

Building A New Highway

New highway construction can take between 5 to 10 years to complete from start to finish. Many of the steps below happen simultaneously, reducing actual construction time.

Here are some of the steps needed to build a new highway. Length of time noted for each step may vary.

1

Identification

Project identified and scope defined
Twinning Committee initiated

2

Planning & Design

Review existing maps and plans, and assemble new maps: 1 month
Preliminary environmental screening: 3 months
Route location and functional design: 6 months
Land access determination: 12 months
Public consultation: 3-4 months
Aboriginal consultation: concurrent with other steps
Environmental assessment: 12-24 months
Full land survey: 6 months
Geotechnical investigation: 1 month
Wet land and water course alteration compensation: 3 months
Permitting: 6-12 months
Detailed design: 12 months
Environmental protection plan: 3 months
Land purchase: 12-24 months
Project costing: 1 month
Construction specification & special provisions preparation: 1 month
Utilities relocation: 4 months
Tendering: 1-2 months

3

Construction

Clearing trees and shrubs: 1-2 months
Removing low-lying vegetation and topsoil: 1-2 months
Bridge, large culvert, retaining wall construction: 1-6 months
Subgrade construction, including drainage culverts, ditches and slopes: 6-12 months
Gravel placement: 1-2 months
Asphalt placement: 2-4 months
Shoulder gravel, road signs, roadside barrier and pavement markings: 2-3 months
Commissioning: 1 month
New road opens to traffic