

ONTARIO GOVERNMENT NOTICE

NOTICE OF STUDY COMMENCEMENT

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

THE STUDY - The Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) has retained BT Engineering Inc. (BTE) to undertake 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.

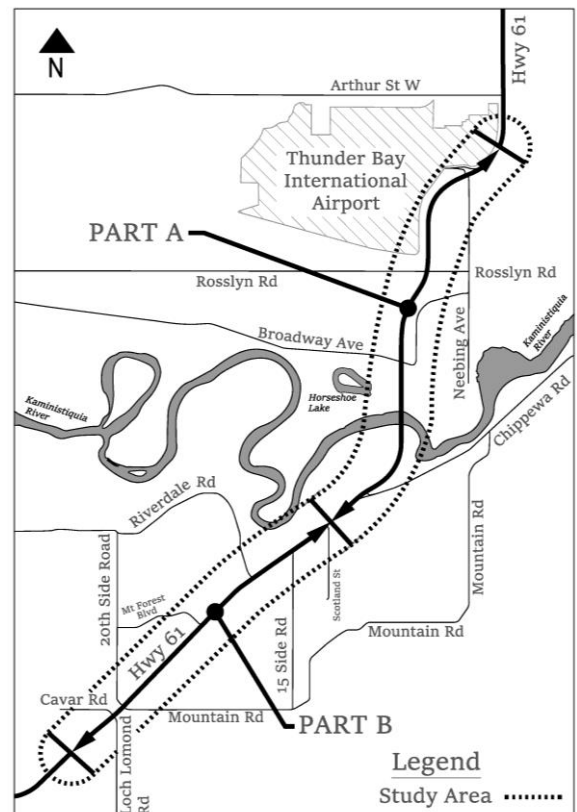
The Study will consider the needs for the two Local Study Areas, assess alternatives and identify a Preferred Plan for improvements to address the immediate, interim and long term planning horizons. The Study will consider similar Ministry studies undertaken in the 1990's.

At this time, widening improvements to this portion of Highway 61 are not approved for construction in the 2017-2021 Northern Highways Program.

THE PROCESS - This study will follow 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 project. Three (3) Public Information Centres (PICs) will be scheduled during the study. Notices providing the date, time, and location of the PICs will be published in this newspaper and on the project website. 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.

COMMUNITY CAFÉ – A Community Café will occur in the first few weeks of the study to help define the scope and issues. Persons wishing to participate in the Community Café should contact the BT Engineering Project Manager below to register. The Community Café is scheduled for:

Date: Wednesday, January 17, 2018
Time: 7:00 to 9:00 PM
Location: Best Western Plus Hotel, Amethyst Room



COMMENTS - We are interested in hearing any comments that you may have regarding this study. You are encouraged to make your concerns and input known to the Project 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 or provide comments, or wish to 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 has been created 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 project please contact one of the Project Team members 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.