

HIGHWAY 60 IMPROVEMENTS

G.W.P. 5006-05-00

**SECTION 1: HIGHWAY 60 / HIGHWAY 11 INTERCHANGE
TO MUSKOKA ROAD 3**

SECTION 2: MUSKOKA ROAD 23 TO HIGHWAY 35

PRELIMINARY DESIGN STUDY & CLASS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE #1

SUMMARY REPORT

MAY 13, 2010



McCORMICK RANKIN
CORPORATION
A member of  MMM GROUP



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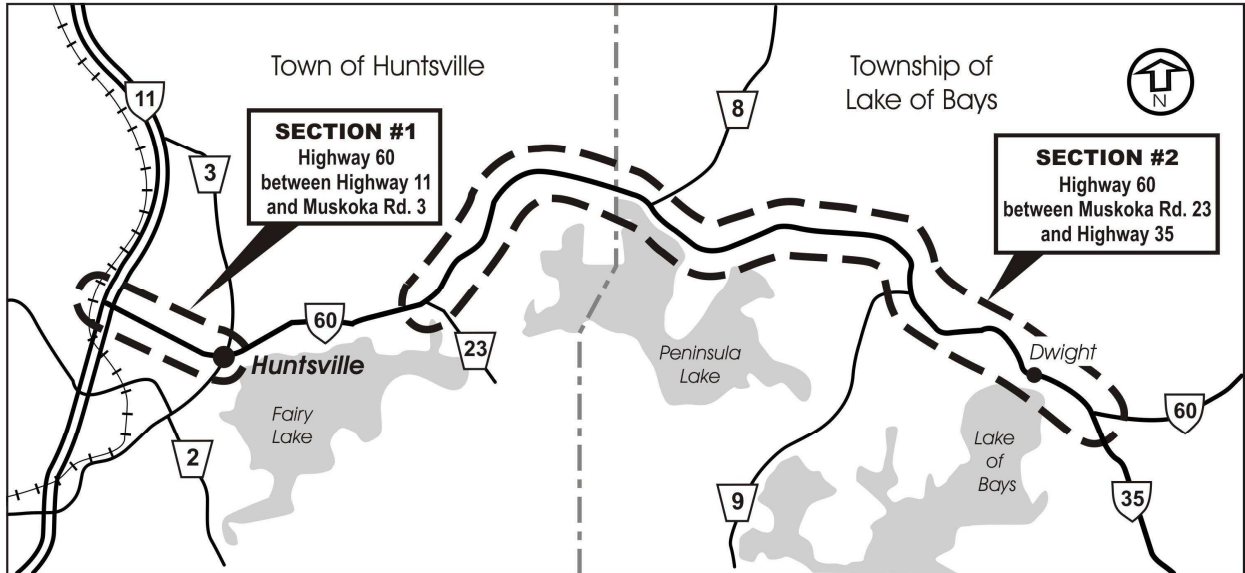
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

McCormick Rankin Corporation, on behalf of the Ministry of Transportation (MTO), is conducting a Class Environmental Assessment and Preliminary Design Study to identify capacity, geometric and operational improvements to Highway 60 in the following two sections:

- Section #1 Highway 60 / Highway 11 interchange to Muskoka Road 3 (including the interchange).
- Section #2 Muskoka Road 23 to Highway 35.

The study limits of Highway 60 are located in the Town of Huntsville and the Township of Lake of Bays, within the District Municipality of Muskoka, as shown in the key plan below. The purpose of the study is to identify operational and capacity needs, evaluate alternatives, and recommend a plan to address the future needs of Highway 60 within the study limits.



This Class EA Study follows the approved environmental planning process for Group “B” projects under the MTO *Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) for Provincial Transportation Facilities* (2000), with the opportunity for public input throughout. Upon completion of the study, a Transportation Environmental Study Report (TESR) will be prepared and filed for a 30-day public review period. At that time, newspaper notices will be published and posted on the project website to explain the review process and identify the locations where the TERS is available for viewing.

This report documents the Public Information Centre (PIC #1) held on May 13, 2010 and summarizes the notification process, the information presented and the comments received before, during and after the PIC.

2.0 PURPOSE

This Public Information Centre (PIC #1) was the first of two information centres to be held for this study. The purpose of PIC #1 was to provide an opportunity for interested parties to review and comment on the study background, need and justification, preliminary development of alternatives, and the proposed evaluation criteria.

3.0 LOCATION, DATE, TIME

This PIC was arranged as a 'drop-in' style session where representatives of MTO and the Project Team were available to answer questions and discuss the study. The PIC was held as follows:

Public Information Centre #1		
Date	Thursday, May 13, 2010	
Location	Hidden Valley Resort Highland Ballroom 1755 Valley Road Huntsville, ON P1H 1Z8	
Time	Agency Session	1:00 pm to 2:00 pm
	Afternoon Public Session	2:00 pm to 4:00 pm
	Evening Public Session	6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

This location was universally accessible as per the requirements of the *Ontarians with Disabilities Act*.

4.0 NOTIFICATION

The Public Information Centre #1 notice was advertised in the *Huntsville Forester* on Wednesday May 5, and Wednesday May 12, 2010 and through the project website at www.Highway60.ca. The Notice of Public Information Centre #1 can be found on the [Welcome](#) page of the project website under [Project Notices](#).

The PIC notification was sent to the local provincial political representative on May 23, 2010. Direct notification letters were mailed to the project mailing list (including agencies, First Nations, municipalities, property owners and members of the public) on April 30, 2010.

5.0 STAFF ATTENDANCE

The following Ministry of Transportation and Consultant staff were in attendance at the PIC:

- Manal Kasim, P. Eng., MTO, Area Engineer
- Jeff Cole, MTO, Environmental Planner
- Mary Young, MTO, Environmental Planner
- Bruce Sumbler, MTO, Traffic Analyst
- Fran Hampel, MTO, Corridor Management Officer (afternoon session only)
- Lisa Parrott, MTO, Real Estate Officer (evening session only)
- Marek Trzaski, P. Eng., MRC, Project Manager
- Jim Dowell, P. Eng., MRC, Project Lead Engineer
- Jane Morrison, P. Eng., MRC, Project Engineer
- Scott Fortner, P. Eng., MRC, Traffic & Safety Engineer
- Greg Moore, Ecoplans Limited, Project Lead Environmental Planner
- Dawn McKinnon, Ecoplans Limited, Environmental Planner

6.0 MATERIAL DISPLAYED

Display panels providing information about the need and justification of the study, the environmental assessment process, existing environmental conditions, preliminary design alternatives, and next steps were placed around the room.

For evaluation purposes, Sections #1 and #2 were divided into four sections, based on their different characteristics. The four sections are as follows:

- Section 1A: Highway 60 / Highway 11 Interchange
- Section 1B: Highway 60 - Highway 11 to Muskoka Rd 3
- Section 2A: Highway 60 - Muskoka Rd 23 to Muskoka Rd 8
- Section 2B: Highway 60 - Muskoka Rd 8 to Highway 35

Preliminary alternative design plans for each section, as well as specific Dwight Options within Section 2B, were developed for review and comment.

The following lists the specific displays presented:

1. Welcome (text and key map)
2. Environmental Assessment Process (text and exhibit)
3. Need and Justification (text and key map)
4. Existing Environmental Conditions (plan)
5. Planning Alternatives (text)
6. Preliminary Design Alternatives with Proposed Analysis / Evaluation Process (text)

7. Section 1A: Highway 60 / Highway 11 Interchange Alternatives (text and key map)
8. Section 1A: Highway 60 / Highway 11 Interchange Alternatives (plans) – typical interchange configurations
9. Section 1B: Highway 60 Alternatives from Highway 11 to Muskoka Road 3 (text and key map)
10. Section 1B: Highway 60 Alternatives from Highway 11 to Muskoka Road 3 (plans)
11. Section 2A: Highway 60 Alternatives from Muskoka Road 23 to Muskoka Road 8 (text and key map)
12. Section 2A: Highway 60 Alternatives from Muskoka Road 23 to Muskoka Road 8 (plans)
13. Section 2B: Highway 60 Alternatives from Muskoka Road 8 to Highway 35 (text and key map)
14. Section 2B: Highway 60 Alternatives from Muskoka Road 8 to Highway 35 (plans)
15. Section 2B: Dwight Options (plans)
16. Key Environmental Considerations (text)
17. Next Steps (text)
18. Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (text)

The display materials presented at the Public Information Centre are available on the [Public Consultation](#) page of the project website.

7.0 FORMAT

Individuals attending the PIC were asked to sign in at the welcome desk. They were informed of the availability of comment sheets and encouraged to complete them. Attached to each comment sheet was an information package that outlined the study process, the need for improvements to Highway 60 within the study area, and a description of the preliminary design alternatives being considered and evaluated for each of the four sections, including the Dwight Options. *The Public Information Centre #1 Information Package Handout is available on the [Public Consultation](#) page of the project website.*

Representatives from the MTO and the Project Team were available to answer questions and provide information on the study. Individuals who expressed specific concerns or comments were directed to the appropriate staff member for clarification and explanations of how their concerns or comments were being addressed. If individuals wished to take comment sheets home, they were requested to provide their responses to the address identified on the comment sheet by Friday, May 28, 2010 via direct mail, e-mail or fax.

During the External Agency Preview Session, the following agencies were represented:

- Ministry of Natural Resources
- Township of Lake of Bays

8.0 SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Approximately 116 attendees signed the registration sheets, as follows:

- Afternoon Session (including External Agency Session): 68
- Evening Session: 48

Eighteen (18) comment sheets were received at the PIC.

As of July 22, 2010, the total number of comments submitted before, during and after the PIC was 59. The following table provides a summary of how and when the comments were received.

TABLE 1. PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE #1 COMMENTS RECEIVED						
Comments	PIC	Mail	Fax	Website/ Email	Phone	Total
Pre PIC	-	-	-	7	1	8
PIC	18	-	-	-	-	18
Post PIC	-	7	-	25	1	33

A summary of the written comments is provided below. It should be noted that most comments raised more than one issue. The majority of the PIC attendees and respondents were property or business owners along Highway 60 within the study corridor.

General Comments

- Concerns about noise / vibration impacts to residents and businesses due to construction activities, removal of vegetation buffers, and increased traffic.
- Requests to limit the number and / or size of billboard signage.
- Inquiries about construction timing and staging.
- Concerns regarding affected and potentially expropriated residential, recreational and commercial properties.
- Concerns that increased traffic will negatively impact the Algonquin Provincial Park and its wildlife.
- Requests for accommodation of safe recreational bicycle and pedestrian lanes in the Highway 60 right-of-way.
- Requests for hard copies of alternative design plans.
- Requests to provide small rest stops and lookouts along the study corridor.
- Requests for vegetation to be planted wherever possible.
- Support for improving horizontal and vertical alignments.

- Support for improving sight lines at several intersections / property entrances.
- Suggestions regarding the by-passing of Grassmere, Hillside and / or Dwight.
- Concerns that the Dwight by-pass option would negatively impact / isolate existing businesses and services in the community.
- Support for the Dwight by-pass option as transport trucks could be re-directed away from the community and enhance the potential of Dwight as a tourist destination in its own right.

Section Preferences (including number of comments received in support of each alternative)

Section 1A

- Support for 1A-1: Do Nothing (2)
- Support for 1A-2: Reconstructed Trumpet “B” Configuration (2)
- Support for 1A-4: Directional Ramp Configuration (1)

Section 1B

- Support for 1B-2: Widen Highway 60 to 4 lanes (Undivided) (3)
- Support for 1B-3: Widen Highway 60 to 4 lanes (Undivided); Relocate Centre Street intersection to the east. (2)
- Support for 1B-4: Widen Highway 60 to 4 lanes (Undivided) (1)

Section 2A

- Support for 2A-2: Provide Passing lanes; Improve Horizontal and Vertical Alignments (4)
- Support for 2A-3: Widen Highway 60 to 4 lanes (Undivided); Improve Horizontal and Vertical Alignments (3)

Section 2B

- Support for 2B-2: Provide Passing Lanes (5)
- Support for 2B-3: Widen Highway 60 to 4 lanes (Undivided); Improve Horizontal and Vertical Alignments (2)

Section 2B Dwight Option

- Support for Option #2: Provide Centre Turning Lane through Dwight (2)
- Support for Option #3: Widen Highway 60 to 4 lanes (Undivided) (1)
- Support for Option #4: New alignment north of Dwight (4)

- Support for leaving Highway 60 and its existing scenic, rolling hills and speed designs within the study limits “as is” (6).

9.0 NEXT STEPS

All comment sheets are being reviewed and responded to, and all legible names and addresses from the sign-in sheets and comment sheets will be added to the study mailing list.

As noted previously, an extensive amount of relevant and valuable information about the land use and environmental features within the study area and preferences for the alternatives / options were received through discussions with those who attended the PIC, and via the comment sheets and website comments. This information will be reviewed, assessed and incorporated into the finalization of the alternatives / options, and the analysis and evaluation process.

The second PIC, planned for later in 2010, will provide an opportunity for potentially affected property owners, external agencies and interested members of the public to review and comment on the analysis / evaluation of the alternatives / options, the selection of the preferred plan and the preliminary design plan.