

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NOMA Welcomes Highway 11/17 Expansion and 24/7 Shuniah Inspection Station

SHUNIAH, ON — September 28, 2026 — The Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) welcomes the start of construction to widen another five kilometres of Highway 11/17 between McGuire Road and Coughlin Road near Nipigon, another important step toward completing the four-laning of the Trans-Canada Highway between Thunder Bay and Nipigon.

The project will widen the existing two-lane corridor to four lanes, separated by a grass median, and construct two new bridges across the Black Sturgeon River.

“This investment is another important step forward for Highway 11/17. We thank Minister Prabmeet Sarkaria, Associate Minister Kevin Holland and Minister George Pirie for listening to Northwestern Ontario and continuing to invest in the safety and reliability of this critical corridor,” said Rick Dumas, President of NOMA. “Highway 11/17 is essential to our residents, communities and economy, and we need to keep this progress moving forward.”

NOMA also welcomes confirmation that the Shuniah Ministry of Transportation Inspection Station will now operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week, a long-standing request from NOMA and FONOM as part of its advocacy for stronger commercial vehicle enforcement and improved highway safety.

“Keeping the Shuniah inspection station open 24/7 is an important and practical step toward safer highways,” added Dumas. “We thank Minister Sarkaria and the MTO recruitment and training teams for working hard to recruit, train and mobilize new transportation enforcement officers to make this possible as we head into the fall and winter driving seasons.”

Highways 11 and 17 are Northwestern Ontario’s primary east-west transportation corridor and are increasingly important as the region experiences growth in mining, critical minerals, forestry, energy, manufacturing and infrastructure development. NOMA will continue advocating for investments that improve the safety, capacity and reliability of this critical corridor.

NOMA encourages anyone interested in a career in transportation enforcement with the Ministry of Transportation to visit the MTO website and explore current employment opportunities.

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Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association

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