

NOTICE OF OPEN HOUSE

Northern Road Link Project Environmental Assessment



Marten Falls First Nation (MFFN) and Webequie First Nation (WFN) are initiating an Environmental Assessment (EA) study under the Ontario *Environmental Assessment Act*, RSO 1990, c. E.18 for the design, construction and operation / maintenance of a proposed all-season road (the Project) called the Northern Road Link. The communities of MFFN and WFN are remote Indigenous communities located in northwestern Ontario and are not currently accessible by all-season roads. The proposed Northern Road Link is a multi-use road located between the proposed Marten Falls Community Access Road (MFCAR) and the proposed Webequie Supply Road (WSR). The Northern Road Link Project will connect the Ring of Fire mineral deposits in the McFaulds Lake area to the highway network via the MFCAR. The Northern Road Link Project would enable economic activity by facilitating the transport of goods, services and resources.

The Process

A draft ToR for the EA is currently being prepared for this project. The draft ToR will detail the framework and work plan for addressing *Environmental Assessment Act* requirements when preparing the EA, including an outline of the studies, evaluation of alternatives to be considered, and consultation activities that will be carried out.

In-Person and Virtual Open House

Both in-person and virtual Open Houses will be undertaken to consult and engage with interested parties, to provide an opportunity to learn about the EA study for the Project, and review elements that will be included in the Draft ToR. The Open Houses will each start with a 20-30 minute presentation, followed by time to visit different stations to discuss different topics and speak to project team members. There will be an opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback via a survey during and after the Open Houses to support our consultation efforts. Separate Open Houses will be also held for the Public and Indigenous Communities. In addition, we will be posting a recording of the Open House presentation to the project website, and additional times are provided for question and answer to be done virtually, as noted below. Information gathered at the Open Houses will be used both to complete the Draft ToR and to gather information to inform the EA.

The Open Houses are proposed as follows at the Delta Hotel in Thunder Bay at 2240 Sleeping Giant Pkwy:

- Indigenous Community Open House Tuesday September 14, 2021 at 2:00 pm and at 6:00 pm
- Public Open House Wednesday September 15, 2021 at 2:00 pm and at 6:00 pm

Note: Please check the NRL website for updates up to the night of September 13/morning of September 14, should the In-Person sessions need to change to virtual due to COVID-19.

The virtual Open House with question-and-answer sessions will be provided at the following times via this link northernroadlink.ca/openhouse. We recommend that participants view the recorded sessions provided on the project website for information about the project prior to participating in these sessions to learn about the project. The virtual Open House with question-and-answer period

- Indigenous Community Virtual Open House: September 14 at 12:00-1:00 pm
- Public Virtual Open House: September 15 at 12:00-1:00 pm

Contact

For information on the study progress and updates, including surveys, please visit the Northern Road Link website: northernroadlink.ca. If you are unable to attend, or have any comments or questions regarding the study, you are welcome to contact the following:

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All personal information included in a submission - such as name, address, telephone number and property location - is collected, maintained, and disclosed by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks for the purpose of transparency and consultation. The information is collected under the authority of the *Environmental Assessment Act*, or is collected and maintained for the purpose of creating a record that is available to the general public, as described in s. 37 of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. Personal information you submit will become part of a public record that is available to the general public unless you request that your personal information remain confidential. For more information, please contact the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks Freedom of Information and Privacy Coordinator at (416) 314-4075.

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