

Route Planning and Environmental Assessment Study

Highway 17 Four-Laning from Sudbury to Markstay

GWP 5031-09-00

Presentation to City of Greater Sudbury Council: January 26, 2011

One Team. Infinite Solutions



Stantec



Ontario

Ministry of
Transportation

Roch Pilon, P.Eng.
Head, Planning & Environmental Section
Ministry of Transportation

VISION FOR NORTHEASTERN ONTARIO

HIGHWAY 17 ROUTE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT STUDY
FROM SUDBURY TO MARKSTAY, GWP 5031-09-00



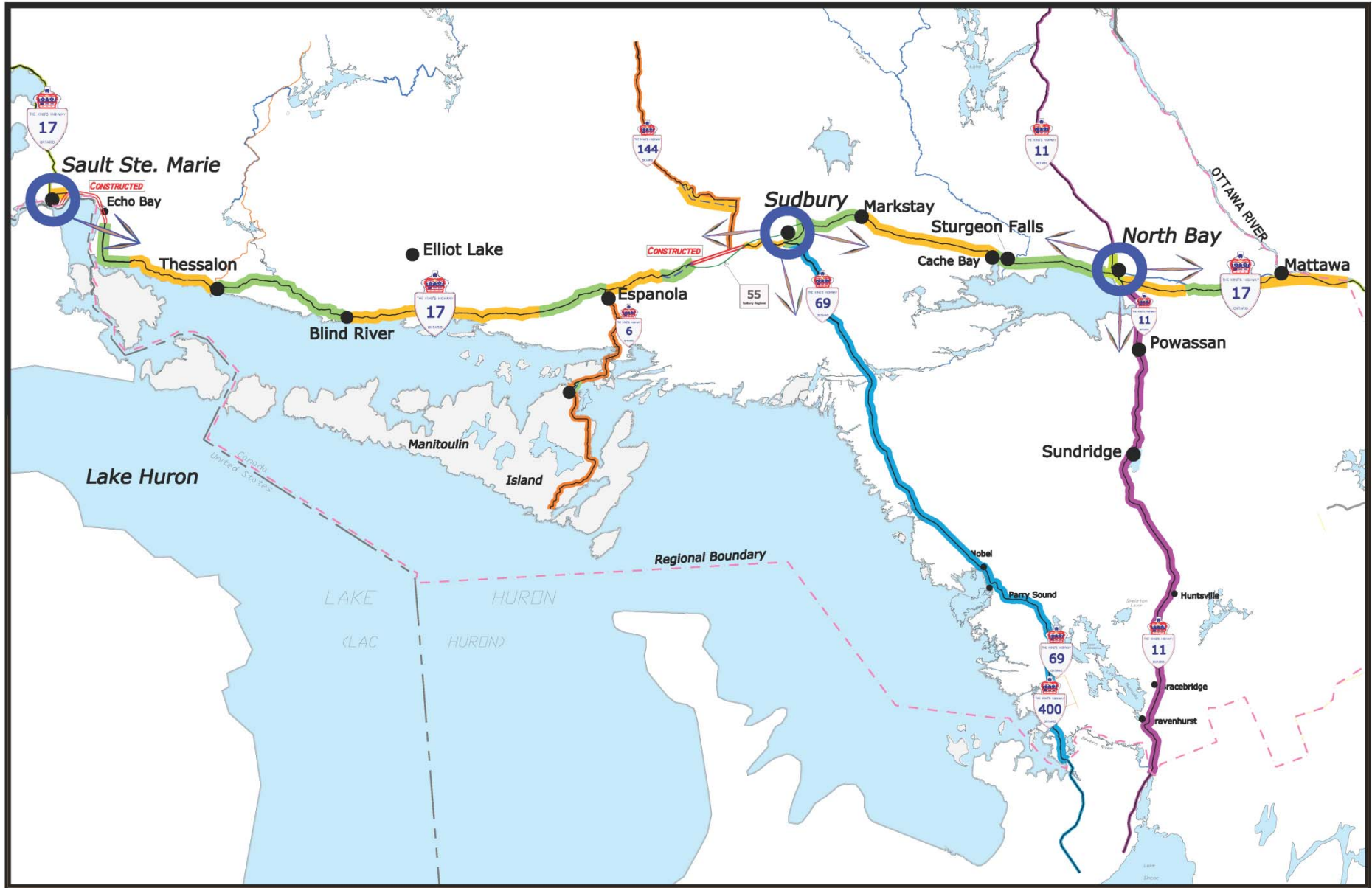
Ministry of
Transportation

Vision for Northeastern Ontario

Highway 17 Route Planning and Environmental Assessment Study
from Sudbury to Markstay, GWP 5031-09-00

Ministry of Transportation Mandate

- To deliver a provincial highway network that is safe, provides mobility for people and goods, and promotes economic, environmental and social sustainability
- MTO staff are responsible for the delivery program and maintenance of the highway network



VISION FOR HIGHWAY 17

17 ROUTE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT STUDY
FROM SUDBURY TO MARKSTAY, GWP 5031-09-00



Ministry of
Transportation

Vision for Highway 17

Highway 17 Route Planning and Environmental Assessment Study
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Role of Highway 17

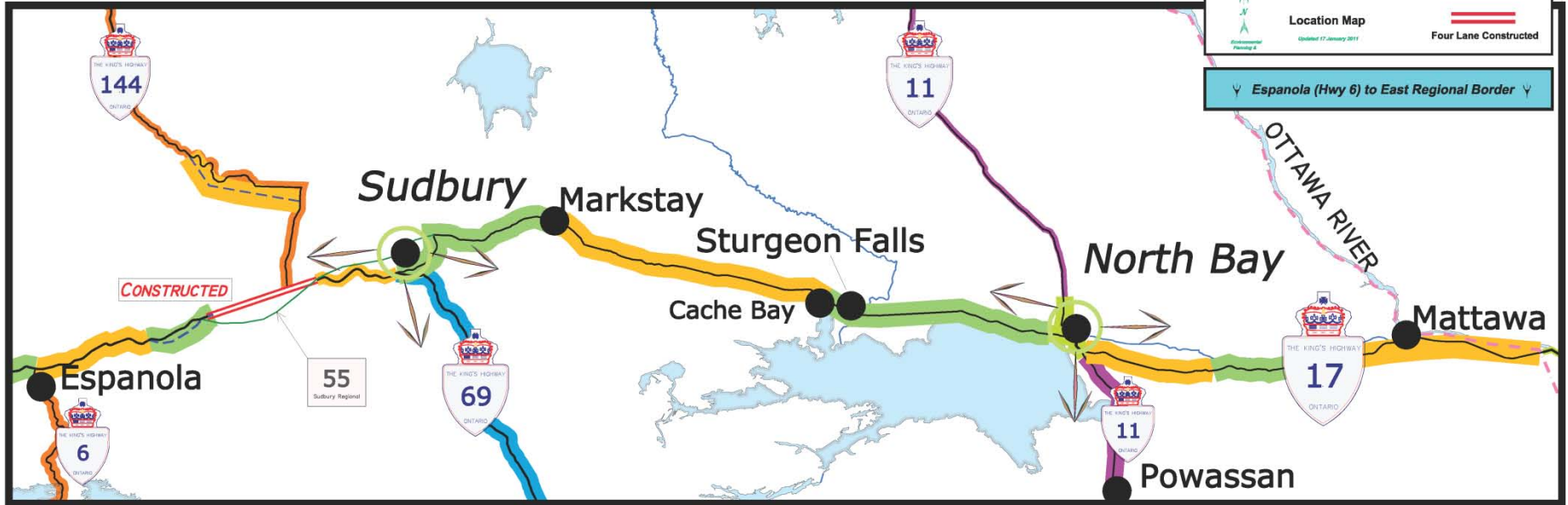
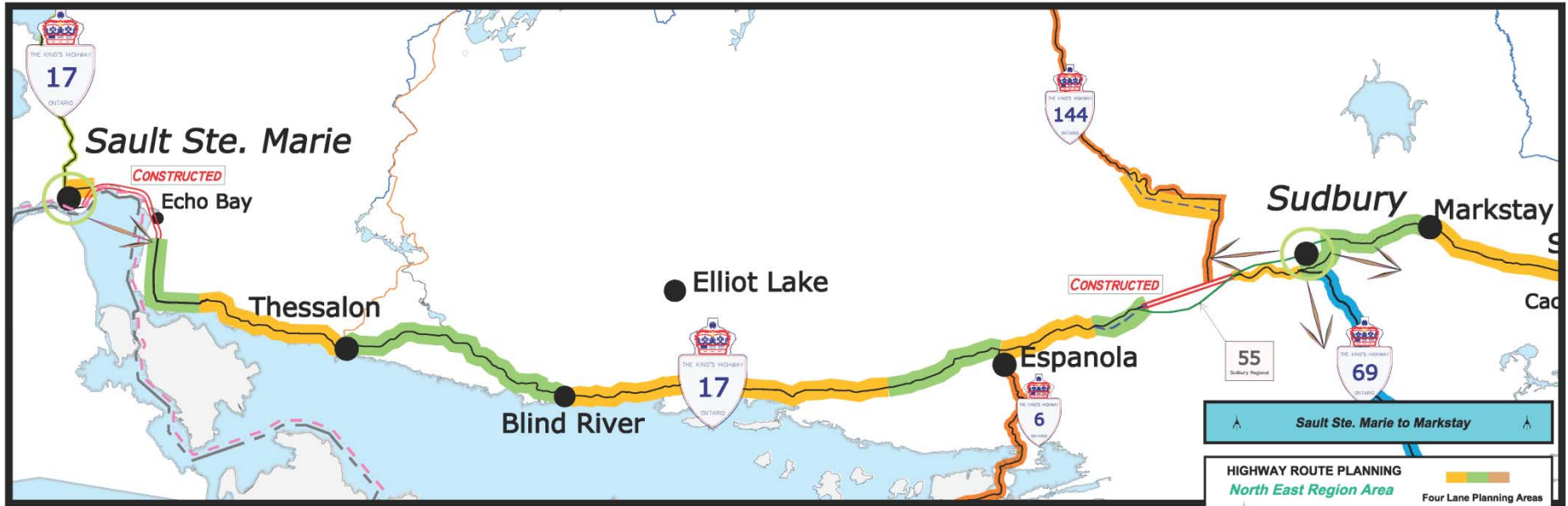
- Highway 17 is an important transportation corridor for long distance travel and goods movement through the Province of Ontario
- It forms part of the Trans-Canada Highway across Northern Ontario
- It provides local access to municipal roads and communities

Vision for Highway 17

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Highway 17 Corridor Design Standard

- A four-lane divided Controlled Access Highway is the preferred standard for Highway 17 and the Trans-Canada Highway
- Four-laning will improve highway safety by:
 - » Separating eastbound and westbound traffic with a wide median
 - » Providing safe passing opportunities without the risk of opposing traffic
 - » Removing potential vehicle conflicts associated with at-grade intersections and entrances



Highway 17 Corridor Four-laning Planning Projects

Location	Project Status
• Sault Ste. Marie By-pass	• Consultant Procurement in Progress
• Sault Ste. Marie to Bar River	• Constructed
• Desbarats to Espanola (5 Projects)	• Future Planning
• Espanola to 6.5 km West of West Junction RR 55	• Future Planning
• West Junction Regional Road 55 Westerly 6.5 km	• Planning Completed
• West Jct. RR 55 to Middle Jct. RR 55	• Constructed
• Middle Jct. RR 55 to Sudbury (Hwy 69)	• Planning Completed
• Sudbury (Hwy 69) to Markstay	• Planning Underway
• Markstay to Cache Bay	• Future Planning
• Cache Bay to North Bay	• Consultant Procurement in Progress
• North Bay By-Pass (4 Phases, 2 Projects)	• 1 Underway, 1 Completed
• North Bay to Bonfield	• Planning Underway
• Bonfield to West of Mattawa	• Consultant Procurement in Progress
• Mattawa to East Regional Boundary	• Planning Underway

Gregg Cooke, P.Eng.
Consultant Project Manager
Stantec Consulting Ltd.

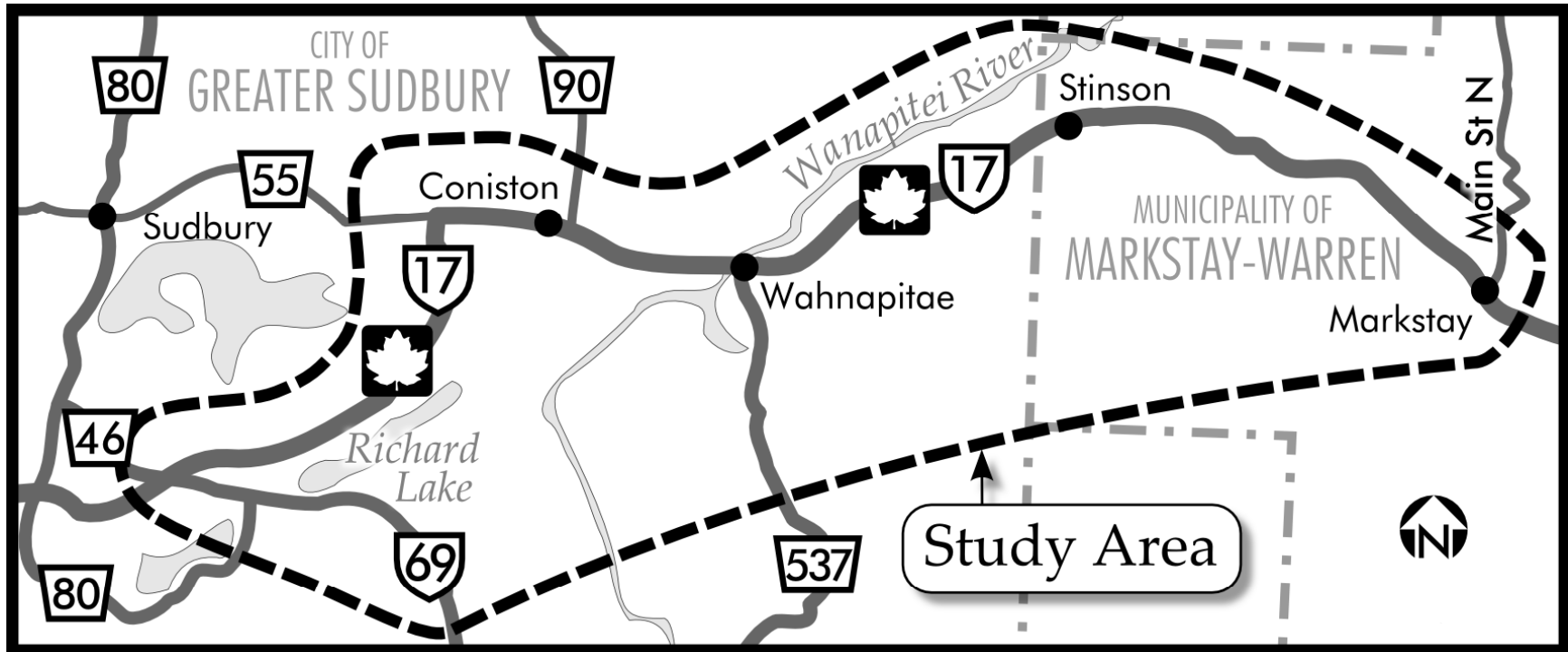
STUDY OVERVIEW

HIGHWAY 17 ROUTE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT STUDY
FROM SUDBURY TO MARKSTAY, GWP 5031-09-00



Study Area Plan

Highway 17 Route Planning and Environmental Assessment Study
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Study Purpose

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- The purpose of the study is to identify a four-lane Controlled Access Highway, with access restricted to interchange locations only, for Highway 17 and Highway 69 within the study limits
- This is a planning study to identify and designate property for the ultimate Highway 17 and Highway 69 transportation needs
- Designating a future four-lane highway now will assist the Ministry, local municipalities, stakeholders, and private land owners with planning and development within the study area
- Construction timing has not been determined; the ministry will continue to monitor safety and operations on the highway to determine the priority of the project

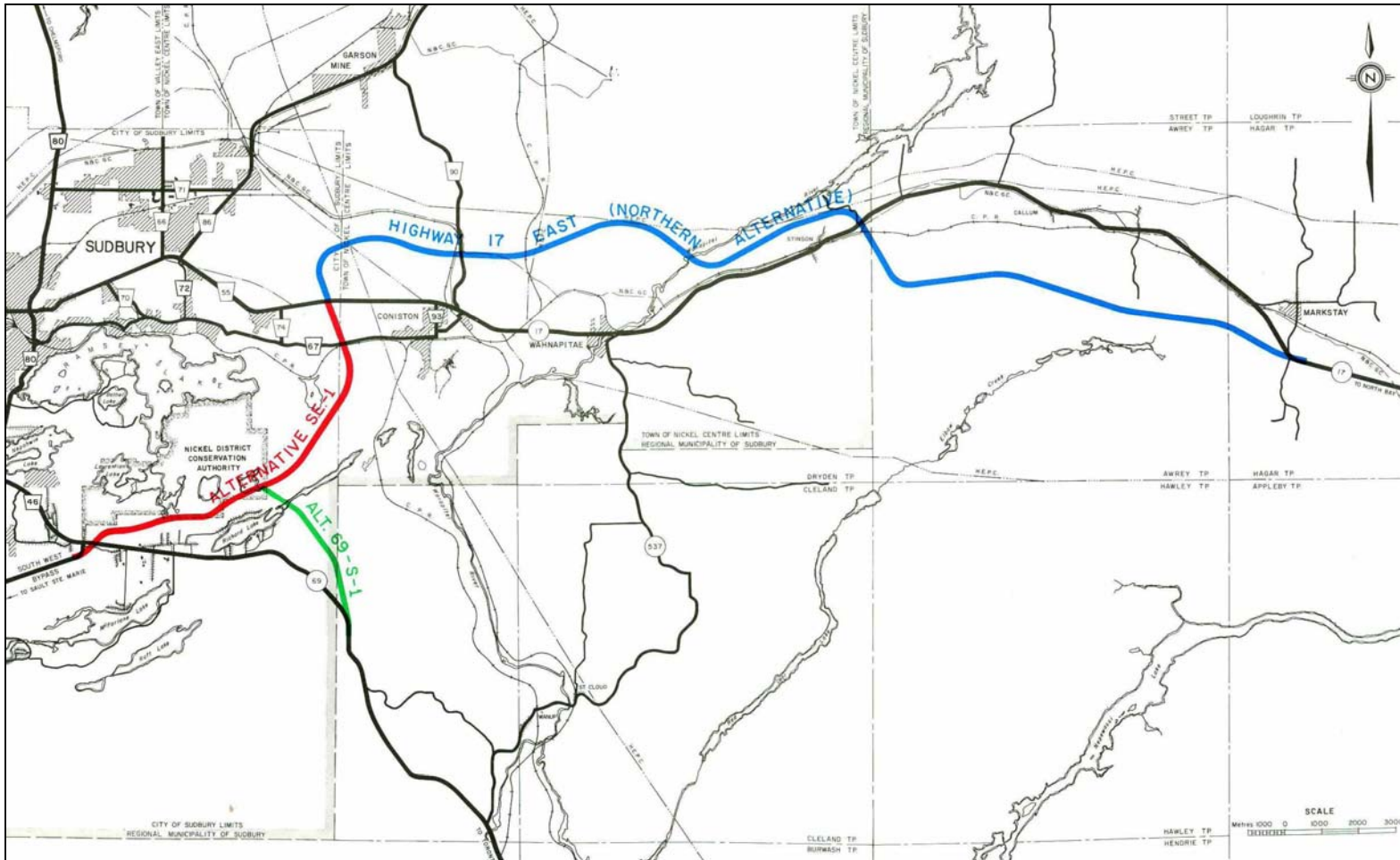
Previous Studies

Highway 17 Route Planning and Environmental Assessment Study
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- The ministry completed the *Environmental Assessment of the Sudbury By-Pass Route Planning Study Report* in 1987, and the *Highway 69 EA Addendum Report* in 2002
 - » New four-lane divided Highway 17 from Highway 69 to Markstay
 - » New four-lane divided Highway 69 from Gladu Road to the Southeast By-Pass
- The ministry is updating the 1987 study to incorporate new developments related to the area
 - » New provincial freeway design standards
 - » Maley Drive Extension (CGS Official Plan)
 - » Daisy Lake Uplands Provincial Park
 - » Environmental Assessment

Previous Studies

Highway 17 Route Planning and Environmental Assessment Study
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Problem and Opportunity

Highway 17 Route Planning and Environmental Assessment Study
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Transportation Problem

- MTO Corridor Control and Traffic Sections have identified safety and operational concerns on this section of Highway 17 within the study area
 - » Several fatal collisions
 - » Traffic Operations issues between Coniston and Sudbury
 - » Delays associated with the at-grade railway crossing
 - » High percentage of truck traffic
- Traffic volumes are expected to continue to increase in the future, which could lead to additional safety concerns and operational issues

Problem and Opportunity

Highway 17 Route Planning and Environmental Assessment Study
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Opportunity

Possible Solutions	Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Do Nothing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Does not meet the provincial needs or address highway safety and operational concerns
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Improve Existing Highway 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Carried forward for further study
<ul style="list-style-type: none">New Route for Highway 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Carried forward for further study

Environmental Assessment Process

Highway 17 Route Planning and Environmental Assessment Study
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- This study is being carried out under the requirements of the Class Environmental Assessment (EA) for Provincial Transportation Facilities (2000)
- This study falls within the scope of a Group "A" project, which includes major realignments and by-passes to existing provincial highways and freeways
- Specific details about this study process are documented in a draft *Study Design Report*

Public Consultation

Highway 17 Route Planning and Environmental Assessment Study
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- Notice of Study Commencement – August 2010
- Public Information Centre 1 – February 2011  We are Here
 - » Present and seek input on the Corridor Alternatives
- Public Information Centre 2 – Fall 2011
 - » Present and seek input on the Feasible Route Alternatives
- Public Information Centre 3 – Fall 2012
 - » Present and seek input on the Preferred Plan
- Transportation Environmental Study Report – Spring 2013
 - » 30-day Public Review Period

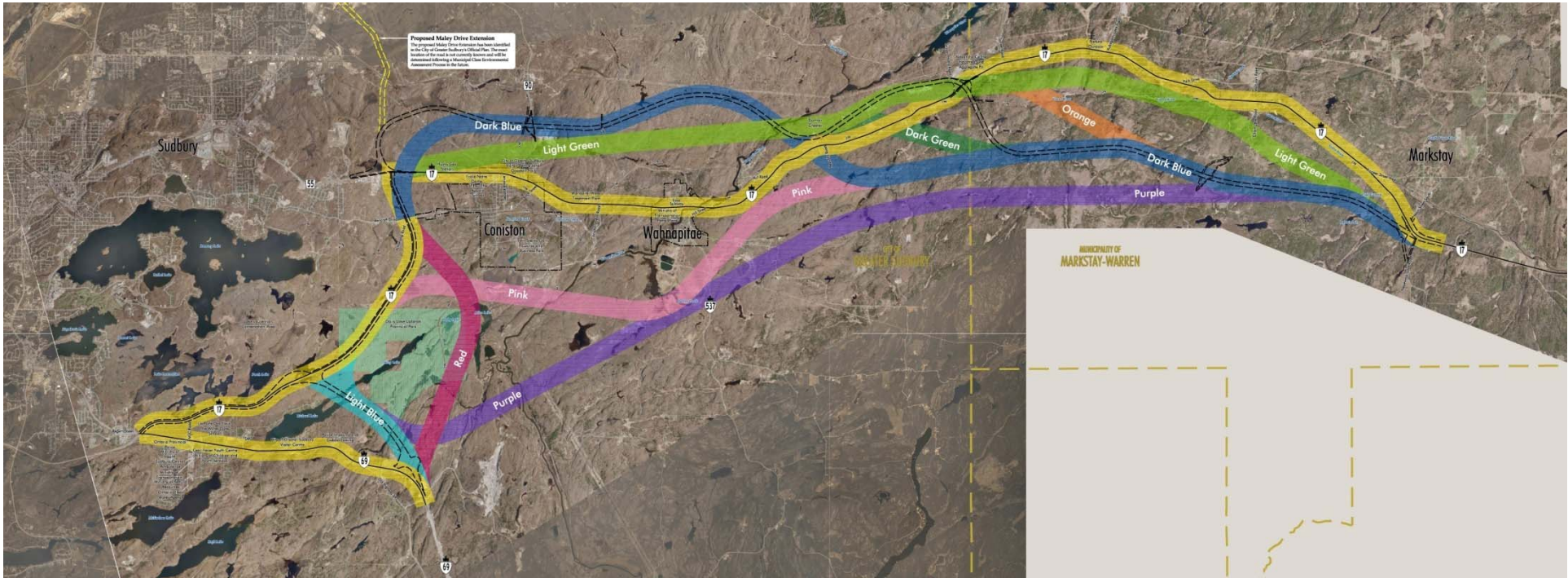
Study Planning and Evaluation Process

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- Develop Corridor Alternatives
 - » Develop 500 m wide Corridor Alternatives ← We are Here
- Develop Feasible Route Alternatives
 - » Develop 110 m wide Route Alternatives within each 500 m wide corridor, and by combining segments from different corridors
- Evaluate Feasible Alternatives
 - » Detailed evaluation of Feasible Route Alternatives
 - » Select Preferred Plan

Corridor Alternatives (PIC 1)

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE 1 Highway 17 Route Planning Study from Sudbury to Markstay (GWP 5031-09-00)

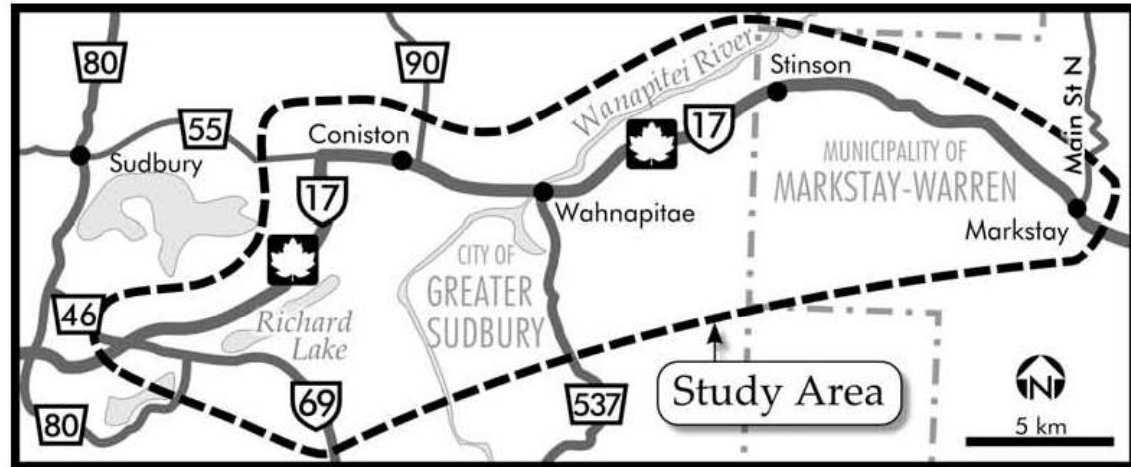
Stantec Consulting Ltd. has been retained by the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) to undertake a route planning, preliminary design, and environmental assessment study for Highway 17 from the existing Highway 69 interchange, easterly to Markstay, a distance of approximately 42.5 km; and a new connection of Highway 69 to Highway 17 (Sudbury Southeast By-Pass), a distance of approximately 5.5 km.

The purpose of the study is to identify a Recommended Plan for a four-lane Controlled Access Highway with access restricted to interchange locations only. This involves the development and evaluation of a range of alternatives, including expansion of the existing highway corridor, new highway routes, and/or combinations of the two.

This notice is to announce the first series of Public Information Centres (PICs).

The purpose of the PIC is to:

- Display and seek input on the Preliminary Corridors;
- Display and seek input on the existing conditions in the study area (i.e. natural, social, economic, and cultural);
- Seek input on the draft *Study Design Report*, and the evaluation criteria and process to be used to identify a Preferred Plan; and
- Answer questions about the study.



The Public Information Centres will be a drop-in format. However, a presentation providing a brief overview of the study and PIC displays will be provided approximately every hour. The PICs are scheduled for:

Wednesday, February 2, 2011
Colonial Inn
28 Cedar Street, Coniston
4:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Thursday, February 3, 2011
Markstay Pentecostal Church Hall
12 Millichamp Street, Markstay
4:00 PM to 8:00 PM



Ministry of
Transportation

Discussion

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- Questions ???