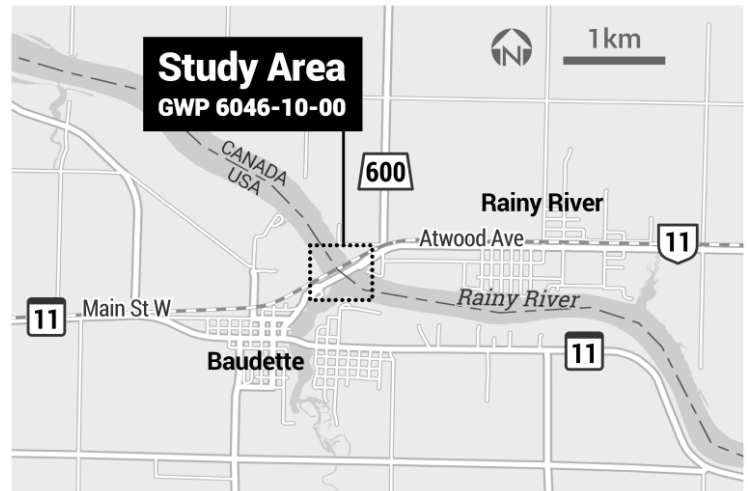


THE STUDY

The Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO), in cooperation with the Minnesota Department of Transportation, has retained Stantec Consulting Ltd. and Parsons Corp. to undertake the Detail Design and Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) Study for the replacement of the Baudette/Rainy River International Bridge on Highway 11 in the Town of Rainy River. The bridge provides access between the United States and Canada with 24-hour, full-service Port of Entry facilities in the City of Baudette and the Town of Rainy River. The *Transportation Environmental Study Report* (TESR) prepared during Preliminary Design identified a Recommended Plan of a new replacement bridge to be located directly south (upstream) of the existing Baudette/Rainy River Bridge that will tie into the existing U.S. and Canadian Port of Entry facilities.

THE PROCESS

The study will follow the *Class Environmental Assessment* (Class EA) for *Provincial Transportation Facilities* (2000) process for a Group 'B' project. It includes confirmation of the Recommended Design, confirming environmental protection and mitigation measures, developing construction staging and traffic management plans, and obtaining all applicable permits. The TESR that documented the Recommended Plan was made available for a 30-day public review period during Preliminary Design in February 2017. No significant issues were raised and the project was approved to proceed to Detail Design. The consultation program for Preliminary Design also included three Public Meetings which provided stakeholders and the public opportunities for input throughout the project.



As part of the consultation process for Detail Design, one Public Meeting will be held. The Public Meeting is tentatively scheduled for Fall 2017 to provide an opportunity to review the details of the Recommended Design and to answer questions about the study.

Upon completion of Detail Design, a *Design and Construction Report (DCR)* will be prepared and made available for a 30-day public review period. The DCR will be prepared in accordance with the MTO *Class EA* requirements for a Group 'B' project and will document the design-specific details, applicable permits, and environmental commitments and mitigation measures to be carried forward to construction. Notices regarding the availability of the DCR and the times and location of the Public Meeting will be published in local newspapers and sent to persons on the mailing list.

COMMENTS

If you wish to comment on this project, have your name added to the project mailing list, or have any questions about this project, please contact one of the individuals identified below.

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You are encouraged to visit the project website, www.dot.state.mn.us/d2/projects/baudette-bridge, to obtain current project information. If you have any accessibility requirements in order to participate in the project, please contact one of the Project Team members listed above. Comments and information are being collected to assist MTO in meeting the requirements of the *Ontario Environmental Assessment Act*. Information will be collected in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. All comments will be maintained on file for use during the study and, with the exception of personal information, may be included in study documentation and become part of the public record.