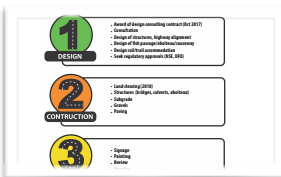




**ABOUT THE CLC**  
WHO WE ARE AND  
WHAT WE DO



**NEXT STEPS**  
TWINNING WORK  
PLAN



**FISH STUDY**  
LOCAL SPECIES  
RESEARCH

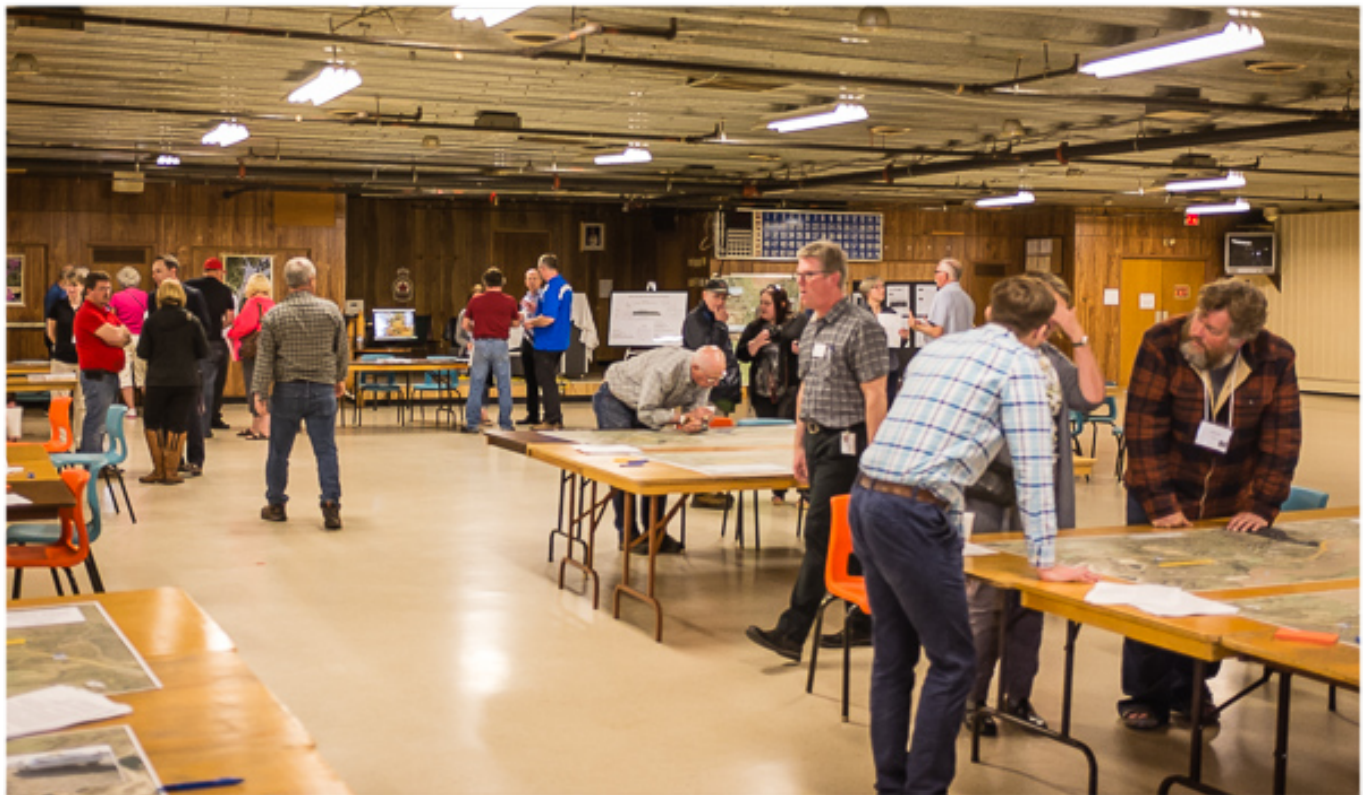


**EXITS AND RAMPS**  
WHAT TO  
EXPECT



# TWINNEWS

Highway 101 Twinning - Three Mile Plains to Falmouth



## About This Newsletter

This newsletter is published by the Highway 101 Twinning Community Liaison Committee (CLC) to inform residents about the Highway 101 Twinning - Three Mile Plains to Falmouth Project.



## Stay Up-To-Date

Here are some links to help you keep up-to-date on the project.



### CLC WEBSITE

<http://hwy101windsor.ca/>

### NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION

[http://hwy101windsor.ca/?page\\_id=86](http://hwy101windsor.ca/?page_id=86)

### NSTIR WEBSITE:

<https://novascotia.ca/tran/highways/hwy101twinningwindsor.asp>

### FACEBOOK

<https://www.facebook.com/hwy101clc/>

### TWITTER

<https://twitter.com/hwy101windsorns>

# Environmental Assessment Approved

The Nova Scotia Minister of Environment has approved the Highway 101 Twinning - Three Mile Plains to Falmouth project.

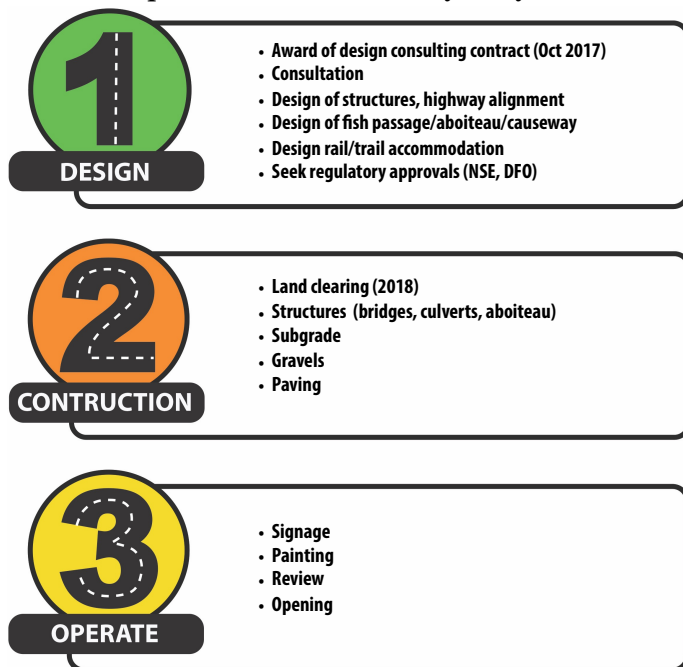
The approval was rendered June 27, 2017, and is subject to 30 conditions. The letter from the Minister and the conditions of approval are posted at <http://goo.gl/8mmERD>. The EA registration documents are also available on that page.

The conditions relate to Surface Water Resources, Ground Water Resources, Fish and Fish Habitat, Flora and Fauna, Air Quality and Noise, Archaeological and Heritage Resources/Aboriginal Interests, Public Consultation, First Nation and Aboriginal Engagement and Contingency Plans.

One of those conditions is that work on the project must commence within two years of the EA approval.

## Next Steps

With the EA approval in hand, the Project Team has initiated design work for the aboiteau and causeway upgrades. A Request For Proposals (RFP) for a consultant to conduct the design work closed on July 18, 2017, and the submissions are currently under review. The contract is expected to be awarded by early October.





## Our Highway 101 TWINS

The Highway 101 TWINS represent two important elements of the highway twinning project: the construction project, and the safety the twinned highway will bring.

## Open House

An Open House held on June 1, 2017, attracted 120 visitors interested in learning more about the highway twinning project.

Local residents discussed aspects of the project with the Project Team members and consultants. To aid in the discussion, there were large maps, videos and display materials. Some Community Liaison Committee members were also on hand to listen to the comments made by attendees.



### Contact Us:

[info@hwy101windsor.ca](mailto:info@hwy101windsor.ca)

[www.hwy101windsor.ca](http://www.hwy101windsor.ca)

[www.facebook.com/Hwy101CLC](https://www.facebook.com/Hwy101CLC)



## FAQ

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### **WHEN WILL THE TWINNED HIGHWAY BE OPEN?**

Construction is expected to begin in 2018 and will take about 5-6 years to complete.

### **WILL THERE BE DETOURS?**

The plan is to keep one side of the highway open as work is done on the other, so major detours are not anticipated. More detailed plans will be developed as the project progresses.

### **WILL THERE BE A TOLL FOR USE OF THE HIGHWAY?**

After consulting with the public on funding, the Province did not hear overwhelming support from Nova Scotians about paying a toll for twinned highways. There will not be a toll for the use of this highway.

MORE FAQ ON OUR WEBSITE  
at [www.hwy101windsor.ca](http://www.hwy101windsor.ca).

## Exits and Ramps

Many attendees at the Open House were interested in what will happen to the exits and ramps when the highway is twinned.

All of the current exits will remain. There is no plan to build any additional exits.

The current exits will be redesigned and rebuilt. Improvements to alignment will improve safety. And they will be upgraded to the "diamond" format. The diagram below illustrates the concept of the new interchange at Exit 6. However, it has not yet been designed and is subject to change.

The highway entrance ramps will be connected to the highway exit ramps. For example, you will be able to get on the highway at Exit 5A and get off at Exit 6 without having to merge, as the lane will be continuous from one exit to the next. Between the ramps, there will be three lanes on each side of the highway.



## Marine Institute of Natural and Academic Science(MINAS)

If you would like to learn more about the fish that are being found in the Avon River, follow the MINAS Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/MINASscience/>.

They frequently post photos and videos of the species they find on both sides of the causeway, and they describe their finds in language that can be understood by scientists and non-scientists alike.

## Baseline Fisheries Study

The Avon River baseline fisheries study is a two-year project funded by the NS Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal (NSTIR) with the goal of describing the fish species present in the Avon River both upstream and downstream of the causeway/slucice gates. The study is a collaboration with commercial, recreational, and aboriginal (CRA) fishers and aims to combine traditional, local and academic knowledge and expertise to improve the collection of fish species compared to previous studies, and to provide local ecological knowledge (LEK) that will be linked to common environmental measurements (e.g., temperature, salinity, dissolved oxygen).



*Maja Reinhartsen (R) and Anna Murphy (L) with a striped bass.*

So far, 14 fish species have been found including a sea lamprey caught downstream of the gates!

### **Diadromous species (fishes that move between freshwater and saltwater):**

- American eel
- gaspereau
- sea lamprey
- American shad
- rainbow smelt
- striped bass

### **Marine and brackish-water species:**

- summer flounder
- winter flounder

## CLC Members

Shelley Bibby  
 Brad Carrigan  
 Jennifer Copage  
 Louis Coutinho  
 Dave Crouchman  
 Don Dignan  
 Liz Galbraith  
 Colin Hines  
 Randy Hussey  
 Kathy Kehoe  
 Cathie Osborne  
 Mike Oulton  
 Darren Porter  
 Andrew Sheehy  
 Sonja Wood

You can contact us by emailing us at [info@hwy101windsor.ca](mailto:info@hwy101windsor.ca)

### Freshwater species:

- brown bullhead
- stickleback
- white sucker
- smallmouth bass
- white perch
- yellow perch

Many of the diadromous species move through the gates either upstream or downstream during their yearly migrations. The study concentrates on these species because they use the gates and this information is required by regulators and engineers as they design future fish passage options as part of the Highway 101 Twinning project.

Three surprising results so far include the consistent capture of American eel, the high abundance of eels found both downstream and upstream of the gates, and finding large striped bass in Pisiquid Lake. Over 5500 fishing records have been collected with 90% including fish length measurements.

The Mi'kmaw Conservation Group (MCG) will be conducting electro-fishing upstream of Pisiquid Lake on both the Chester Road and Mines Road sections of the river to safely sample and then release resident fish species.

As the study progresses, and data are analyzed, the approach and focus may change for the 2018 sampling season with the view to provide regulators and designers the knowledge they need to make informed decisions.



*American eel waiting to be measured.*