

Study Process



This study follows multiple approved processes:

- Ontario Ministry of Transportation Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Transportation Facilities (MTO Class EA)
- Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA)
- U.S. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- Minnesota Environmental Policy Act (MEPA)

The MTO Class Environmental Assessment Process

The MTO Class EA process is an approved process for highway planning, design, and construction projects. The study is following a Group 'B' process which is completed for major improvements to existing provincial transportation facilities.

A *Design and Construction Report* (DCR) will be filed for a 30-day public review period at the end of the study. The DCR will summarize the study process, including a description of the project and its purpose, the consultation process, specific environmental effects and mitigation measures, and details of the Recommended Plan.

A project description was submitted to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency to determine whether a federal environmental assessment of the designated project was required. Following the submission of the project description and a 20-day public comment period, the CEA Agency determined that a federal EA would not be required.

The MnDOT Environmental Review Process and NEPA

Minnesota Department of Transportation's (MnDOT's) environmental review has followed Minnesota's environmental review process set by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and Minnesota Environmental Policy Act (MEPA), to fulfill requirements at both the state and federal level. A combined Environmental Assessment / Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EA/EAW) will be prepared. The EA/EAW uses public input and technical analysis to determine the needs, deficiencies, impacts, mitigation and design of the proposed project.

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