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 following the requirements of a “Group A” project under the Class Environmental Assessment (EA) for Provincial Transportation Facilities (2000), and includes opportunities for public input throughout, including at three PICs. A Study Design Report (SDR) has been prepared for review. Near the end of the study, a Transportation Environmental Study Report (TESR) will also be prepared for a 30-day public review with a notice of TESR Submission published in local newspapers.

PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD

The Study Design Report (SDR) has been prepared and is available for a 30-day public review period from November 22, 2018 to December 21, 2018. The SDR documents the project Need and Justification, the study area, the alternative crossing types (Alternatives to the Undertaking), and the Class EA process including consultation. The SDR will be available at the following locations and on the project website (www.swingbridgestudy.ca):

Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands Municipal Building
14 Water Street East
Little Current, Ontario
Monday-Friday: 8:30am - 4:30pm

Gore Bay Union Public Library
15 Water Street
Gore Bay, Ontario
Monday, Tuesday: 2pm - 5pm
Thursday: 2pm - 8pm
Friday: 10am - 1pm, 2 - 5pm
Saturday: 10am - 1pm

Providence Bay Library
11 Mutchmor Street
Providence Bay, Ontario
Tuesday: 6:30pm - 8:30pm
Wednesday: 1pm - 3:30pm
Friday: 1pm - 4:30pm

Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands Public Library
50 Meredith Street West
Little Current, Ontario
Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 10am - 5pm
Thursday: 10am - 8pm
Saturday: 10am - 4pm

Interested persons are encouraged to review the document and provide comments by December 21, 2018. You are encouraged to visit the project website, www.swingbridgestudy.ca for more information on the study, and to review notices or reports as they become available. You can also submit comments to the project team on the project website or by contacting:

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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. 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.