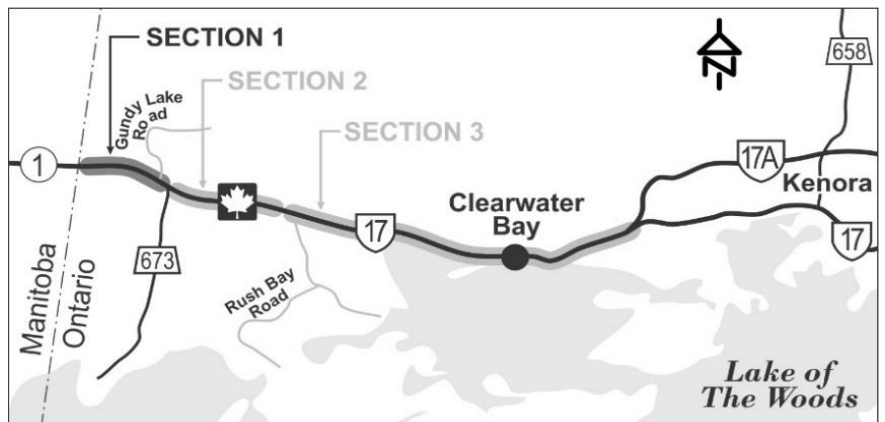


NOTICE OF COMPLETION
TRANSPORTATION ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY REPORT
Planning, Preliminary Design, Class Environmental Assessment and Detail Design Study
SECTION 1: Highway 17 Four-Laning from the Manitoba / Ontario Border to Highway 673

WSP Canada Inc. (WSP), on behalf of the **Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO)**, is undertaking a Planning, Preliminary Design, Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) and Detail Design Study to review options to provide a four-lane divided Highway 17 from the Manitoba/Ontario border to Kenora (39km). Separate studies are being carried out for the three sections as shown on the key plan.

The planning, preliminary design, environmental assessment and detail design phases for Section 1 from the Manitoba/Ontario border to Highway 673 is nearing completion. These phases included a review of a number of four-lane alternatives and the identification and development of a preferred plan. This review and the preferred plan were presented to the public on November 20, 2018.



RECOMMENDED PLAN:

The Recommended Plan for Highway 17 from the Manitoba/Ontario border to Highway 673 includes the following:

- Provide a four-lane highway by “twinning” the existing highway and separating the eastbound and westbound lanes with a 30m (min.) median;
- Provide an at-grade connection with a median cross-over to the new four-lane highway at the Rest Area and Gundy Lake Road; and
- Provide a two-lane to four-lane transition at each end of the project.

SECTION 1 – TRANSPORTATION ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY REPORT

The study for Section 1 followed the Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Transportation Facilities (1999, as amended 2000) process for Group ‘B’ projects. A Transportation Environmental Study Report (TESR) has been prepared for Section 1 to document the Recommended Plan, alternatives development and evaluation/selection, design implementation details including the environmental effects and proposed mitigation measures. The TESR for Section 1 is available for a 30-day public comment period, on the study website at www.4lanehighway17kenora.ca, beginning on **July 29, 2021** and ending on **August 30, 2021**.

Interested persons may provide written comments to our Project Team listed below by **August 30, 2021**.

Mr. Gord Firth, P.Eng.
Consultant Project Manager
WSP Canada Group Limited
610 Chartwell Rd., Suite 300
Oakville, ON L6J 4A5
Phone: (905) 823-8500
Toll-free: 1-877-562-7947
Fax: (905) 823-8503
E-mail: project-team@4LaneHighway17Kenora.ca

Mr. J.A. (Sandy) Nairn, MCIP, RPP
Senior Environmental Planner
WSP Canada Group Limited
610 Chartwell Rd., Suite 300
Oakville, ON L6J 4A5
Phone: (905) 823-8500
Toll-free: 1-877-562-7947
Fax: (905) 823-8503
E-mail: project-team@4LaneHighway17Kenora.ca

Mr. Steve Sutch
Area Manager
Ministry of Transportation
Northwestern Region
615 James St. S
Thunder Bay, ON P7E 6P6
Phone: (807) 630-1720
Toll free: 1-800-465-5034
Fax: (807) 473-2168
E-mail: project-team@4LaneHighway17Kenora.ca

In addition, a request may be made to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks for an order requiring a higher level of study (i.e. requiring an individual/comprehensive EA approval before being able to proceed), or that conditions be imposed (e.g. require further studies), only on the grounds that the requested order may prevent, mitigate or remedy adverse impacts on constitutionally protected Aboriginal and treaty rights. Requests on other grounds will not be considered. Requests should include the requester contact information and full name for the ministry.

Requests should specify what kind of order is being requested (request for additional conditions or a request for an individual/comprehensive environmental assessment), how an order may prevent, mitigate or remedy those potential adverse impacts, and any information in support of the statements in the request. This will ensure that the ministry is able to efficiently begin reviewing the request.

The request should be sent in writing or by email to the Project Team and:

Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks
777 Bay Street, 5th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 2J3
minister.mecp@ontario.ca

Director, Environmental Assessment Branch
Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks
135 St. Clair Ave. W, 1st Floor
Toronto ON, M4V 1P5
EABDirector@ontario.ca

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.

The study included engagement with Indigenous groups affected by the project. These groups included Iskatewizaagagen First Nation; the Metis Nation of Ontario; and the four communities of Washagamis Bay First Nation; Niisaachewan Anishinaabe Nation; Shoal Lake #40 First Nation; and Wauzhushk Onigum Nation who are represented collectively through the Niiwin Wendaanimok Partnership.

In order to coordinate their shared experiences and interests as part of the consultation and engagement process with MTO, the Niiwin Wendaanimok Partnership has undertaken their own community engagement process to better understand potential social, environmental and cultural impacts associated with the Project. The Niiwin Wendaanimok have prepared a Harmonized Impact Assessment report that documents their engagement process. Under a separate Notice, NWP is filing the Harmonized Impact Assessment concurrently with this Notice. The Harmonized Impact Assessment was independently conducted by the Niiwin Wendaanimok Partnership. The views expressed within the Harmonized Impact Assessment report are those of the Niiwin Wendaanimok Partnership and not necessarily those of Ontario.

COMMENTS

To obtain additional information, provide comments or to be placed on the study mailing list, please contact the Project Team contacts listed above.

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

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* and the *Access to Information Act*. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record.

Please visit us at www.4LaneHighway17Kenora.ca for more information.