

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



Marten Falls First Nation (MFFN) and Webequie First Nation (WFN) have prepared a Terms of Reference (ToR) for an Individual Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Northern Road Link project (“the Project”). The ToR has been submitted to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) for review as required under the Ontario *Environmental Assessment Act*, RSO 1990, c. E.18. If approved, the ToR will serve as a framework for the preparation and review of the EA for the Project. As part of the submission process, Indigenous communities, the public, agencies, and other interested parties are encouraged to review the ToR and submit comments to the MECP.

Project Description

The communities of MFFN and WFN are remote Indigenous communities in northwestern Ontario and are not currently accessible by all-season roads. The proposed Project is a multi-use road and associated infrastructure between the proposed Marten Falls Community Access Road (MFCAR) and the proposed Webequie Supply Road (WSR). The Project will connect the Ring of Fire mineral deposits in the McFaulds Lake area to the highway network via the proposed MFCAR, by constructing a new all-season multi-use road with an approximate length of 117 km to 164 km (depending on the chosen corridor). The Project would enable economic activity by facilitating the transport of goods, services and resources. The preliminary Northern Road Link route alternatives being carried forward to the EA are shown in the accompanying figure.

The Process

MFFN and WFN have entered into a voluntary agreement with the MECP to subject the Project to Ontario’s *Environmental Assessment Act*. The Proposed ToR considered comments received by MFFN and WFN on the Draft ToR. The Proposed ToR includes an outline of the studies, evaluation of alternatives to be considered, and consultation activities that will be carried out during the EA. If approved by the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, the ToR will serve as a framework for the preparation and review of the EA for the proposed Project. Important elements of the EA will be to evaluate the alternatives, assess potential effects and determine measures to reduce or mitigate these effects.

Review of the Proposed Terms of Reference

Members of Indigenous communities, the public, agencies, and other interested parties are encouraged to review the Proposed ToR and provide comments from **April 29 until June 28, 2022**.

The Proposed ToR can be accessed on the project website at <https://northernroadlink.ca/terms/> and hardcopies will be available for review at local First Nation community band offices, as well as at the following public viewing locations:

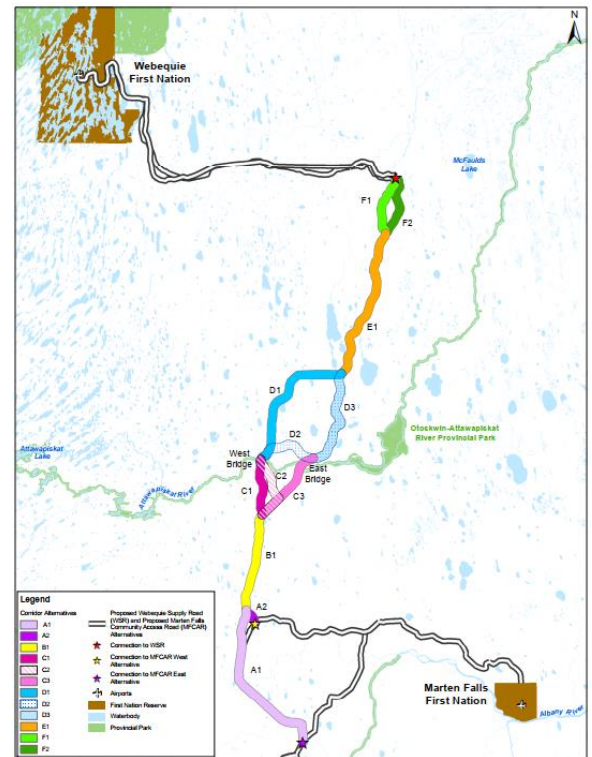
Public Viewing Locations

- Thunder Bay Public Library (Waverly Community Hub) – 285 Red River Road, Thunder Bay
- Sioux Lookout Municipal Office – 25 Fifth Avenue, Sioux Lookout
- City of Timmins Public Library (Main Branch) – 320 Second Avenue, Timmins
- Greenstone Public Library (Elsie Dugard Centennial Public Library Branch) – 405 Second Street West, Geraldton
- Greenstone Public Library (Longlac Public Library Branch) – 110 Kenogami Road, Longlac

Submission of Comments

Your comments regarding the ToR must be submitted to the MECP before **5:00 p.m. on June 28, 2022**. All comments should be submitted to:

Sasha McLeod and Dorothy Moszynski
Special Project Officers
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks - Environmental Assessment Branch
135 St. Clair Avenue West, 1st Floor
Toronto, ON M4V 1P5
Tel: 416-268-5984/437-247-9628
Fax: 416-314-8452
Email: Sasha.mcleod@ontario.ca and dorothy.moszynski@ontario.ca



A copy of all comments submitted to the MECP will be forwarded to the Proponent for consideration.

For further information regarding this project, please contact:

Michael Fox
Project Co-Lead
Regional Consultation
690 Mountain Road, Suite 200
Fort William First Nation, ON P7J 1G8
Tel: 1-888-515-3607
info@northernroadlink.com

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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. This notice was first published on April 27, 2022.

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