

Public Information Centre (PIC) #2 (Virtual) Frequently Asked Questions & Answers

1. What is the Study Area?

The project limits are located along the Highway 401 corridor from Highway 401 from 1 km east of Highway 16 to 3.3 km west of Maitland Road for a total length of approximately 20.75 km, located within the Township of Augusta, Town of Prescott, and the Township of Edwardsburg Cardinal.

2. What is the purpose of this study?

The Preliminary Design and Class Environmental Assessment study will address current and future transportation needs by:

- Developing a plan for the rehabilitation and/or replacement of 10 bridges & 4 structural culverts;
 - Determine the long-term plans for the Maitland Road, Edward Street, and Highway 16 interchanges;
 - Establish the future footprint for interim six lanes and ultimate eight lanes of Highway 401;
 - Develop a preferred staging and contract sequencing strategy
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Study Process

3. How does the environmental assessment process work?

This study will follow the approved planning process for a Group 'B' project under the *Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Transportation Facilities (2000)*, an approved process under the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act. Alternatives have been generated and evaluated based on technical and environmental factors and in consultation with Indigenous communities, public stakeholders, municipalities, and government agencies. This is the second and final Public Information Centre (PIC) to be held during this study. At the end of the study, a Transportation Environmental Study Report (TESR) will be prepared to document the process and will be made available for a 30-day comment period.

5. Have the Municipalities been involved in the Project?

The Project Team have consulted with staff from the Township of Augusta, Town of Prescott, and the Township of Edwardsburg Cardinal throughout the Study, particularly before key milestones in the Project.

6. Will external agencies be contacted during the Preliminary Design Study?

The Project Team has engaged various external agencies such as Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP), Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR), Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism (MCM), Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Transport Canada, South Nation Conservation Authority (SNC), Cataraqui Conservation Authority, Ontario Trucking Association and Algonquin to Adirondacks Collaborative.

7. What is the purpose of Public Information Centre (PIC) #2?

The purpose of PIC #2 is to present and receive feedback on the following aspects of the Project: The Evaluation of Alternatives, Details of the Technically Preferred Plan, Mitigation and Environmental Protection Strategies and Next Steps/How to stay informed.

8. Can I view the PIC materials after the event on August 3rd, 2023?

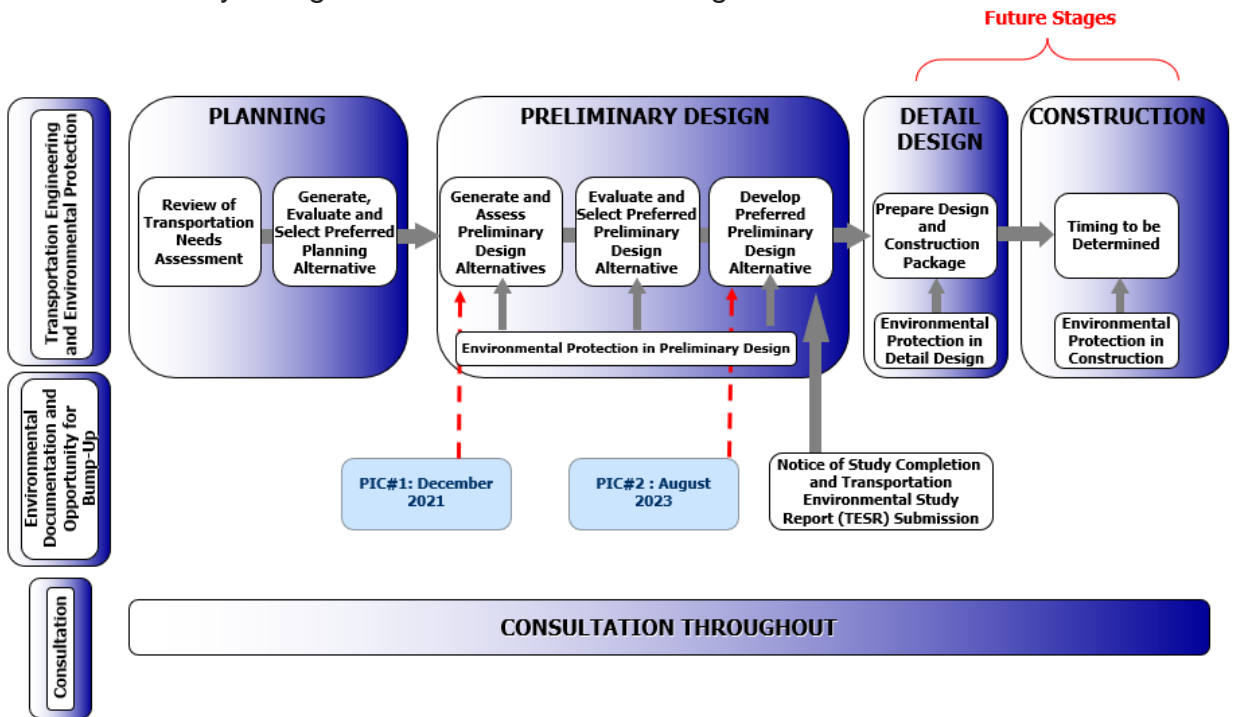
PIC materials will be posted to the project website (<https://www.highway401prescottmaitland.ca/consultation/>) and PIC #2 Comment Forms may be submitted over a 45-day period (from August 3rd to September 18th, 2023)

9. Are field investigations being carried out?

Field investigations such as geotechnical, natural sciences (fisheries and terrestrial), archaeology, built heritage, drainage etc. have been completed to collect background / existing conditions information.

10. What is the Study Process?

The Class EA process consists of four main stages: Planning; Preliminary Design; Detail Design and Construction. The below flow chart outlines the study process, current Preliminary Design milestones and future stages.



Other Items

14. What are the Next Steps in the Study?

After this PIC, the Project Team will:

- Review the comments received at this PIC and respond to any questions.
- Incorporate any revisions where appropriate and finalize the preliminary design plans.
- Finalize mitigation measures to minimize or avoid potential environmental effects.
- Prepare and file the Transportation Environmental Study Report for 30-day public comment period and agency review.
- Seek Environmental Assessment clearance.

Currently there is no commitment for a construction timeline. The timing and duration of highway construction depends on numerous factors, including size and complexity of the project, funding availability, and timing of environmental clearances and permits. Once Environmental Clearance has been received for Preliminary Design, the project will enter the Detail Design Phase, for which the timing is not yet known.

15. How can I get involved in this study?

There are several ways to get involved with this study:

- Visit the project website at: <https://www.highway401prescottmaitland.ca/> for study updates and utilize the 'Contact Us' page to be added to the study mailing list.
- Email the Project Team at: ProjectTeam@highway401PrescottMaitland.ca
- A Comment Form will be available as part of the PICs which can be completed and provided to the Project Team from August 3rd to September 18th, 2023.

16. Who do I contact for more information about the Project?

For more information about the project, you can visit the project website at:
<https://www.highway401prescottmaitland.ca/> or email the Project Team at:
ProjectTeam@highway401PrescottMaitland.ca