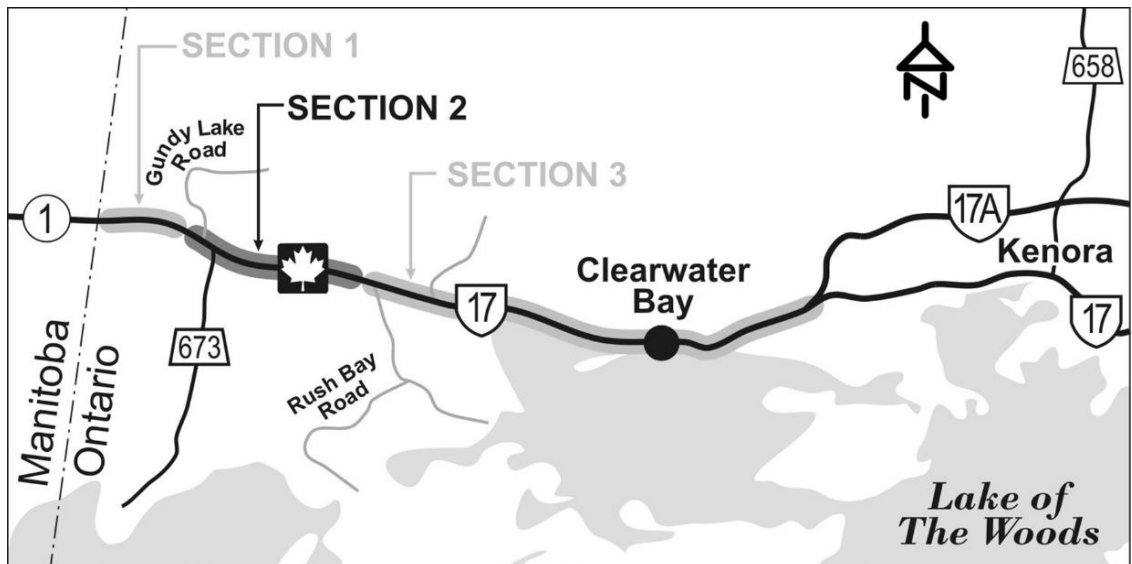


**NOTICE OF STUDY COMMENCEMENT and
NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE #1
Highway 17 Four-Laning - Section 2 (between Highway 673 and Rush Bay Road)
(G.W.P. 6053-03-00)**

THE STUDY:

WSP Canada Group Limited (WSP), on behalf of the **Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO)**, has initiated the Preliminary Design and Class Environmental Assessment Study to review four-laning alternatives for the 8.5 km long section of Highway 17 between Highway 673 and Rush Bay Road (referred to as Section 2 on the Key Plan). As part of this study, four-laning options within Section 2 will be reviewed and evaluated and a preferred alternative will be selected.

This study is following the approved environmental planning process for Group 'B' projects under MTO's Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Transportation Facilities (2000). MTO published the original Notice of Study Commencement for the four-laning of Highway 17 between Manitoba and Kenora in November 2018.



PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE (PIC) #1:

The project team has identified potential alternatives to establish a four-lane divided Highway 17, within the limits for Section 2, with a focus on minimizing impacts to Indigenous communities, stakeholders, and the environment. PIC #1 will present the alternatives and provide interested parties, Indigenous communities, and the public an opportunity to review and provide input on the existing environmental conditions and the alternatives, including modifications to existing access roads.

PIC #1 will be held as follows:

Date: Wednesday September 20, 2023

Time: 4:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Location / Address: Moncrief Construction Sports Centre, 18 Mike Richards Way, Kenora, ON P9N 1L2

PIC #1 will be an in-person, open house format with project team representatives from MTO and WSP available to answer questions, as well as discuss and receive comments. We encourage interested persons to attend to learn about the project and provide input to ensure that concerns can be addressed by the project team as the study progresses. PIC #1 materials will be available in virtual format on the project website at www.4lanehighway17kenora.ca beginning on **September 21, 2023**. Comments are requested by October 20, 2023 through the comment form available on the website or by contacting a project team members listed below. A second PIC will be held later in the study to present the recommended highway alignment and access options, anticipated environmental impacts and proposed mitigation measures.

As part of this study, a Transportation Environmental Study Report (TESR) will be prepared to document the existing environmental conditions, the approved four-lane plan and the proposed mitigation measures. The TESR will be available for a 30-day public review period at the end of the study process. Notices will be posted and published when the TESR is available for viewing.

COMMENTS:

Persons requiring accommodation to review these materials are encouraged to contact the project managers below. Comments are welcome at any time during the study. If you require additional information or would like to provide comments, please contact:

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Please visit our project website at www.4lanehighway17kenora.ca for additional project details.



Information will be collected in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record.