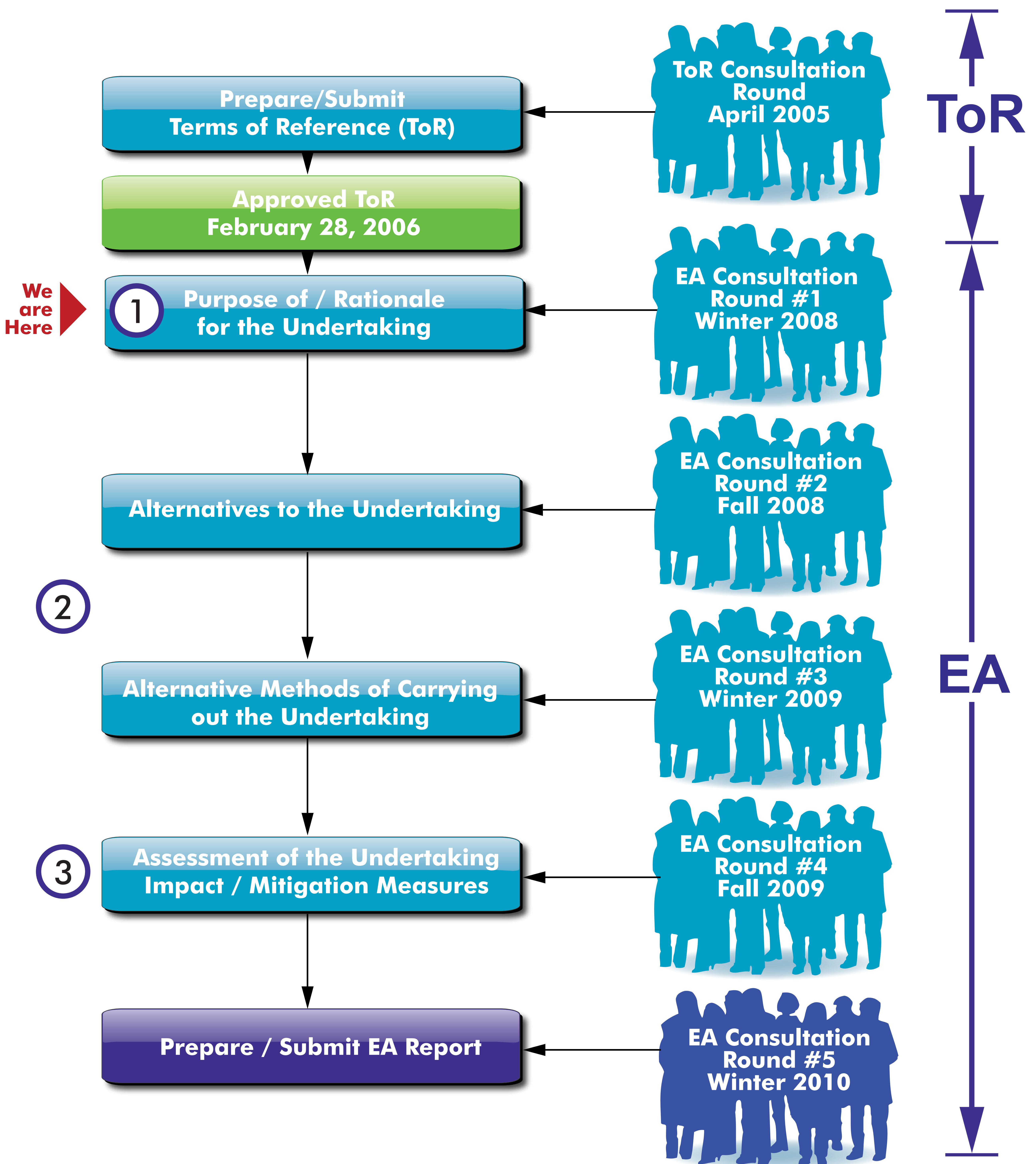


The Environmental Assessment Process

An Environmental Assessment (EA) is required for any infrastructure project undertaken by a government agency, including regional municipalities such as York Region. The Individual EA consists of a number of steps. Consultation with agencies and the public is an important part of the process.



- 1 Defining the Rationale for the Undertaking**
 Defines the rationale for the undertaking – in this case, to confirm the problems or traffic priorities that must be addressed.
- 2 Developing and Evaluating Alternatives**
 Develop alternatives to solving problems identified in the rationale. Evaluation considers the effects of the alternatives on the environment, which includes not only the natural (such as wildlife and its habitats), but also the socio-economic and cultural heritage environments.
- 3 Assessing Impacts**
 A detailed impact assessment of the undertaking including specific mitigation development.

