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New studies could lead to changes, widening along QEW

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Ontario's transportation ministry has launched two studies that could lead to changes to the Queen Elizabeth Way through Niagara Falls and Fort Erie.

One study will look at widening the highway between Mountain Road and Highway 420. Another study would consider the replacement of the Bowen Road overpass interchange improvements at that location.

Niagara Falls MPP Kim Craitor said the studies are welcome news because the highway between the 420 and Mountain Road is the last segment of two-lane highway between Niagara Falls and Toronto.

"I am pleased to see the province is starting the process to complete that missing link," Craitor said in a statement.

The Bowen Road study could benefit Fort Erie because a better highway might lead to more development in the town's rural area.

"I suspect that with its improvement we will see some serious economic opportunities develop in that region of Fort Erie," Craitor said.

The Ministry of Transportation's highway engineering division announced Thursday the start of environmental assessments and preliminary design studies for both projects.

An MTO project manager said the ministry will be seeking public input on the two proposals under the environmental assessment process.

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