Route Planning and Environmental Assessment Study
Highway 17 Four-Laning from Sudbury to Markstay
GWP 5031-09-00

Presentation to City of Greater Sudbury Council: January 26, 2011
Roch Pilon, P.Eng.
Head, Planning & Environmental Section
Ministry of Transportation

VISION FOR NORTHEASTERN ONTARIO
HIGHWAY 17 ROUTE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT STUDY FROM SUDBURY TO MARKSTAY, GWP 5031-09-00
Vision for Northeastern Ontario
Highway 17 Route Planning and Environmental Assessment Study
from Sudbury to Markstay, GWP 5031-09-00

Ministry of Transportation Mandate

• To deliver a provincial highway network that is safe, provides mobility for people and goods, and promotes economic, environmental and social sustainability

• MTO staff are responsible for the delivery program and maintenance of the highway network
Vision for Highway 17
Highway 17 Route Planning and Environmental Assessment Study from Sudbury to Markstay, GWP 5031-09-00

Role of Highway 17

- Highway 17 is an important transportation corridor for long distance travel and goods movement through the Province of Ontario

- It forms part of the Trans-Canada Highway across Northern Ontario

- It provides local access to municipal roads and communities
Vision for Highway 17
Highway 17 Route Planning and Environmental Assessment Study from Sudbury to Markstay, GWP 5031-09-00

Highway 17 Corridor Design Standard

• A four-lane divided Controlled Access Highway is the preferred standard for Highway 17 and the Trans-Canada Highway

• Four-laning will improve highway safety by:
  » Separating eastbound and westbound traffic with a wide median
  » Providing safe passing opportunities without the risk of opposing traffic
  » Removing potential vehicle conflicts associated with at-grade intersections and entrances
## Highway 17 Corridor Four-laning Planning Projects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Project Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Sault Ste. Marie By-pass</td>
<td>• Consultant Procurement in Progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Sault Ste. Marie to Bar River</td>
<td>• Constructed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Desbarats to Espanola (5 Projects)</td>
<td>• Future Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Espanola to 6.5 km West of West Junction RR 55</td>
<td>• Future Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• West Junction Regional Road 55 Westerly 6.5 km</td>
<td>• Planning Completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• West Jct. RR 55 to Middle Jct. RR 55</td>
<td>• Constructed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Middle Jct. RR 55 to Sudbury (Hwy 69)</td>
<td>• Planning Completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Sudbury (Hwy 69) to Markstay</td>
<td>• Planning Underway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Markstay to Cache Bay</td>
<td>• Future Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Cache Bay to North Bay</td>
<td>• Consultant Procurement in Progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• North Bay By-Pass (4 Phases, 2 Projects)</td>
<td>• 1 Underway, 1 Completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• North Bay to Bonfield</td>
<td>• Planning Underway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Bonfield to West of Mattawa</td>
<td>• Consultant Procurement in Progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Mattawa to East Regional Boundary</td>
<td>• Planning Underway</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Gregg Cooke, P.Eng.
Consultant Project Manager
Stantec Consulting Ltd.

STUDY OVERVIEW

HIGHWAY 17 ROUTE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT STUDY FROM SUDBURY TO MARKSTAY, GWP 5031-09-00
Study Area Plan
Highway 17 Route Planning and Environmental Assessment Study from Sudbury to Markstay, GWP 5031-09-00
Study Purpose
Highway 17 Route Planning and Environmental Assessment Study from Sudbury to Markstay, GWP 5031-09-00

• The purpose of the study is to identify a four-lane Controlled Access Highway, with access restricted to interchange locations only, for Highway 17 and Highway 69 within the study limits.

• This is a planning study to identify and designate property for the ultimate Highway 17 and Highway 69 transportation needs.

• Designating a future four-lane highway now will assist the Ministry, local municipalities, stakeholders, and private land owners with planning and development within the study area.

• Construction timing has not been determined; the ministry will continue to monitor safety and operations on the highway to determine the priority of the project.
Previous Studies
Highway 17 Route Planning and Environmental Assessment Study from Sudbury to Markstay, GWP 5031-09-00

• The ministry completed the *Environmental Assessment of the Sudbury By-Pass Route Planning Study Report* in 1987, and the *Highway 69 EA Addendum Report* in 2002
  » New four-lane divided Highway 17 from Highway 69 to Markstay
  » New four-lane divided Highway 69 from Gladu Road to the Southeast By-Pass

• The ministry is updating the 1987 study to incorporate new developments related to the area
  » New provincial freeway design standards
  » Maley Drive Extension (CGS Official Plan)
  » Daisy Lake Uplands Provincial Park
  » Environmental Assessment
Previous Studies
Highway 17 Route Planning and Environmental Assessment Study from Sudbury to Markstay, GWP 5031-09-00
Problem and Opportunity
Highway 17 Route Planning and Environmental Assessment Study
from Sudbury to Markstay, GWP 5031-09-00

Transportation Problem

- MTO Corridor Control and Traffic Sections have identified safety and operational concerns on this section of Highway 17 within the study area
  - Several fatal collisions
  - Traffic Operations issues between Coniston and Sudbury
  - Delays associated with the at-grade railway crossing
  - High percentage of truck traffic

- Traffic volumes are expected to continue to increase in the future, which could lead to additional safety concerns and operational issues
**Problem and Opportunity**
Highway 17 Route Planning and Environmental Assessment Study from Sudbury to Markstay, GWP 5031-09-00

**Opportunity**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Possible Solutions</th>
<th>Recommendations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Do Nothing</td>
<td>• Does not meet the provincial needs or address highway safety and operational concerns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Improve Existing Highway 17</td>
<td>• Carried forward for further study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• New Route for Highway 17</td>
<td>• Carried forward for further study</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Environmental Assessment Process
Highway 17 Route Planning and Environmental Assessment Study from Sudbury to Markstay, GWP 5031-09-00

- This study is being carried out under the requirements of the Class Environmental Assessment (EA) for Provincial Transportation Facilities (2000)

- This study falls within the scope of a Group "A" project, which includes major realignments and by-passes to existing provincial highways and freeways

- Specific details about this study process are documented in a draft *Study Design Report*
Public Consultation
Highway 17 Route Planning and Environmental Assessment Study from Sudbury to Markstay, GWP 5031-09-00

• Notice of Study Commencement – August 2010

• Public Information Centre 1 – February 2011
  » Present and seek input on the Corridor Alternatives

We are Here

• Public Information Centre 2 – Fall 2011
  » Present and seek input on the Feasible Route Alternatives

• Public Information Centre 3 – Fall 2012
  » Present and seek input on the Preferred Plan

• Transportation Environmental Study Report – Spring 2013
  » 30-day Public Review Period
Study Planning and Evaluation Process
Highway 17 Route Planning and Environmental Assessment Study from Sudbury to Markstay, GWP 5031-09-00

• Develop Corridor Alternatives
  » Develop 500 m wide Corridor Alternatives

• Develop Feasible Route Alternatives
  » Develop 110 m wide Route Alternatives within each 500 m wide corridor, and by combining segments from different corridors

• Evaluate Feasible Alternatives
  » Detailed evaluation of Feasible Route Alternatives
  » Select Preferred Plan
Corridor Alternatives (PIC 1)
Highway 17 Route Planning and Environmental Assessment Study from Sudbury to Markstay, GWP 5031-09-00
NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE
Highway 17 Route Planning Study from Sudbury to Markstay (GWP 5031-09-00)

Stantec Consulting Ltd. has been retained by the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) to undertake a route planning, preliminary design, and environmental assessment study for Highway 17 from the existing Highway 69 interchange, easterly to Markstay, a distance of approximately 42.5 km; and a new connection of Highway 69 to Highway 17 (Sudbury Southeast By-Pass), a distance of approximately 5.5 km.

The purpose of the study is to identify a Recommended Plan for a four-lane Controlled Access Highway with access restricted to interchange locations only. This involves the development and evaluation of a range of alternatives, including expansion of the existing highway corridor, new highway routes, and/or combinations of the two.

This notice is to announce the first series of Public Information Centres (PICs).

The purpose of the PIC is to:
- Display and seek input on the Preliminary Corridors;
- Display and seek input on the existing conditions in the study area (i.e. natural, social, economic, and cultural);
- Seek input on the draft Study Design Report, and the evaluation criteria and process to be used to identify a Preferred Plan; and
- Answer questions about the study.

The Public Information Centres will be a drop-in format. However, a presentation providing a brief overview of the study and PIC displays will be provided approximately every hour. The PICs are scheduled for:

**Wednesday, February 2, 2011**
Colonial Inn
28 Cedar Street, Coniston
4:00 PM to 8:00 PM

**Thursday, February 3, 2011**
Markstay Pentecostal Church Hall
12 Millichamp Street, Markstay
4:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Discussion
Highway 17 Route Planning and Environmental Assessment Study from Sudbury to Markstay, GWP 5031-09-00

• Questions ???