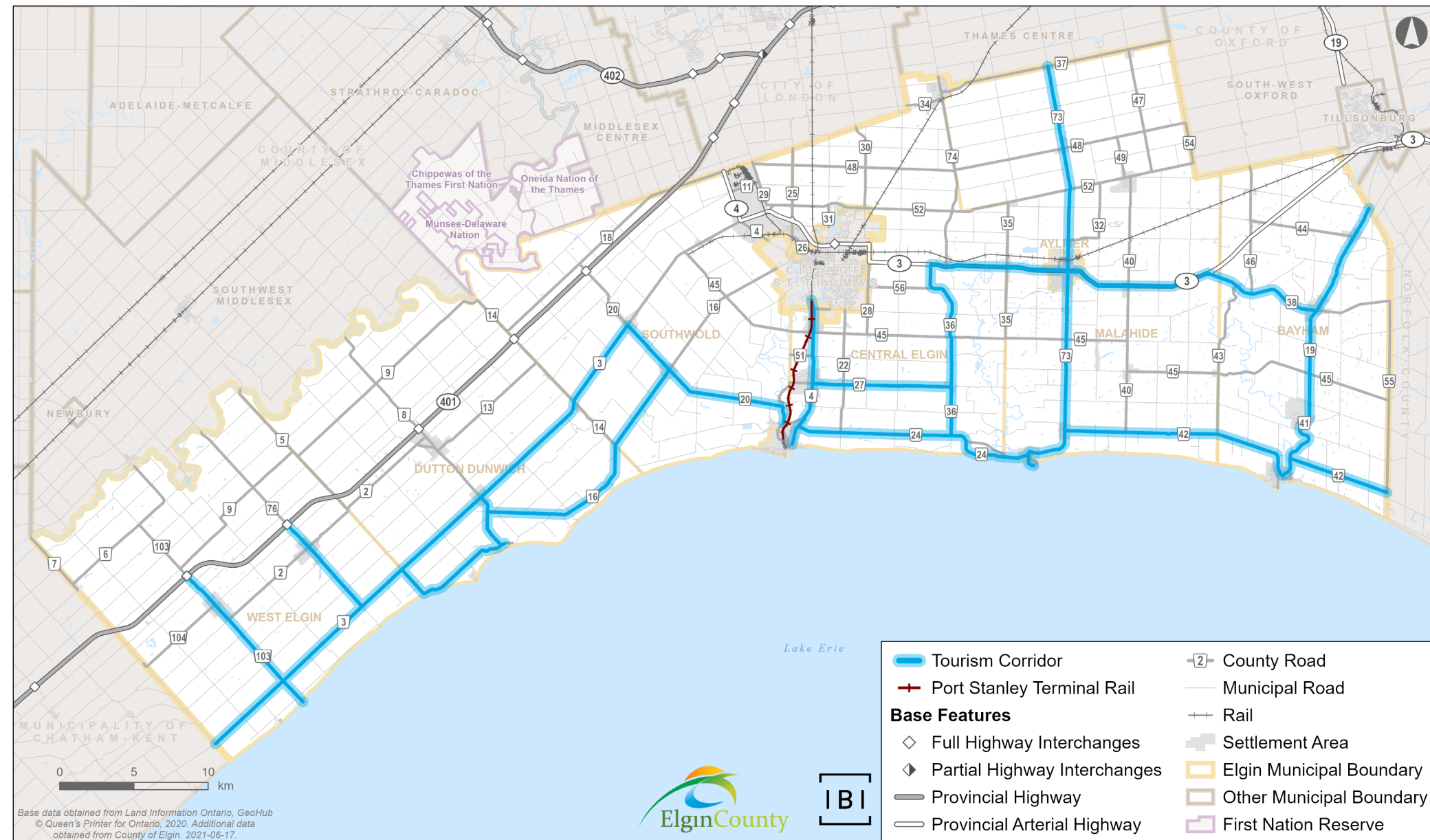
# Tourism

Elgin County offers visitors a peaceful getaway to scenic shorelines and waterways, conservation areas, cultural heritage sites, wineries, unique boutiques and more.

The TMP will look to enhance the tourism experience through transportation. This may include building on the following:

- **Tourism Corridors:** The County of Elgin Official Plan identifies County Roads 4, 18, 73 and 103 and County Roads that parallel the Lake Erie shore as the primary Tourism Corridors, linking Lake Erie Ports, scenic driving routes and tourism destinations.
- **Tourism Rail:** Port Stanley Terminal Rail operates seasonally to travel between Port Stanley Station and St. Thomas.
- **Cycling and Trails Networks:** Cycling and hiking are key tourism activities the TMP will support through improvements to active transportation networks.

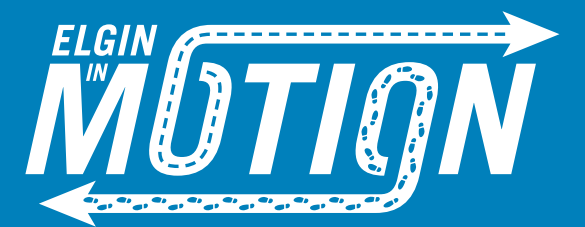
## Elgin County's Tourism Corridors







**NEXT STEPS**





# Get Involved

## Following Public Consultation Phase 1, we will:

- Review public feedback to better understand the priorities of County residents.
- Finalize the Vision and Goals based on your input.
- Outline the transportation needs, issues and opportunities, building on your input.
- Commence Phase 2 of the TMP study, and develop recommended infrastructure projects and services.
- Commence Phase 3 of the TMP study, and develop supporting policies and strategies.
- Present recommendations at the next round of public consultation, expected to take place in November 2021.

## Who's Listening

### Brian Lima

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Planning & Expertise / Deputy CAO  
County of Elgin  
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### Peter Dutchak

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## **HELP SHAPE THE TMP**

Provide your feedback on the draft Vision and Goals, your thoughts on transportation issues, and your suggestions on where we can best focus transportation improvements in Elgin County.

Help shape the TMP study by visiting [engageelgin.ca/transportationmasterplan](https://engageelgin.ca/transportationmasterplan) to:

- ✓ Read the Frequently Asked Questions and learn more about [Elgin in Motion](#)
- ✓ Complete the online survey
- ✓ Pinpoint areas of concern in the mapping activity
- ✓ Submit questions to the project team
- ✓ See the latest updates and future public consultation opportunities