

NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE #3 HIGHWAY 11 IMPROVEMENTS

FROM 1.0 KILOMETRES SOUTH OF SIMCOE ROAD 169
NORTHERLY TO MUSKOKA ROAD 169
COUNTY OF SIMCOE & DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY OF MUSKOKA
G.W.P. 5817-04-00

THE STUDY

URS Canada Inc. has been retained by the Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) to undertake a Class Environmental Assessment (EA) and Preliminary Design Study for upgrading Highway 11 to Controlled Access Highway standards from 1.0 kilometres south of Simcoe Road 169 northerly approximately 20 kilometres to Muskoka Road 169. This project is located within the Township of Severn in Simcoe County and the Town of Gravenhurst in the District Municipality of Muskoka.

The purpose of this study is to identify possible interim improvements as well as an ultimate improvement strategy to address the capacity and operational needs along the Highway 11 corridor within the study limits to 2038. The ultimate vision for this section of Highway 11 is a controlled access freeway, which will limit all vehicle access to the highway to interchange locations only. Closure of at-grade intersections and entrances, improvements to existing interchanges, and the possible introduction of new interchanges as well as service road connections to provide alternative access for residences and businesses fronting on to Highway 11 will be examined as part of this study. The recommended improvements may be introduced in a staged manner in order to address the existing and future capacity and operational needs along this section of the Highway 11 corridor.

Over the past several months, the Project Team has been in the process of assessing and evaluating realignment alternatives in the Kilworthy Road area and at the north end of the study area. Realignment Alternatives at the north end of the study area (between Sedore Road and Muskoka Road 169) are not being carried forward for further consideration. The Project Team has also completed the assessment and evaluation of interchange alternatives. The results of this work as well as the preferred plan for the entire Highway 11 corridor will be presented for public review and comment at the upcoming Public Information Centre.

PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE

A Public Information Centre (PIC #3) has been arranged to present and receive input on the evaluation of alternatives and a preferred plan that summarizes the results of the assessment and evaluation of alternatives for the entire Highway 11 corridor within the study area. The PIC will be held on:

Tuesday, February 22, 2011
4 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Royal Canadian Legion
290 Veterans Way
Gravenhurst, ON

The PIC will be a drop-in style open house session to allow members of the public to review display material and discuss the study one-on-one with project team members. In addition, brief presentations will be provided at hourly intervals to provide a study overview. You are encouraged to attend the PIC and to provide us with your views and comments so that they can be considered as the study progresses.

For those who are unable to attend the PIC in Gravenhurst, the PIC display materials and comment sheet will be available on the project website (www.highway11study.ca) on the same day as the event. You can also arrange to meet one-on-one with a Project Team member at the URS Canada Inc. office in Markham to discuss the project and any concerns you may have. If you would like to arrange a meeting or a telephone conversation with a representative from the Project Team, please contact Leslie Leamen at 905-882-4401 ext. 234 or by e-mailing project_team@highway11study.ca.

THE PROCESS

This study will follow the approved planning process for a Group 'A' project under the *Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Transportation Facilities*. The *Highway 11 Study Design Report – Barrie to Gravenhurst* was completed in 2005. This study will exercise the process outlined in the Study Design Report.

A Transportation Environmental Study Report (TESR) documenting the generation, assessment, and evaluation of alternatives and a detailed description of the recommended plan and anticipated environmental effects associated with the recommended plan and the corresponding ways of reducing or avoiding impacts will be prepared and made available for public review at the completion of the study.

COMMENTS

We are interested in hearing any comments you have about this study. Comments and information regarding this project are being collected to assist the Ministry of Transportation in meeting the requirements of the Environmental Assessment Act. This material will be maintained on file for use during the project and may be included in project documentation. Information collected will be used 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.

For further information, or to be added to the mailing list, please contact:

Mr. Paul Hudspith, P.Eng.
Project Manager
URS Canada Inc.
75 Commerce Valley Drive East
Markham, ON L3T 7N9
tel: 905-882-4401
fax: 905-882-4399
e-mail: project_team@highway11study.ca

Mr. Ron Turcotte, P.Eng.
Senior Project Engineer
Ministry of Transportation
Planning & Environmental, Northeastern Region
447 McKeown Avenue
North Bay, ON P1B 9S9
tel: 705-497-6945
fax: 705-497-5208
e-mail: project_team@highway11study.ca

You are also encouraged to visit the project website, www.highway11study.ca, where you will be able to get up-to-date project information as well as submit comments to the project team.

