

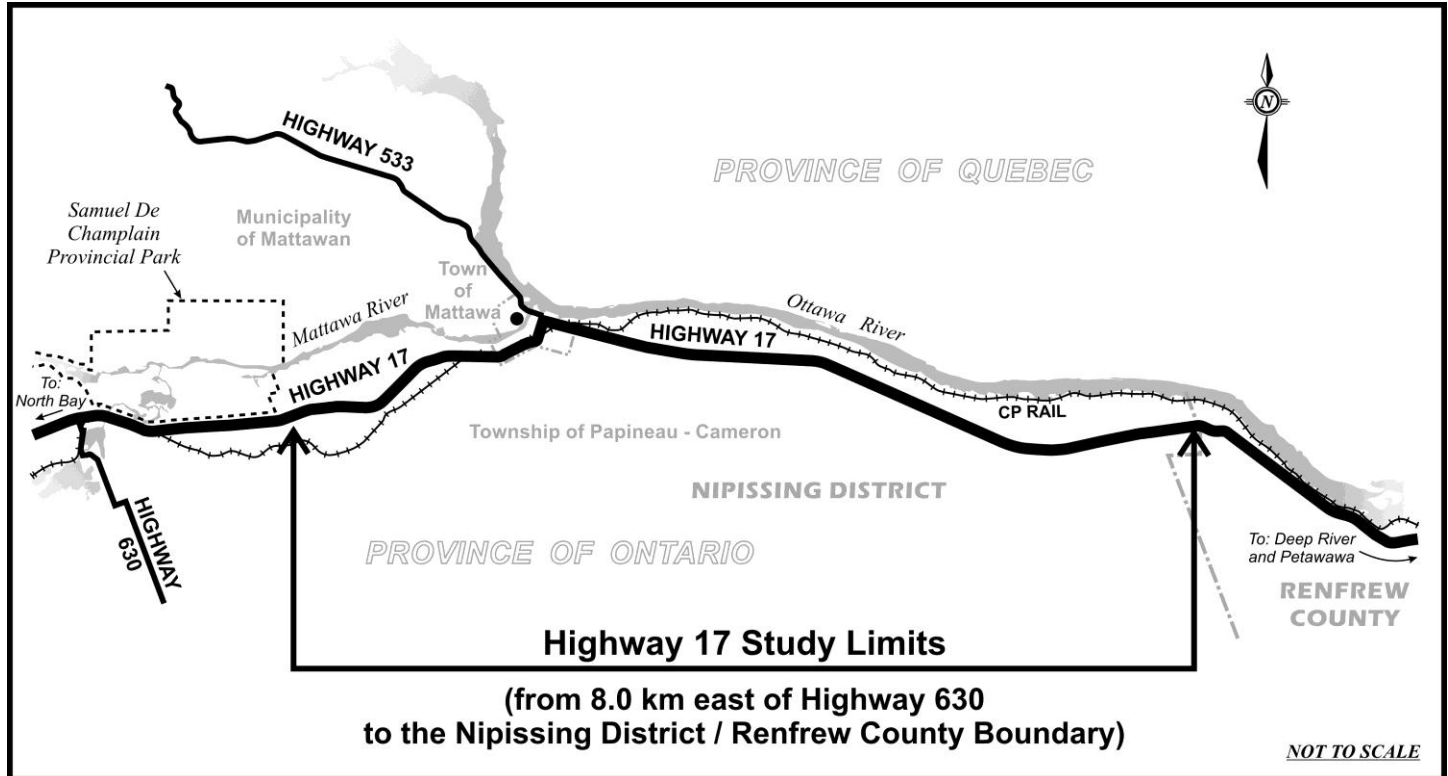
NOTICE OF STUDY COMMENCEMENT

HIGHWAY 17 ROUTE PLANNING STUDY (G.W.P. 5077-07-00)

From 8.0 km east of Highway 630 to the Nipissing District / Renfrew County Boundary, 35.4 km

THE STUDY

The Ministry of Transportation Ontario (MTO) has retained McCormick Rankin Corporation (MRC) to conduct a Route Planning, Preliminary Design and Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) Study for Highway 17 between 8.0 km east of Highway 630 and the Nipissing District / Renfrew County boundary, a distance of approximately 35.4 km, as shown in the Key Plan. The study will include the development and evaluation of a range of alternatives, including improvements to the existing highway, new highway routes and/or combinations of the two. The study will result in the identification of a preferred plan to improve future traffic operations and to enhance highway safety.



THE PROCESS

The study will follow the *Class Environmental Assessment (EA) for Provincial Transportation Facilities (2000)* process for a Group 'A' project.

At the beginning of the study, a Study Design Report (SDR) will be developed to describe the process that will be followed. The SDR will provide an overview of the need and justification for the project, the planning alternatives to the undertaking and will document EA process commitments such as public consultation and documentation.

Consultation will take place throughout the study with the public, First Nations and Aboriginal groups, municipalities, regulatory agencies, property owners, businesses, and interest groups, including three rounds of Public Information Centres (PICs). The PICs will provide an opportunity to discuss the study with members of the project team. The first PIC is planned for spring 2012 and will provide the public with an opportunity to review the findings of the draft SDR, preliminary alternatives and the proposed evaluation criteria.

Upon completion of the study, a Transportation Environmental Study Report (TESR) will be prepared and made available for public review. Notices will be placed in local newspapers and on the project website (www.highway17routeplanning.ca) to advise the public of the PICs and the TESR review.

COMMENTS

To obtain additional information, provide initial comments or to be placed on the mailing list, please contact:

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At any time during the study interested persons can contact the Ministry's consultant regarding outstanding issues. 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.

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