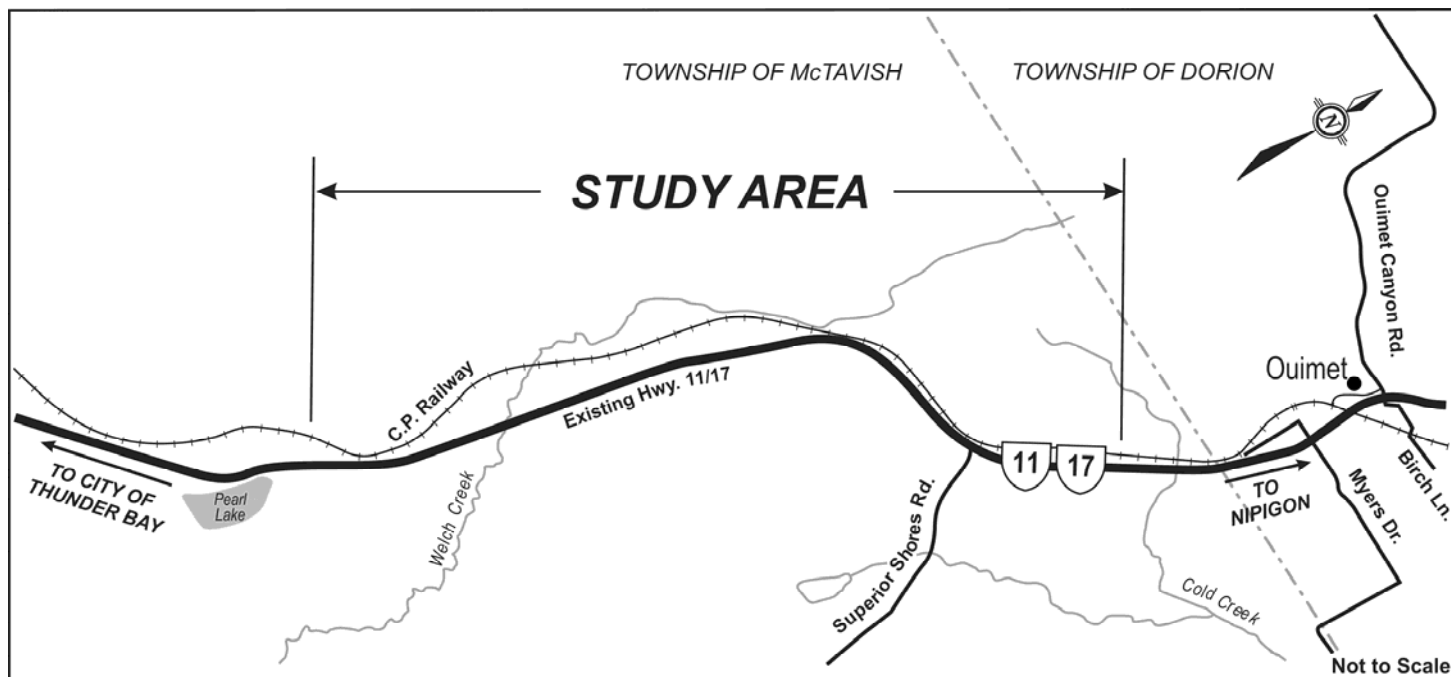


NOTICE OF STUDY COMMENCEMENT

Highway 11/17 Four-Laning from Pearl Lake, Easterly to 2.8 km West of CPR Overhead at Ouimet

THE STUDY

WSP Canada Group Limited (WSP), on behalf of the Ministry of Transportation (MTO), has initiated the Preliminary Design, Environmental Assessment (EA) Update, and Detailed Design for Highway 11/17 four-laning from Pearl Lake, easterly to 2.8 km west of CPR Overhead at Ouimet, for 7.6 km, as shown in the key plan below.



BACKGROUND

Following the planning and preliminary design phase in 1997, an Environmental Study Report (ESR) was filed for public review and comment, and subsequently the project was cleared to proceed. The Environmental Assessment (EA) approved plan included a new route for eastbound lanes only from Pearl Lake to Superior Shores Road while the existing Highway 11/17 will operate as westbound lanes. The four-lane highway corridor was designated (protected) in 2003.

THE PROCESS

This project includes reviewing the previously EA approved corridor identified in the 1997 ESR and identify potential changes to improve the highway alignment based on current design standards and to avoid any newly identified environmental constraints.

This study will follow the *Class EA for Provincial Transportation Facilities (2000)* process for Group 'B' projects. Consultation will take place throughout the study with external agencies, property owners and members of the public. Two Public Information Centres (PICs) are planned during the study. Notices providing the time and location of the PICs will be posted on the project website (www.hwy11-17four-laning-PearlLake.ca), published in this newspaper, and sent to persons on the project contact list.

As part of the study, an Addendum to the ESR will be prepared to document any changes to the existing environmental conditions from 1997, any proposed changes to the previously approved plan, and the proposed mitigation measures. The Addendum to the 1997 ESR will be available for a 30-day public review period at the end of the study. Notices will be posted and published when the Addendum is available for viewing.

COMMENTS

If you wish to obtain additional information or provide comments, or if you would like to be added to the study's mailing list, please contact:

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Comments and information are being collected to assist the MTO in meeting the requirements of the *Ontario Environmental Assessment Act*. Information will be collected in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, R.S.O., 1990, c.F.31*. All comments will be maintained on file for use during the study and, with the exception of personal information, may be included in study documentation and become part of the public record.

Visit us at www.hwy11-17four-laning-PearlLake.ca