

Ministry of Transportation

Ministère des Transports

Provincial Highways Management
Northeastern Region
Environmental Section
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North Bay, ON P1B 9S9
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Gestion des routes provinciales
Région du Nord-Est
Section de l'environnement
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June 1, 2017

Chief Paul Syrette
Ojibways of Garden River
7 Shingwauk Street
Garden River, ON P6A 6Z8

Dear Chief Syrette:

**Re: Rehabilitation of Highway 17B
From Sault Ste. Marie East limit, easterly for 20.7 km
To Bar River Road GWP 5208-10-00**

On behalf of the Ministry of Transportation (MTO), AECOM has initiated a Detail Design study and Class Environmental Assessment (EA) for the rehabilitation of Highway 17B from the Sault Ste. Marie east limits (Junction of Highways 17 and 17B) easterly for 20.7 km, to Bar River Road. The proposed highway rehabilitation includes:

- Pavement rehabilitation;
- Treatment of frost heaves and distress areas;
- Replacement and/or rehabilitation of culverts;
- Drainage improvements;
- Guiderail repair or replacement as required;
- Fully paved shoulders throughout for bicycle use; and
- Intersection improvements at Syrette Lake Road.

The study area is located in Garden River First Nation, and the Township of MacDonald, Meredith and Aberdeen Additional through Echo Bay in the District of Algoma and is shown in the attached drawing.

The study will include:

- Field investigations to gather environmental and engineering information;
- Detailed natural science and fisheries studies; and
- Archaeological Assessment.

MTO is inviting Garden River First Nation to participate in this study and to assist us in identifying the environmental, social and cultural values your community may have within the study area. Comments and information regarding this project are being collected to assist the Project Team in meeting the requirements of the *Environmental Assessment Act*. 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.

Please be advised that Chief Dean Sayers (Ojibways of Batchewana), Grand Chief Gord Peters (Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians) and Grand Chief Patrick Madahbee (Union of Ontario Indians) have been contacted by the MTO separately informing them of this project.

The study is following the Class EA planning process for Group 'C' Projects under MTO's *Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Transportation Facilities (2000)* (Class EA). The Class EA planning process includes public and agency consultation, an assessment of the potential effects of the proposed improvements, and the identification of measures required to mitigate any adverse effects. The process and results will be documented in an Environmental Screening Document (ESD).

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me by phone at 1-800-461-9547 extension 5546 or email at jane.haddow@ontario.ca.

Sincerely,



Jane Haddow
Senior Environmental Planner

cc: Michele Bailey, Senior Project Engineer, MTO
Terry Barber, Senior Project Manager, AECOM
Mary Young, Senior Environmental Planner, AECOM
Jason Wright, Operations Manager, AECOM

Attach.

KEY PLAN
(G.W.P. 5208-10-00)

