Tobermory Water and Wastewater Master Plan

Public Information Centre

Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Study

August 27, 2025



Land Acknowledgement



We acknowledge that we are situated on the traditional territory of the Nawash and Saugeen Nations, a place that has long served as a site of meeting and exchange amongst many First Nations including The Iroquois Confederacy, Huron/Wendat, Abenaki, and Anishinabek.

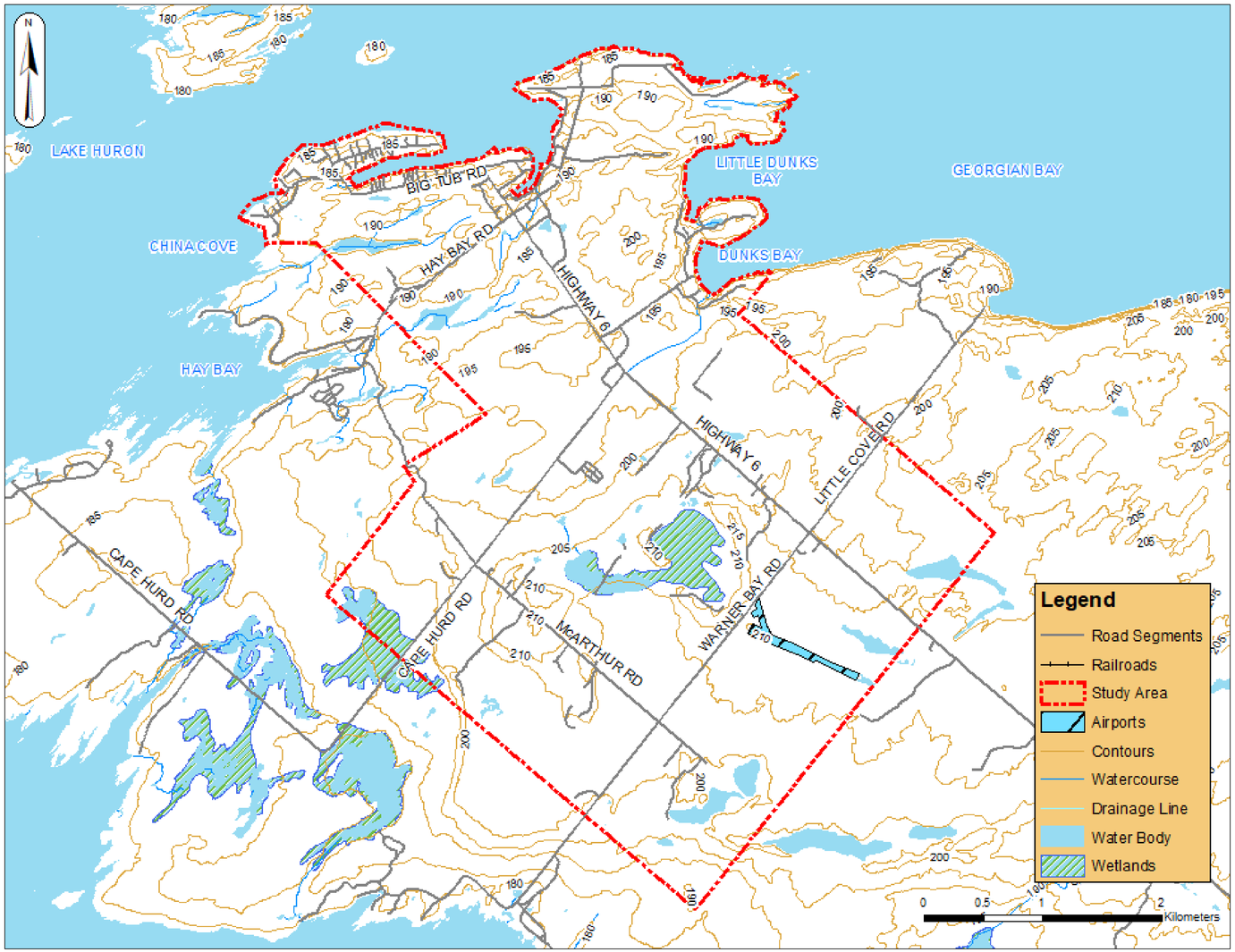
We recognize and respect the Anishinabek as the traditional custodians of the lands and water. We are committed to supporting the Anishinabek and Haudenosaunee Peoples, among other First Nations, Inuit, Métis, and Indigenous Peoples globally.

(Bruce County Land Acknowledgment)

Introduction

Why is the Tobermory Water and Wastewater Master Plan taking place?

- The existing drinking water and wastewater services in Tobermory are not meeting current community needs.
- Currently, Tobermory has **limited drinking water service** and **municipal sewer service.**
- The goal of the Master Plan is to develop a preferred strategy to provide accessible and reliable **drinking water** and **wastewater services** in Tobermory to meet **current and future needs, to 2046 and beyond**.
- The Master Plan will take into consideration climate change and social and economic impacts, as well as current limitations to Tobermory's growth, given the existing infrastructure.



Purpose of this Public Information Centre

The purpose of this public consultation is to tell you about:

- The study and the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment process being followed
- The alternative solutions being evaluated and the preliminary preferred solutions
- How **you** can be involved and stay informed!

What is a Master Plan?





A Master Plan is a high-level strategic document that sets out growth-related goals, objectives and priorities for municipal infrastructure. It identifies existing issues and future servicing requirements to help support ever-growing communities.

A Master Plan is developed using Environmental Assessment planning principles and fulfills Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment process. Future projects identified as part of the Master Plan are then subject to further assessment, either through completing the Schedule B or Schedule C process of the MCEA.

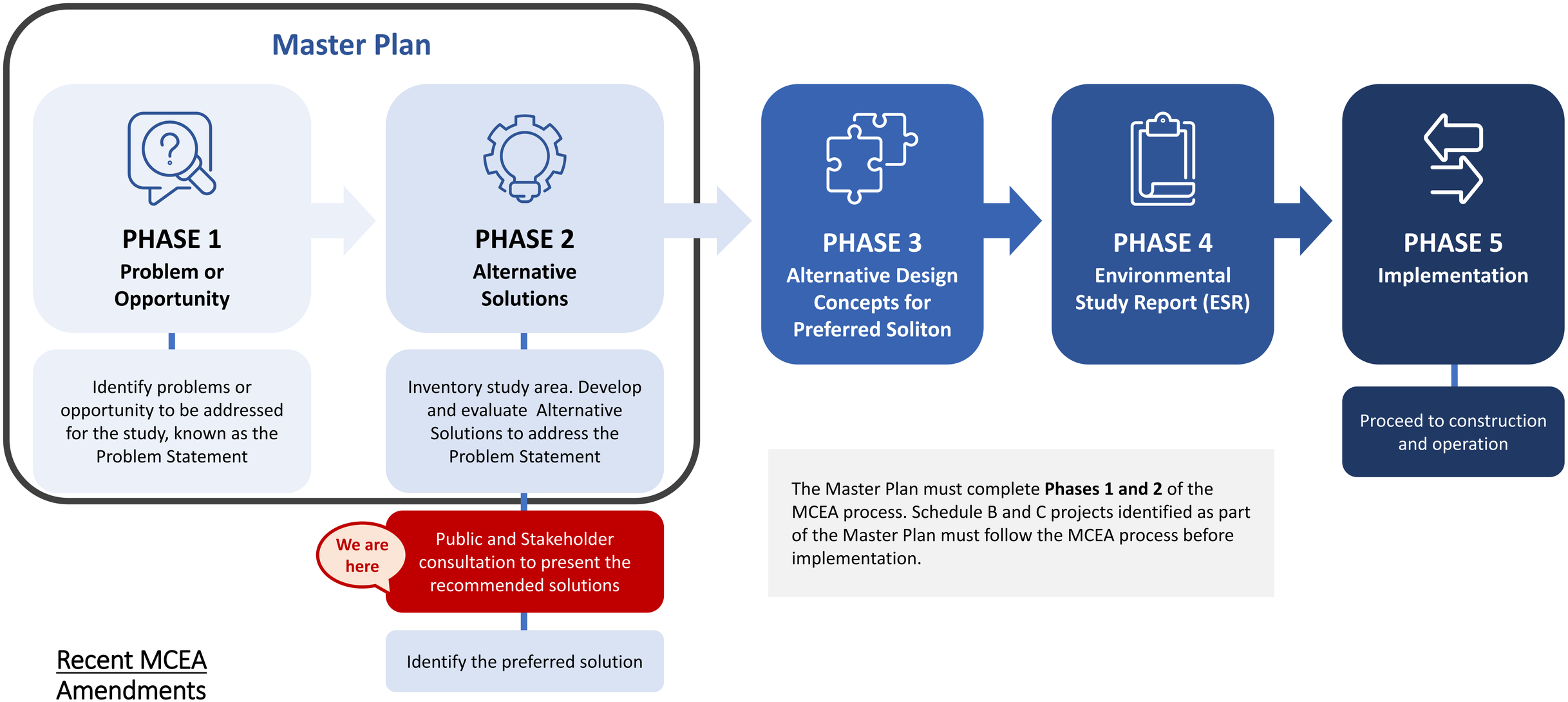
The Master Plan will take into consideration climate change and social and economic impacts, as well as current limitations to each community's growth, given the existing infrastructure.

Master Plan Approach

The current approach for the Master Plan is **Approach No.1** per the MCEA process (**broad master planning where identified projects are subject to project specific requirements**).

- Involves the analysis on a regional or systems scale, which enables the proponent to identify needs and establish broader infrastructure alternatives and solutions
- Specific projects are that required to achieve the preferred solution described in the Master Plan may be identified within the Master Plan document, however the level of detail at a project-specific level is minimal
- Therefore, more detailed investigations at the project-specific level are required to fulfil the Class EA requirements for the specific Schedule B and C projects identified within the Master Plan

Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (MCEA) Process



The Master Plan must complete **Phases 1 and 2** of the MCEA process. Schedule B and C projects identified as part of the Master Plan must follow the MCEA process before implementation.

Recent MCEA Amendments

The MCEA process was amended in March 2023. The following provides an overview of the major changes:

- Certain projects are now exempt from the MCEA process (previously known as Schedule A and A+ projects)
- Certain projects are now eligible for exemption upon completion of a new archaeological screening process
- Municipalities may now follow their own notification procedures to advise the public and stakeholders of their studies.

Problem Statement

To service the existing and future needs of the community of Tobermory's Water and Wastewater Systems, the following Problem Statement was adopted to guide the master planning study analysis, in accordance with the MCEA process:

"To develop an infrastructure plan for the community of Tobermory which meets servicing needs for today and future development to 2046 and beyond, considering climate change and social and economic impacts, as well as current limitations to Tobermory's growth due to the extents of the existing municipal drinking water service and lack of municipal water and wastewater service."

Evaluation Criteria

Criteria	Indicators	What does this mean?
Natural Environment	Surface and groundwater	Impacts to the environment from infrastructure development
	Natural Heritage	Potential impacts due to construction on natural habit and species at risk
	Climate Change	Potential impacts to surrounding natural environment from climate change events
Social/Economic Environment	Impact to existing infrastructure (private and municipal)	Disruption to residents and businesses during construction
	Aesthetics	The presence of infrastructure in communities
	Redundancy and security of supply	Ability of system to provide a consistent Level of Service
	Climate change	Impacts to residents and businesses during climate change events to provide Level of Service
Technical Suitability	Existing capacity	Current/proposed infrastructure to service existing water/wastewater demand capacity
	Impacts on future expansion	Opportunity to service the greater community and ability to connect future areas under expansion
	Full build out	Opportunity to service full-build out of the community
	Climate change	Impacts from climate change events which impact maintaining Level of Service
Constructability	Ease of construction and site access	When traditional construction approaches are applied, the impacts associated with installation
	Impact on operations during construction	Impacts associated with maintaining the current level of Service
	Ease of integration with existing infrastructure	Impacts associated with tie-in to existing infrastructure or disconnection of old infrastructure
	Climate change	Impacts from climate change events on the installation and timing of projects
Cost	Capital Costs	Cost to construct new infrastructure to establish the system or existing system upsizing and/or replacement
	Relative operation and maintenance costs	Cost to maintain yearly operations

Description of Alternatives

Drinking Water Servicing Alternatives

Alternatives	Description of Alternatives
1. Do Nothing	❖ Maintain existing level of service as is.
2. Expand to Downtown Core and Community Area	❖ Review and assess existing level of service and optimize; ❖ Expand drinking water servicing to the downtown core and community area.
3. Expand Drinking Water Servicing to Existing and New Developments	❖ Review and assess existing level of service and optimize; ❖ Expand drinking water servicing to the downtown core and community area. ❖ Expand drinking water servicing to existing residents, commercial buildings and existing municipal buildings not currently serviced (including existing municipality owned buildings along Highway 6); ❖ Expand drinking water servicing to all new development (commercial, residential, institutional).

Wastewater Servicing Alternatives

Alternatives	Description of Alternatives
1. Do Nothing	❖ Maintain existing level of service as is.
2. Expand to Downtown Core and Community Area	❖ Review and assess existing level of service and optimize; ❖ Expand WW servicing to downtown core and community area that is not serviced.
3. Expand Wastewater Servicing to Existing Residents and New Developments	❖ Review and assess existing level of service and optimize; ❖ Expand WW servicing to downtown core and community area that is not serviced. ❖ Expand WW servicing to existing residents and commercial buildings and existing municipal owned buildings not currently serviced (including existing municipality owned buildings along Highway 6); ❖ Expand WW servicing to all new development (commercial, residential, institutional).

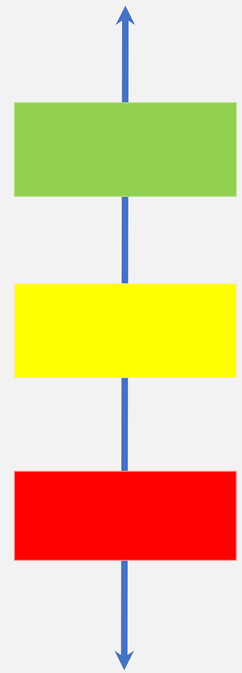
Evaluation of Alternatives – Drinking Water Servicing

Evaluation Criteria – Tobermory Drinking Water	1. Maintain Existing Level of Service	2. Expand to Downtown Core and Community Area	3. Expand Drinking Water Servicing to Existing and New Developments
Natural Environment			
Social/Economic Environment			
Technical Suitability			
Constructability			
Cost			

Preferred Solution ✓

EVALUATION COLOUR RATING SYSTEM

Most Preferred



Least Preferred

Evaluation of Alternatives – Wastewater Servicing

Evaluation Criteria – Tobermory Drinking Water	1. Maintain Existing Level of Service	2. Expand to Downtown Core and Community Area	3. Expand Drinking Water Servicing to Existing and New Developments
Natural Environment			
Social/Economic Environment			
Technical Suitability			
Constructability			
Cost			

Preferred Solution ✓

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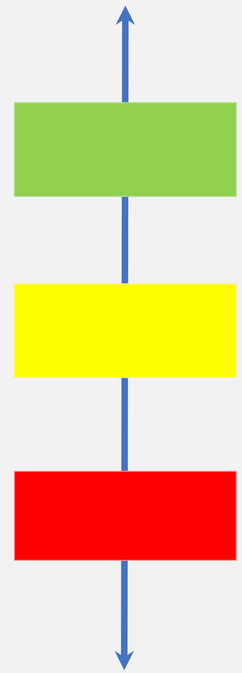
Most Preferred

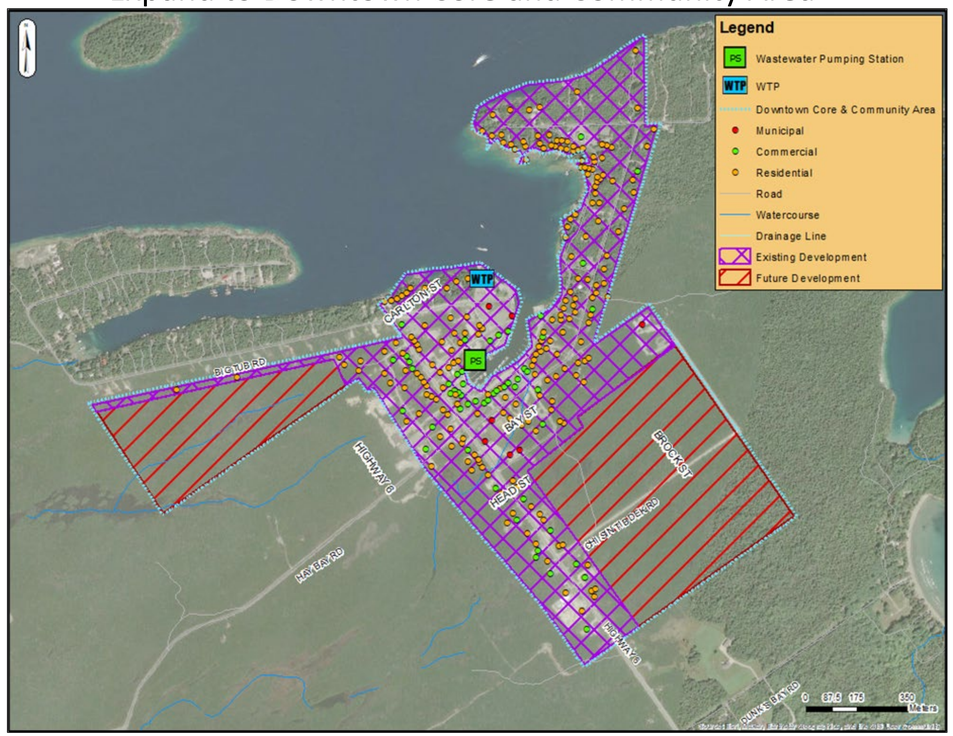


Least Preferred

Preliminary Preferred Solutions and Rationale

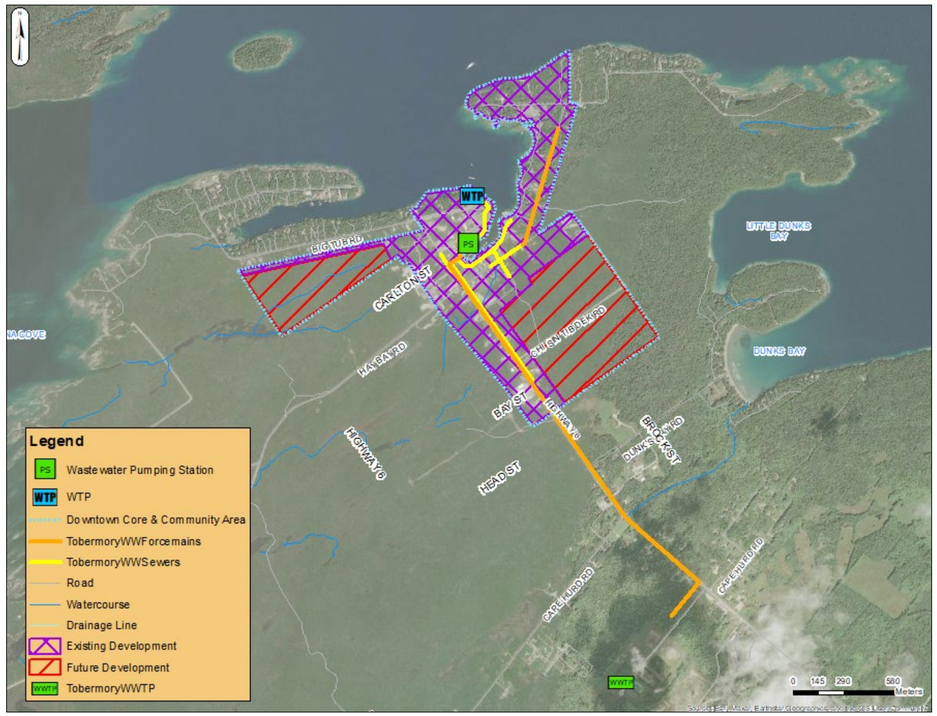
Drinking Water Servicing Alternative 2:

Expand to Downtown Core and Community Area



Wastewater Servicing Alternative 2:

Expand to Downtown Core and Community Area



Rationale for Preferred Drinking Water Servicing Alternative	Rationale for Preferred Wastewater Servicing Alternative
❖ Alternative 2 has the least impact on the overall Natural Environment ❖ Has less impact on Constructability compared to Alternative 3 (which also expands the servicing) ❖ Has less costs associated with it compared to Alternative 3 (which also expands the servicing)	❖ Alternative 2 has the least impact on the overall Natural Environment and Social / Economic Environment ❖ Has less impact on Constructability compared to Alternative 3 (which also expands the servicing) ❖ Has less costs associated with it compared to Alternative 3 (which also expands the servicing)

Evaluation Criteria and Alternatives

Next Steps

The project team will respond to any questions received, evaluate the alternatives presented and select a preferred alternative solution to provide drinking water and wastewater servicing for Tobermory.

Stay Engaged!

If you have any questions or comments, please fill out a **comment sheet today** or submit your comments by **September 26, 2025**, to:

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