

NOTICE OF STUDY COMMENCEMENT

Detail Design and Class Environmental Assessment Study Highway 11/17 Four-Laning from Pearl Lake, easterly to 2.8 Km West of CPR Overhead at Ouimet

THE STUDY

WSP, on behalf of the **Ministry of Transportation (the ministry)**, is undertaking the detail design and class environmental assessment (Class EA) study 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.

The purpose of this notice is to notify you of the commencement for this project and to provide an opportunity for your input.

BACKGROUND

During the preliminary design phase, two public information centres were held virtually via the project website to present updated environmental conditions and provide analysis and evaluation of alternatives, the preferred highway alignment and anticipated environmental effects and proposed mitigation measures.

Following the completion of the preliminary design phase, an environmental study report (ESR) addendum was filed and documented to propose changes to the EA Approved Plan as presented in the 1997 ESR, and made available for public comment in September 2023, and subsequently, the project was approved to proceed.

The project includes:

- Twinning the existing highway at the east and west limits of the project with a 30 m median;
- Rehabilitating and improving the existing Highway 11/17 lane to become the westbound lanes;
- Creating a new alignment for the eastbound lanes, up to 1.2 km south of the existing highway.

THE PROCESS

This study is following the approved environmental planning process for Group 'B' projects under the *Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Transportation Facilities (2000)*.

Consultation will take place throughout the study with external agencies, Indigenous communities, property owners and the public. One (1) public information centre (PIC) is planned. Notices providing the time and location of the PIC will be proposed on the project website at (www.Hwy11-17Four-Laning-PearlLake.ca), published in local newspapers, and sent to individuals and organizations on the project mailing list.

A design and construction report (DCR) will be prepared at the end of study to document the detail design and Class EA process. The DCR will describe the recommended design, document consultation, and outline the environmental measures that will be in place during construction. Construction timing is subject to funding and approvals. The DCR will be available for a 30-day comment period. Notices will be posted on the project website, published in local newspapers, and sent to individuals and organizations on the project mailing list when the DCR is available for review.

COMMENTS

Public consultation is an important part of the Class EA process. The public is encouraged to provide input at any point during the study or visit the project website at www.Hwy11-17Four-Laning-PearlLake.ca. We are interested in any comments or concerns you may have regarding the study. If you wish to be added to our project mailing list or would like to submit comments, please contact one of the project team members listed below.

Rob Kleine, P.Eng.
Project Manager
WSP Canada Inc.
150 Commerce Valley Drive West
Thornhill, ON, L3T 7Z3
Toll-Free: 1-877-562-7947
Tel: 905-882-7225
Email: Rob.Kleine@wsp.com

Robyn McLure, P.Eng.
Project Engineer
Ministry of Transportation
615 James Street South
Thunder Bay, ON P7E 6P6
Toll-Free: 1-800-465-5034
Tel: 807-629-9768
Email: Robyn.McLure@ontario.ca

Information will be collected in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. 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.

If you have any accessibility requirements to participate in this study, please contact one of the project team members listed above.

