

Feedback Form

Regional Electricity Planning in the GTA East Region – April 20, 2026

Feedback Provided by:

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Date: May 11, 2026

To promote transparency, feedback submitted will be posted on the GTA East [engagement webpage](#) unless otherwise requested by the sender.

Following the GTA East regional planning webinar held on April 20, 2026, the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) is seeking feedback on the identified electricity needs and initial screening of potential options. A copy of the presentation as well as recording of the session can be accessed from the [engagement web page](#).

Please submit feedback to engagement@ieso.ca by May 11, 2026.

Topic	Feedback
What feedback do you have on the wire and non-wire options that will be	TRCA staff provided a response letter to IESO on May 11, 2026. Key points from that response are provided below.

Topic	Feedback
considered to meet the region's electricity needs?	
What additional information should be considered in the evaluation of wire and non-wire options?	Please see below.
Are there other types of information that would be helpful for us to provide in future engagements to enhance understanding of community perspectives and insights?	Please see below.

General Comments/Feedback

As noted in our response dated May 11, 2026:

IMPACTS TO EXISTING PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

As noted in previous correspondence, TRCA has established existing partnerships with municipalities and various agencies to identify opportunities for restoration and enhancement of lands for conservation and nature-based recreation. This includes transforming transmission corridors into much needed public greenspaces in urban and rural areas.

- a) **Trails:** TRCA's [Trail Strategy](#) outlines a plan to work with partners to complete, expand, manage and celebrate the Greater Toronto Region Trail Network, including regional and local trails, and is a useful tool to help connect people with nature. The vision of the Trail Strategy is a regional trail system of over 1,000 linear kilometers that connects greenspace to conservation destinations, neighbourhoods, employment lands, transit and mobility hubs. It also sets a framework to protect potential trail alignments and guides the planning, development, and management of trails. The Trail Strategy links with the Durham Meadoway Visioning Study which was endorsed by Durham Regional Council in [June 2024](#). These local and regional trail strategies are critical considerations during the development of the GTA East Regional Electricity Plan.
- b) **The Meadoway:** [The Meadoway](#) project has seen a significant amount of work along the Gattineau Corridor west of the Cherrywood Transformer Station, transforming the hydro corridor into an urban greenspace and meadow habitat with approximately 16 km of multi-use trail. As a [High Line Network](#) member, The Meadoway has become a global example of infrastructure corridor revitalization. Planning and detail design are underway for the Durham Meadoway, extending the pedestrian and cycling route and linear park access across the Gattineau Hydro Corridor in Durham Region. This future project will serve as an important integrated connection to the Rouge National Urban Park, local Conservation Areas, existing recreational trail networks, adjacent development blocks, transit services and the Duffins and Carruthers watersheds.

- c) **Biodiversity and Existing Restoration Projects:** Expansion within the Gatineau Corridor has the potential to impact planned and completed restoration projects including restoration projects tied to development within the Seaton community. Transmission corridors provide a unique opportunity to rethink how lost features and functions can be re-established. Biodiversity can be enhanced by maximizing re-naturalization efforts including the incorporation of native plants, shrub thickets, and meadows, and re-establishing wildlife corridors and connectivity, subject to regulations/requirements within the corridor. TRCA has a suite of expertise and knowledge related to habitat replacement, restoration, connectivity and are available to assist with resources and expertise as needed.
 - d) **On-going Studies:** There has been significant development in the Duffins Creek watershed over the past several years to service the new Seaton community and adjacent land uses. Projects within our watersheds provide unique opportunities to further enhance the surrounding community, whether through flood mitigation, increasing urban greenspace or by providing public access to nature for example.
1. **TRCA recommends that work within the Gatineau Corridor consider projects being designed and those that have been constructed in the interest of community and environmental benefits and that recommendations be made for avoidance and minimization of impacts (e.g., alignment, access, staging, construction timing/duration, etc.) particularly for areas where there could be potential costs and impacts to existing and planned trails and restoration projects. TRCA staff are available to assist with identifying project specific conflicts within the corridor.**

DATA

TRCA's environmental monitoring and research programs have collected up to 30 years of scientific data to understand the changes affecting natural areas and watercourses and to assess the ecological health of environmental features and areas. Available data including, but not limited to some environmental monitoring, floodplain mapping, TRCA's Trail Strategy, TRCA regulated areas and natural features data can be found on the [TRCA Open Data](#) portal and the [Watershed Management](#) page. Additional environmental data that may not be on the Open Data portal may be available. The [Duffins Creek](#) and [Carruthers Creek](#) Watershed Plans and associated Watershed Report Cards and technical documents which evaluate watershed health and provide a comprehensive framework to ensure healthy watersheds and build resilience to land use and climate changes are also available. Please contact TRCA to facilitate further compilation of GIS and other data if needed.

2. **TRCA recommends that IESO, the lead transmitter and/or local distribution companies contact TRCA to obtain available data and resources for consideration to inform the GTA East Regional Electricity planning and design process.**

TRCA REGULATORY AND PLANNING INTERESTS

TRCA staff review files in accordance with the [Conservation Authorities Act](#) and associated regulations, including mandatory commenting on [Planning Act](#) and [Environmental Assessment Act](#) applications. There are several TRCA regulated areas that cross through the Gatineau Corridor which may require permits under the current regulatory framework of the [Conservation Authorities Act](#) and Ontario Regulation 41/24.

To ensure no increased risk associated with natural hazards in TRCA watersheds, any proposed work affecting water quantity (flooding), erosion or water balance through conversion to impervious surfaces should meet TRCA's water management policies and TRCA's [The Living City Policies](#). It will also be important to consider the numerous valley and stream crossings within the study area and associated natural hazards (flood and erosion) through the planning, EA and permitting processes.

Irrespective of legislative and regulatory framework applied to this project, TRCA can offer support to proponents through a service level agreement or other process. TRCA's design and delivery capabilities and detailed science-based local knowledge can be leveraged to identify baseline environmental conditions and apply in-house expertise in monitoring and design on projects like The Meadoway to mitigate the impacts of a corridor expansion.

- 3. TRCA recommends that IESO and the transmission groups continue to keep staff involved as the study progresses to ensure TRCA's regulatory and commenting interests are considered in this important infrastructure study, and ensure impacts are avoided, minimized and mitigated.**