

Re: Notice of Study Commencement

**Detailed Design for the Replacement of the Highway 21 Bridge over the Bayfield River (Site 12-188)
Village of Bayfield, Ontario
GWP 3070-11-00**

The Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) has retained McIntosh Perry Consulting Engineers Ltd. (MP) to carry out the Detail Design and Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) study for the replacement of the Bayfield River Bridge on Highway 21 (Bluewater Highway) in the Village of Bayfield, Municipality of Bluewater and County of Huron. A key map showing the location of the study area is attached.

Constructed in 1949, the existing bridge has reached the end of its service life and will be replaced with a new structure on the existing highway alignment. The Detailed Design and Class EA study is a continuation of a Preliminary Design and Class EA study that was completed to address the aging infrastructure (November, 2016).

The approved project involves a complete replacement of all bridge components, improvement to the vertical alignment to meet hydraulic requirements, embankment widening, pavement reconstruction/rehabilitation, drainage improvements, and replacement of curb, gutter, and guide rail on approaches. The new bridge will be a single-span steel arch structure, which will include two lanes, paved shoulders and a sidewalk on the west side of the bridge.

Construction staging at the bridge will involve a full closure with on-site detour via a temporary modular bridge. The temporary modular bridge will permit two-lane traffic and pedestrian crossings throughout construction, with the exception of temporary short-term road closures during daytime hours.

This Detailed Design is following the approved planning process for a Group "C" project under the Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Transportation Facilities (2000). Public consultation will continue throughout the study, which will be regularly updated on the Project Website at www.bayfieldriverbridges.ca.

Upon completion of the study, an Environmental Screening Document (ESD) will be completed and placed on file at MTO. If required, the MTO will take measures to reduce the duration of any night work; an exemption to the Municipality of Bluewater noise by-law may be required if it is determined that night-work is necessary. Subject to funding and approvals construction is anticipated to commence in the fall of 2019 and is expected to take approximately 2 years.

We encourage you to contact the MTO or MP project team at any time if you have questions or concerns about this project:

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