

ONTARIO GOVERNMENT NOTICE

NOTICE OF STUDY RE-COMMENCEMENT

AND NOTICE OF ONLINE PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE No. 1

Highway 61 Planning and Preliminary Design Arthur Street to Loch Lomond Road

THE STUDY - BT Engineering Inc. (BTE), on behalf of the Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO), is re-commencing a planning and preliminary design study to determine the appropriate strategy for the future widening for two sections of Highway 61 (Part A and Part B), in the City of Thunder Bay. The Highway 61 Study Area and the two Local Study Areas are shown on the map below.

Part A extends from 0.5 km south of Arthur Street to Chippewa Road and Part B extends from Chippewa Road to 0.5 km south of Loch Lomond Road. For the two areas, the Study has identified potential improvements and preliminary design alternatives to address immediate, interim, and long-term highway planning needs. Previous Ministry studies undertaken in the 1990's were used as part of the review.

THE PROCESS - This study is following the *Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Transportation Facilities (2000)* planning process for a Group "B" project, with the opportunity for external agency and public consultation throughout the study. Three (3) Public Information Centres (PICs) are scheduled during the study. Notices providing the date, time, and location of the PICs will be published in this newspaper and on the study website at: www.MTOhighway61.com. Individuals on the study email list will be notified of the date and time and format in which the PIC will be held. Upon completion of this study, a Transportation Environmental Study Report (TESR) will be prepared and made available for a 30-day public review period. The TESR will document the Recommended Plan, the planning process and the identified effects and proposed mitigation measures.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

DRAFT STUDY DESIGN REPORT - A draft Study Design Report is available on the study website at: www.MTOhighway61.com. The updated draft Study Design Report describes the study background, approach, process, alternatives, and consultation program.

ONLINE PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE NO. 1 - You are invited to view the first of three (3) Public Information Centres (PICs). At the present time, the Province of Ontario has implemented measures to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic and has placed restrictions on public gatherings. As a result, the Public Information Centre is relying on web-based communications. Public Information Centre No. 1 will present an introduction to the project, explain the study process, and present an evaluation of planning solutions and preliminary design alternatives. Comments on the information presented can be provided by contacting the Project Managers' email addresses listed below.

The online PIC will commence Monday October 4, 2021, and run for a 2-week period, exhibits will be available during this period online at: www.MTOhighway61.com. A "live online" presentation by BTE will be held on Tuesday October 12, 2021, this live presentation will allow for questions and answers.

To register for the online meeting, please send an email to either Project Manager before Tuesday October 12, 2021, identifying your interest in attending.

COMMENTS - We are interested in hearing any comments that you may have regarding this study at any time. You are encouraged to make your concerns and input known to the Study Team at your earliest opportunity. Early communication of concerns in the study allows the greatest opportunity to address them. If you wish to obtain additional information, provide comments, or be added to the project mailing list, please contact the Consultant Project Manager or MTO Senior Project Manager listed below:

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WEBSITE – A website www.MTOhighway61.com was created when the study commenced and will be updated regularly with information regarding the study. The website also provides an additional means for you to communicate your comments and concerns. You are encouraged to keep up to date on the project by regularly visiting the website.

ACCESSIBILITY - If you have any accessibility requirements in order to participate in this study, please contact one of the Project Team Managers listed above.

Any comments received pertaining to the study will be collected under the *Environmental Assessment Act* and all information will be collected in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (2009)*. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record.