

FACT SHEET

Highway 103 Twinning - Upper Tantallon to Hubbards Public Consultation - Thursday, March 10, 2011

Project Description

The Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal (TIR) is planning for the future twinning of Highway 103 from Upper Tantallon to Hubbards.

The new highway, as proposed, will start at the end of the four lane section near Exit 5 at Upper Tantallon and terminate approximately 1.5 km west of Exit 6 near Hubbards. The length of the project will be approximately 21.5 km. The roadway will be a controlled access facility and built as a 4-lane divided highway with sections of narrow (5.6 metre width) barrier median and wide (27.6 metre width) grass median and a posted speed of 110 km/h.

Background

This section of Highway 103, between Exit 5 and 6, is a major arterial roadway that connects the communities of Upper Tantallon, Hubbards, Boutilier's Point, Black Point and Ingramport in the St.Margaret's Bay area. It is currently a two lane, 100 Series controlled access highway. Traffic volumes have been increasing steadily over the past several years. Volumes are currently 9550 vehicles per day and are at the point where twinning is an appropriate measure for increasing highway service and safety performance levels.

Plans to upgrade and twin Highway 103 are on-going. The highway is currently twinned from Highway 102, in Halifax, to Exit 5, at Upper Tantallon and from east of Exit 9 near Chester Basin to Gold River.

Highway 103 is part of the National Highway System Feeder Route making it eligible for Federal cost sharing (normally on a 50/50 basis).

Highway Planning and Design

The Department currently owns most of the land required for the twinning portion of the highway. However, additional land to extend the construction boundary and to build any parallel access roads or interchanges will be required through negotiations with private landowners.

The new lanes will be constructed on the north side of the existing highway separated from the existing lanes by either a narrow or wide median (see picture on reverse).

The project would involve construction of a new interchange on Highway 103 and potentially a connector road to Trunk 3 (St.Margaret's Bay Road). The new interchange would provide the only means of accessing Highway 103 between Upper Tantallon and Hubbards. The twinning would also involve modification of the existing interchange at Exit 6 and several watercourse structures.

Careful planning and design measures along with accepted construction techniques will ensure that environmental impacts from activities such as road construction in close proximity to developed areas, wetlands, streams, and highly erodible soils are minimized.

Direct land access to Highway 103 will not be permitted when the highway is twinned. Land access for abutting landowners with existing direct access will be accommodated via existing secondary roads and new parallel access roads.

The estimated cost of twinning this section of Highway 103, including the new interchange and connector road, is \$101 million. Due to cost, this project has been divided into phases. Phase 1 is the construction of the new interchange and possible connector and this is included in the Department's Five Year Plan.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION - Public consultation is an important part of highway planning and the environmental approval process. *The purpose of this public consultation is to provide information to the public, identify any environmental issues that may be outstanding, and give the public an opportunity to discuss with Department staff any issues they may have. Hired consultants will also be in attendance to answer questions.*

The Department has also added a section for the project to it's website at:

www.gov.ns.ca/tran/highways/hwy103.asp

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Infrastructure Renewal**

Highway Planning and Design

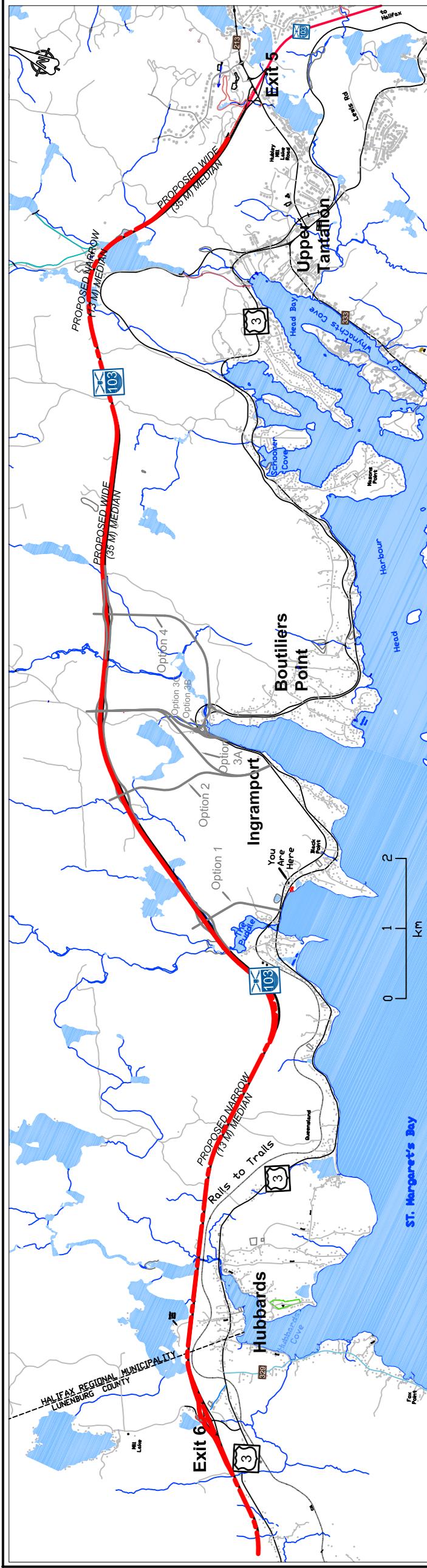
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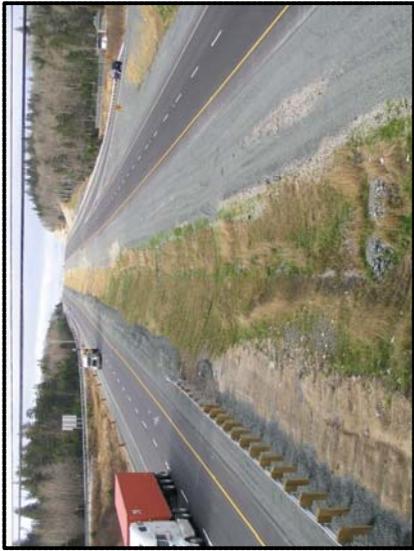
Legend

- Existing Highway 103 Lanes
- Proposed Highway 103
- Proposed Connector Road and Interchange Options

Proposed Narrow Median

Proposed Wide Median

Current



Highway Engineering Services

Highway 103 Proposed Twinning Upper Tantallon to Hubbards

Scale : see bar scale

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