



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FONOM Calls on Premier Ford to Champion Highway 11/17 Twinning as a Nation-Building Priority

Temiskaming Shores, ON – September 5, 2025 – The Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) is calling on Premier Doug Ford to include the twinning and 2+1 model for Highways 11 and 17 on Ontario’s submission to the Federal Government’s **Major Projects Office (MPO) list**.

This project represents a critical investment in safety, connectivity, and economic growth for Northern Ontario and beyond. By strengthening Canada’s northern transportation network, the project will also support two of Ontario’s priority nation-building initiatives—the **Ring of Fire** and **nuclear energy development**—by ensuring reliable corridors to move people, equipment, and resources.

“Safe and modern highways are not just about getting from point A to point B. They are about saving lives, enabling industry, and securing long-term prosperity for Northern communities,” said FONOM President Danny Whalen. “We believe this is Ontario’s opportunity to make Highway 11 and 17 a signature nation-building project.”

FONOM has established a coalition (the Committee) to advance this priority. "The committee has already met with officials from the Build Canada Selection committee and the federal ministry of natural resources and continues to work closely with many Associations across the province. With momentum growing, FONOM is urging Ontario to seize the opportunity now that the previously proposed Moosonee port project appears to be off the table.

“The twinning and 2+1 model is a practical, proven solution,” added Whalen. “With Premier Ford’s leadership, we can put this project firmly on the MPO list and help build a stronger, safer Northern Ontario for generations to come.”

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Fact Sheet / Key Messages

The Issue

- Ontario's Trans-Canada Highway (Highways 11 and 17) remains mostly two lanes.
- Fatality and serious collision rates are among the highest in Canada.
- Each crash disrupts more than **8,400 trucks carrying \$200M in goods daily**.
- By 2035, trucks are expected to represent **nearly half of traffic** on this corridor.

The Proposal

- FONOM proposes a **toolbox approach**:
 - Four-lane widening in high-volume sections
 - Strategic twinning where feasible
 - Innovative **2+1 highway design** in rural stretches
- Project length: **3,000 km from Québec to Manitoba**
- Open to **public-private partnerships**, pension fund investment, European investment, and **Canada Infrastructure Bank** involvement.

Why It Matters (National Priorities)

- Supports resource development in the **Ring of Fire**.
- Ensures safe transportation of **spent nuclear fuel to Ignace**.
- Strengthens **St. Lawrence port activity** to bolster food security.

- **Supporters**

- Endorsed by **AMO, ROMA, NOMA, and the EOWC**.
- Backed by communities, road builders, and industry stakeholders.

Also, the link is for the Northern Ontario transportation task force final report

<http://www.ontario.ca/page/northern-ontario-transportation-task-force-final-report>