



NOTICE OF STUDY COMMENCEMENT PLANNING, PRELIMINARY DESIGN AND CLASS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT - Highway 6 Little Current Swing Bridge Study, GWP 5268-14-00

The Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) has retained Stantec Consulting Ltd. to undertake a Planning, Preliminary Design, and Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) Study for the Highway 6 Little Current Swing Bridge located in the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands in Northeastern Ontario. The bridge provides year-round highway access between the community of Little Current and Manitoulin Island and mainland areas of Northern Ontario. The existing bridge is nearing the end of its service life. The purpose of this study is to identify a Recommended Plan that addresses current and future transportation needs at the bridge crossing.



THE PROCESS

This study is a “Group A” project under the *Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) for Provincial Transportation Facilities* (2000) and includes undertaking environmental and engineering field investigations and seeking input from stakeholders, external agencies, indigenous communities and the public. This study will review existing conditions and conduct a Transportation Needs Assessment to determine the scope and extent of crossing requirements. A *Study Design Report (SDR)* will also be completed and will be made available for public review. The purpose of the SDR is to confirm the project Need and Justification, define the study area, assess alternative crossing types (Alternatives to the Undertaking), and document the Class EA process including consultation.

The study also includes developing and evaluating alternatives for the preferred crossing type, identifying appropriate improvements, and outlining environmental protection/mitigation measures. A Recommended Plan will be confirmed and a preliminary design completed at the end of the study.

Three Public Information Centres (PICs) are planned, and notices of the PICs will be advertised in local newspapers and sent to the project mailing list. Upon completion of preliminary design, a *Transportation Environmental Study Report (TESR)* will be prepared and made available for public review.

COMMENTS

You are encouraged to participate in the study and to provide comments in writing to the project team. If you wish to have your name added to the project mailing list or have questions about the study, please contact:

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You are encouraged to visit the project website, swingbridgestudy.ca where project information including study notices, background information, PIC displays, the SDR and the TESR will be made available as the study progresses. You can also submit comments to the project team on the project website.

If you have any accessibility requirements in order to participate in this project, please contact one of the Project Team members listed above. Comments and information are being collected to assist the MTO in meeting the requirements of the *Ontario Environmental Assessment Act*. Information will be collected in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. All comments will be maintained on file for use during the study and, with the exception of personal information, may be included in study documentation and become part of the public record.