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ENGINEERING & PUBLIC WORKS
TOWN OF THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

August 30, 2013

Mr. Jim McCannell
Manager of Roads and Drainage
Town of the Blue Mountains
32 Mill Street, P.O. Box 310
Thornbury, Ontario N0H 2P0

**Re: Ontario Ministry of Transportation – Notice of Study Commencement
Highway 26 from the Town of Thornbury to the Town of Collingwood
(G.W.P. 3119-10-00)**

Dear Mr. McCannell:

The Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) is initiating the Preliminary Design and Class Environmental Assessment (EA) for the rehabilitation of 13.2 km on Highway 26 from the east limits of the Town of Thornbury to the west limits of the Town of Collingwood, in Grey County (see enclosed notice).

The project will include pavement rehabilitation drainage improvements, structural culvert rehabilitation and extensions, entrance modifications/closures and operational improvements, such as additional lanes. Recommendations from this study may include the acquisition of additional property along the highway corridor. Some improvements recommended through this study may be constructed separately.

The purpose of this letter is to notify you of the project start-up and to seek your input on the environmental (natural, socio/economic or cultural) features in the study area. On the attached comment form, please indicate whether your organization has an interest in the project and who will act as our contact. Please provide any background information on the study area that you may have with respect to your organization's programs or services.

A reply by October 4, 2013 would be appreciated. Should you require further information you may contact either one of the Project Managers named in the enclosed notice. Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

Yours truly,
McCORMICK RANKIN, a member of MMM Group



Dan Green, P. Eng.
Consultant Project Manager

cc: Charles Organ, MTO, Senior Project Manager
Khahy Ho, MTO, Environmental Planner
Greg Moore, Ecoplans, Consultant Environmental Planner

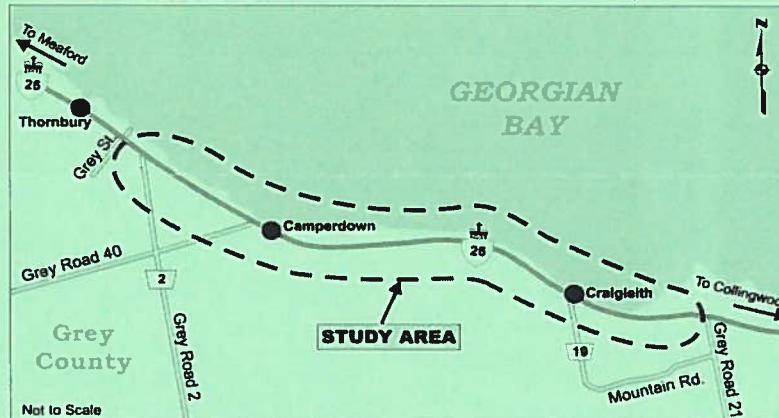
Attach.

NOTICE OF STUDY COMMENCEMENT PRELIMINARY AND DETAILED DESIGN AND CLASS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Highway 26 from the Town of Thornbury to the Town of Collingwood (G.W.P. 3119-10-00)

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) is initiating the Preliminary and Detailed Design and Class Environmental Assessment (EA) for the rehabilitation of 13.2 km on Highway 26 from the east limits of the Town of Thornbury to the west limits of the Town of Collingwood, in Grey County. The study area is shown on the key plan.



The project will include pavement rehabilitation, drainage improvements, structural culvert rehabilitation and extensions, entrance modifications/closures and operational improvements, such as additional lanes. Recommendations from this study may include the acquisition of additional property along the highway corridor.

PROCESS

The planning and design of provincial transportation projects must follow the approved process under the *Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Transportation Facilities* (2000). The goal is to provide a safe and effective transportation system while avoiding or minimizing negative environmental effects.

The MTO has retained McCormick Rankin, a member of MMM Group, to carry out this study as a Group B project, a category relating to major improvements to provincial transportation facilities.

External agency and public consultation will take place throughout the study. The consultation includes two Public Information Centres (PICs). Notices providing the time and location of the PICs will be published in this newspaper and sent to persons on the project mailing list.

Upon completion of the study, a Transportation Environmental Study Report (TESR) will be prepared and made available for public review. A notice will be published at that time to explain the review process and identify the locations where the TESR is available for the 30-day public review period.

If the Class EA screening process indicates that the project will not result in any significant adverse environmental effects then this project may be "stepped down" to a Group 'C' project. A notice will be issued and a review period will be provided if this decision is considered.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

We are interested in obtaining your comments by October 4, 2013. To provide initial comments, obtain additional information, or to be placed on the mailing list, please contact:

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Comments and information are being collected to assist the 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* and the *Access to Information Act*. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record.