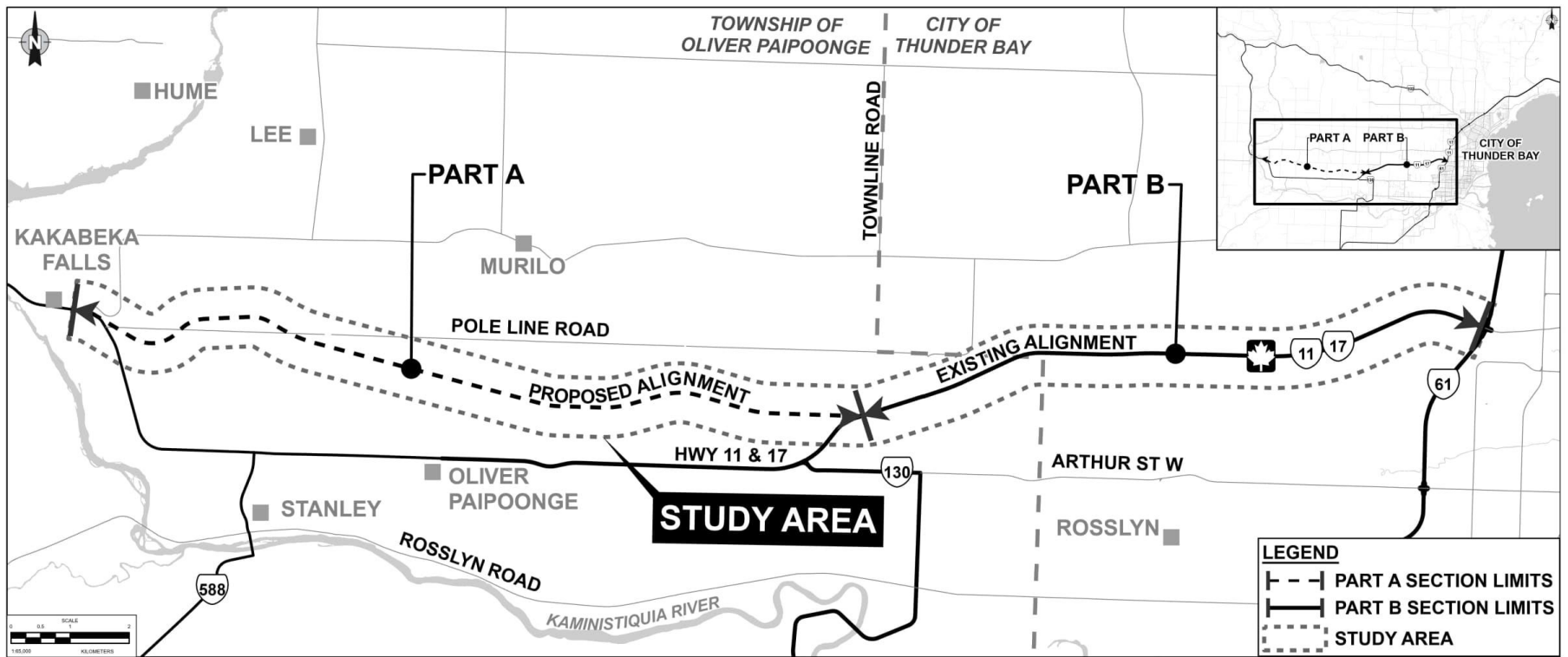


**NOTICE OF STUDY COMMENCEMENT**  
**Preliminary Design and Class Environmental Assessment Study**  
**(6023-21-00)**

**Highway 11/17 Widening to Four Lanes from Kakabeka Falls Easterly to Thunder Bay Expressway**

The Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) has retained WSP Canada Inc. to complete the preliminary design and class environmental assessment (Class EA) study for Highway 11/17 widening to four lanes from Kakabeka Falls easterly to Thunder Bay Expressway, as shown in the map below. The study area includes the following two distinct corridors of Highway 11/17:

- Part A is the west portion of the project, which will be all new alignment, from Kakabeka Falls to just east of Vibert Road.
- Part B is the east portion, which involves twinning of the existing alignment.



The purpose of this notice is to introduce the study and to provide an opportunity for your input.

## BACKGROUND

This study builds upon the work completed in past planning efforts, ranging back to the 1970s, which identified the need for improvements to address existing operational and safety deficiencies, accommodate future traffic growth, and support regional economic development. The study will update the preferred four-lane design for part of Highway 11/17 from Kakabeka Falls to the Thunder Bay Expressway to reflect current conditions, and review and assess various alternatives to provide a future four-lane divided Highway 11/17 with interchanges. This project is a part of MTO's larger plan to construct a four-lane divided highway between Thunder Bay and Shabaqua Corners.

The Ministry now intends to undertake a preliminary design study to review and update the previous design studies along this corridor and to recommend improvements for this section of highway to meet the long-term safety and operational needs of the Ontario Provincial Highway Network and the Trans-Canada Highway. During the preliminary design phase, the project team will develop and complete the preliminary design for the preferred alternative and an environmental assessment for the highway expansion, including new structures, interchanges, intersection improvements, drainage features, and illumination.

## THE PROCESS

This study follows the approved environmental planning process for Group 'A' projects under the *Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Transportation Facilities and Municipal Expressways (2024)*.

Consultation will take place throughout the study with external agencies, municipalities, Indigenous communities, property owners and the public. One (1) public information centre (PIC) is planned. Notices providing the time and location of the PIC will be posted on the project website ([hwy11-17-kakabekafalls-east.ca](http://hwy11-17-kakabekafalls-east.ca)), published in local newspapers, and sent to individuals and organizations on the project mailing list.

A Transportation Environmental Study Report (TESR) will be prepared at the end of the study to document the preliminary design and Class EA process. The TESR will be prepared to document the existing environmental conditions, evaluation of alternatives and design options, the recommended four-lane plan and the proposed mitigation measures. The TESR will be available for a 30-day comment period at the end of the study process. Notices will be posted on the project website, published in local newspapers, and sent to individuals and organizations on the project mailing list when the TESR is available for review.

## COMMENTS

The public is encouraged to provide input at any point during the study or visit the project website at [hwy11-17-kakabekafalls-east.ca](http://hwy11-17-kakabekafalls-east.ca). We are interested in any comments or concerns you may have regarding the study. If you wish to be added to our project mailing list or would like to submit comments, please contact one of the project team members listed below.

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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.

If you have any accessibility requirements to participate in this study, please contact one of the project team members listed above.