



## Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal

# INFO SHEET

### Environmental Assessment Process for Highway 101 Twinning – Three Mile Plains to Falmouth

The proposed project is for the twinning and upgrading of the existing two-lane section of Highway 101 from Trunk 14 (Exit 5) at Three Mile Plains to an area 2.5 km west of the Falmouth Connector (Exit 7) in Hants County. The project involves the construction, operation, and maintenance of ~9.5 km of two-lane controlled access highway to twin the existing Highway 101 and upgrade an existing tidal gate structure (aboiteau) at the Avon River causeway in partnership with NS Agriculture (NSDA). Detailed design is expected to be completed in 2018 but some construction could be initiated in the fall of 2017. It is anticipated that construction will take 5-6 years. This project will improve the current safety performance and level of service along this stretch of Highway 101, sustain other public and private links that have developed on the Avon River causeway over the past 50 years, and protect communities, infrastructure, and agricultural land from anticipated climate-related changes in sea level, precipitation, and storm surge.

The project will affect more than 2 hectares of the Windsor salt marsh and is considered a Class 1 undertaking under the NS *Environment Act* and Environmental Assessment Regulations. NSTIR, NSDA and their EA consultant, Stantec Consulting Ltd., have prepared and submitted an EA registration document to NS Environment (NSE) to start the formal review process.

#### EA Process – Key Dates and Activities

May 8, 2017	Formal EA Registration
June 1, 2017	Public Open House in Windsor
June 7, 2017	Public Comments Due Date
June 27, 2017	NSE Minister Decision

Hard copies of the EA document may be examined at the following locations:

- Windsor Regional Library, 195 Albert Street, Windsor, NS;
- Municipality of the District of West Hants Municipal Office, 76 Morison Drive, Windsor, NS;
- Nova Scotia Environment, 136 Exhibition Street, Kentville, NS.

Digital copies of the EA document (pdf files) are also available at the NSE website:

<http://www.novascotiagov.ns.ca/nse/ea>

and from a link on the Community Liaison Committee (CLC) website that has been developed for the project:

<http://hwy101windsor.ca/>

The EA document will also undergo formal review by other provincial government departments as well as federal government departments (e.g., Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), Environment and Climate Change Canada). Aboriginal consultation began in 2008 and will be ongoing through the design and construction of the project.

Individuals and groups are highly encouraged to write their views, comments and recommendations to NSE to ensure a well-balance decision by the Minister on behalf of all Nova Scotians. Concerns about the adverse effects or the environmental impact of the project, and the steps taken by NSTIR/NSDA to address those concerns (avoidance, mitigation and compensation) will be considered by the Minister when making a decision.

Please address your written comments directly to NSE:

Environmental Assessment Branch  
Nova Scotia Environment  
PO Box 442, Halifax, NS, B3J 2P8  
Fax: 902-424-6925  
E-mail: [EA@novascotia.ca](mailto:EA@novascotia.ca)

Please note that all submissions received, including personal information, will be made available for public review upon request.

**Next Steps** – NSTIR and NSDA are continuing with detailed planning of the project. This new material will continue to undergo comprehensive review and approval by provincial and federal regulatory agencies prior to construction and operation. Members of the CLC will communicate with the Public to bring updates and issues to and from NSTIR and NSDA over the next 6-7 years.

#### Contact Information

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