ONTARIO GOVERNMENT NOTICE NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE NO. 2

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

THE STUDY - BT Engineering Inc. (BTE), on behalf of the Ontario Ministry of Transportation (the ministry), is undertaking a planning and preliminary design study to determine the approach 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 sections, 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 1990s 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 public comment throughout the project.

The previously held public information centre (PIC) No. 1 presented the draft study design report which described the study background, process, and consultation program, and presented the preliminary design alternatives for review and comment.

The purpose of the second PIC is to provide interested stakeholders, Indigenous communities, and the public an opportunity to review and comment on the evaluation of the alternatives and the technical recommendations.

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Please join us at the PIC scheduled on:

Date: October 5, 2023

Time: 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm, presentation at 7:00 pm

Location: South Neebing Community Centre, 1841 Mountain Road, Thunder Bay

A presentation on the Study will be provided at 7:00 pm in the South Neebing Community Centre. PIC No. 2 exhibits will also be available on the study website at: www.MTOhighway61.com for the duration of the project.

During a third PIC, BTE and the ministry will present the refined technical recommendations and mitigation plan for the Highway 61 Arthur Street to Loch Lomond Road Planning and Preliminary Design Study. A notice of the date, time, and location of PIC No. 3 will be published in this newspaper. After PIC No. 3, a transportation environmental study report will be prepared for a 30-day comment period.

COMMENTS – After PIC No. 2, October 5, 2023, there will be a 30-day comment period during which you are encouraged to provide comments contact one of the individuals listed below or visit our website at www.MTOhighway61.com

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

All comments received 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.