

NOTICE OF COMMENCEMENT OF TERMS OF REFERENCE Northern Road Link Project Environmental Assessment

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION

Marten Falls First Nation (MFFN) and Webequie First Nation (WFN) are commencing an Environmental Assessment (EA) 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 in northwestern Ontario and are not currently accessible by all-season roads. The proposed Northern Road Link is a multi-use road 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. Two broad corridors which merge going northwards (see the inverted “Y” shape on the map) are being considered for routing of the Northern Road Link Project.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The EA will be carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Ontario *Environmental Assessment Act*, RSO 1990, c. E.18 (Act). The first step of the EA process is the preparation of a Terms of Reference (ToR), which will set out the framework and work plan for addressing requirements under the Act. The ToR will include an outline of the studies and consultation activities that would be carried out to evaluate the alternative corridors, assess the potential adverse effects of the Project, and identify measures that would be taken to mitigate these effects. The anticipated completion date for preparation of the ToR is spring 2022, at which point it will be submitted to the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (Minister) for review and approval. If approved by the Minister, the ToR will provide the framework and requirements for the preparation of the EA.

CONSULTATION

Indigenous communities, government agencies, municipal officials, members of the public and other interested persons are encouraged to actively participate in the EA process. Consultation and engagement opportunities will be organized throughout the EA process and will be communicated through newspaper advertisements, radio, mail-outs, social media posts and on the Project website (www.northernroadlink.com).

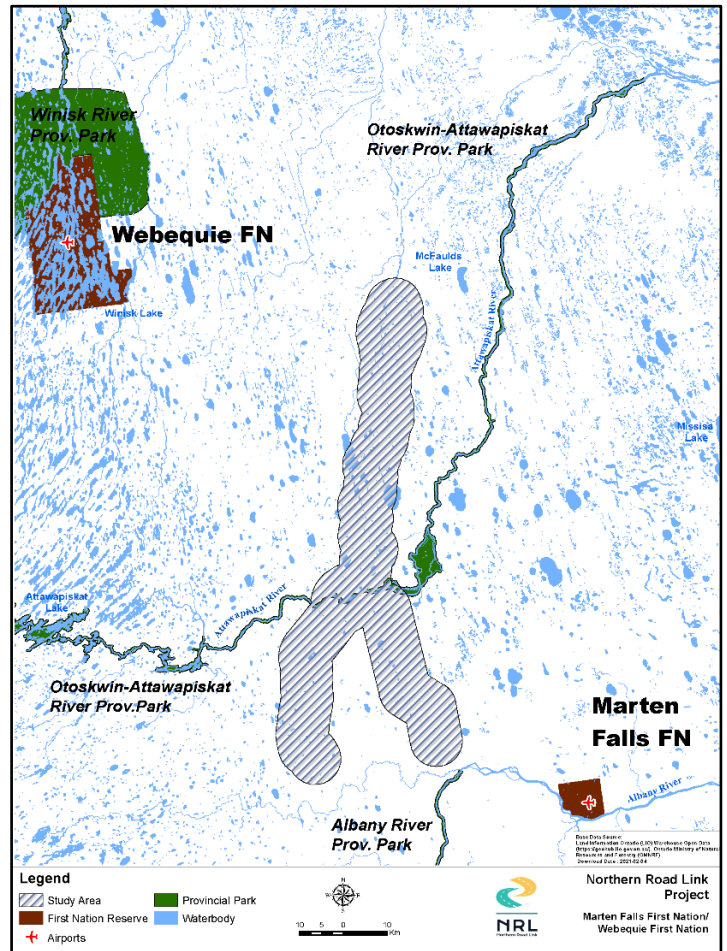
For further information about this Project, including ongoing updates, please visit our website (www.northernroadlink.com) or contact:



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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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