

Highway 103 Twinning Hubbards to Chester

The Nova Scotia Department of Public Works (NSDPW) is currently in the preliminary design stages for the twinning of Highway 103 from Hubbards to Chester. Environmental screening studies and engineering design work is underway.

BACKGROUND

The existing two-lane highway will be twinned to a four-lane controlled-access highway with a wide median at a design speed of 110 km/h to increase capacity for population growth and improve overall safety and reduction in collisions. Current traffic includes local traffic and commercial vehicles from Halifax to Bridgewater. The traffic volume in 2024 is more than 11,900 vehicles per day between Exit 6 and Exit 7 and the traffic volume in 2021 is more than 8,900 vehicles per day between Exit 7 and 8. Slower moving vehicles mixed with faster moving through traffic impedes the efficient movement of goods and people which causes a lower level of service. The proposed twinned section is a continuation of Ingramport to Hubbards twinned section.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project will be completed in two phases. Phase I is Hubbards to East River, Phase II is East River to Chester. The proposed project will include the continuation of the twinned highway lanes from the existing divided highway near Exit 6 in Hubbards. The interchange at Exit 7 will be transformed from a trumpet shaped interchange to a traditional diamond interchange. The interchange at Exit 8 is planned to have two new roundabouts at the end of the ramps. All at-grade intersections will be removed. The project will end at the existing divided section which is approximately 2 km west of Exit 8.

A map of the project can be found on the following page.

Careful planning and design measures along with accepted construction

techniques will ensure that environmental impacts from road construction activities are minimized.

PROJECT STATUS

Early construction has been initiated for the structure at Exit 7 as the overall project moves through the remaining planning activities and detailed design phase. This includes land acquisition, environmental studies and permitting, and detailed design.

As part of DPW's planning efforts, non-invasive environmental and archaeological field studies have begun in 2023 and will continue throughout 2024.

Detailed design is underway for the roadways, interchange, and structures, along with acquisition of the land and environmental mitigation plans. Construction began in Summer 2024 with the westbound structure at Exit 7. The Department is continuing with pre-construction activities to ensure the project can proceed to construction when appropriate approvals are in place.

Phase I (Hubbards to East River) is currently programmed to begin in 2024-2025 as a major construction project on the Five-Year Highway Improvement Plan. Phase II (East River to Chester) is currently programmed to begin in 2025-2026 as a major construction project on the Five-Year Highway Improvement Plan.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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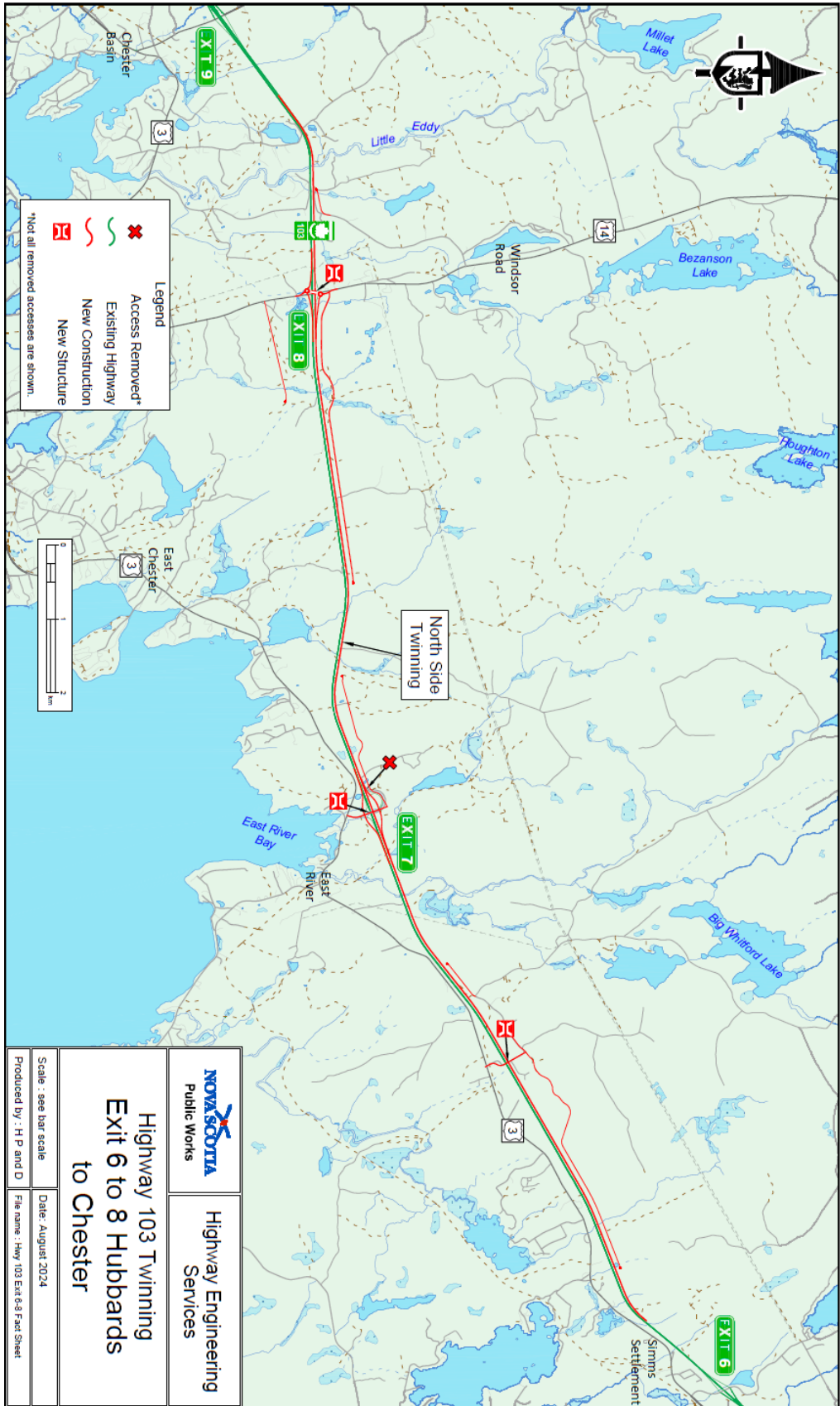


FIGURE: Highway 103 Hubbards to Chester Twinning

