

Annex A3-15:
Presentation – Winnipeg Open House
(Round 5)



EAST SIDE TRANSPORTATION INITIATIVE

Berens River to Poplar River FN Road Network



The Environmental Assessment

**Winnipeg Community
Indian & Metis Friendship Centre**

May 28th, 2015

Why are we here?

We are here today to:

- Provide information about the road project
- Review the options that have been considered
- Communicate what we have heard from the communities
- Hear from you about what you value, so that it can be considered in the environmental impact assessment (EIA) and addressed in the project design.



EAST SIDE TRANSPORTATION INITIATIVE

- Provide alternative transportation to the increasingly unreliable winter road network
- Reduce transportation costs for goods and services
- Improve linkages between isolated and remote communities
- Enhance access to emergency, health & social services
- Construction employment, training & economic opportunities
- Enhanced opportunities for local sustainable economic development



1. Community Economic Development

Status:

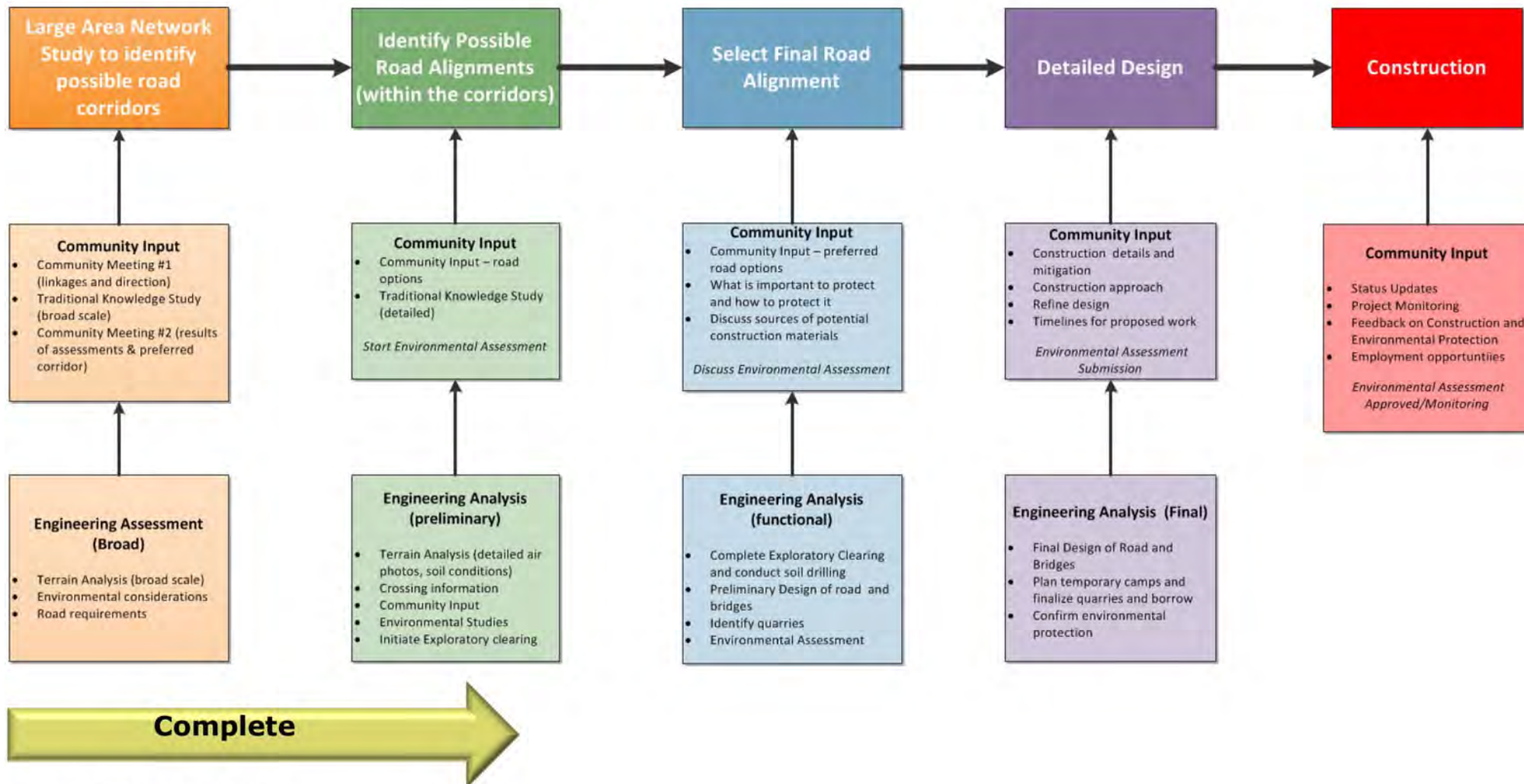
- *Community benefits agreements are in place with 13 east side communities including Poplar River and Berens River.*

2. East Side Large Area Transportation Network

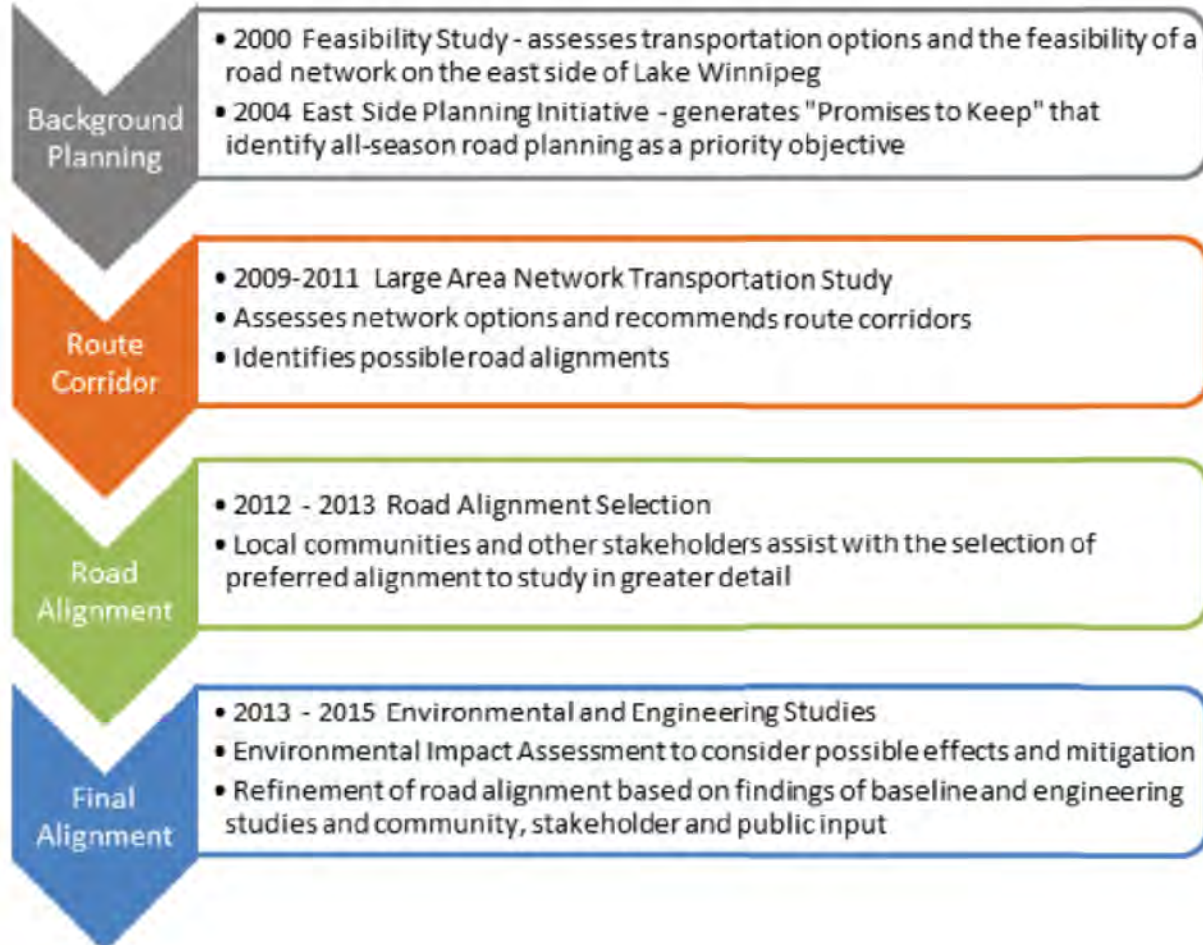
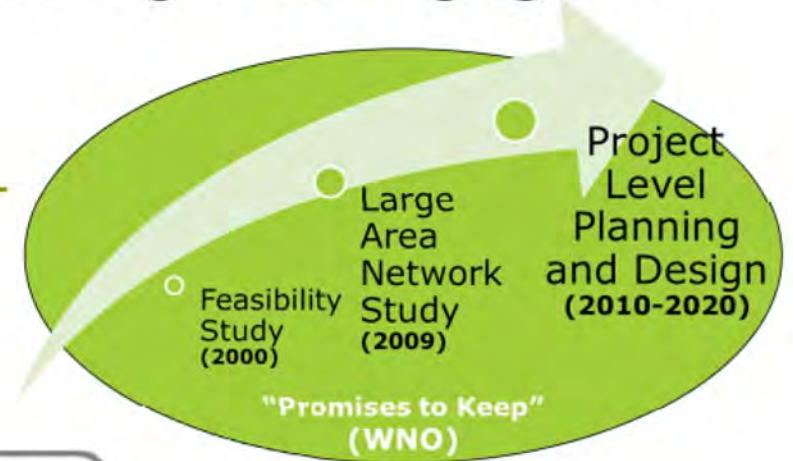
Status:

- *Construction of an 156 km all-season road from Provincial Road PR 304 to Berens River First Nation is underway*
- *Planning and environmental assessments to support the construction of pioneer and all season roads in prioritized locations is ongoing*
- *Interim winter road enhancements are underway with a focus on crossing improvements*

Steps to Select, Design & Construct an All Season Road



- Community input is key to developing a good project



Description of Project

- 94 km of All Season Road joining Poplar River to Berens River

Includes:

- 4 major water crossings:
 - Leaf River
 - North Etomami River
 - Etomami River
 - Berens River
- 6 possible minor crossings or culverts, and
- Equalization culverts



All-Season Road Construction Steps

PLANNING & DESIGN



CONSTRUCTION

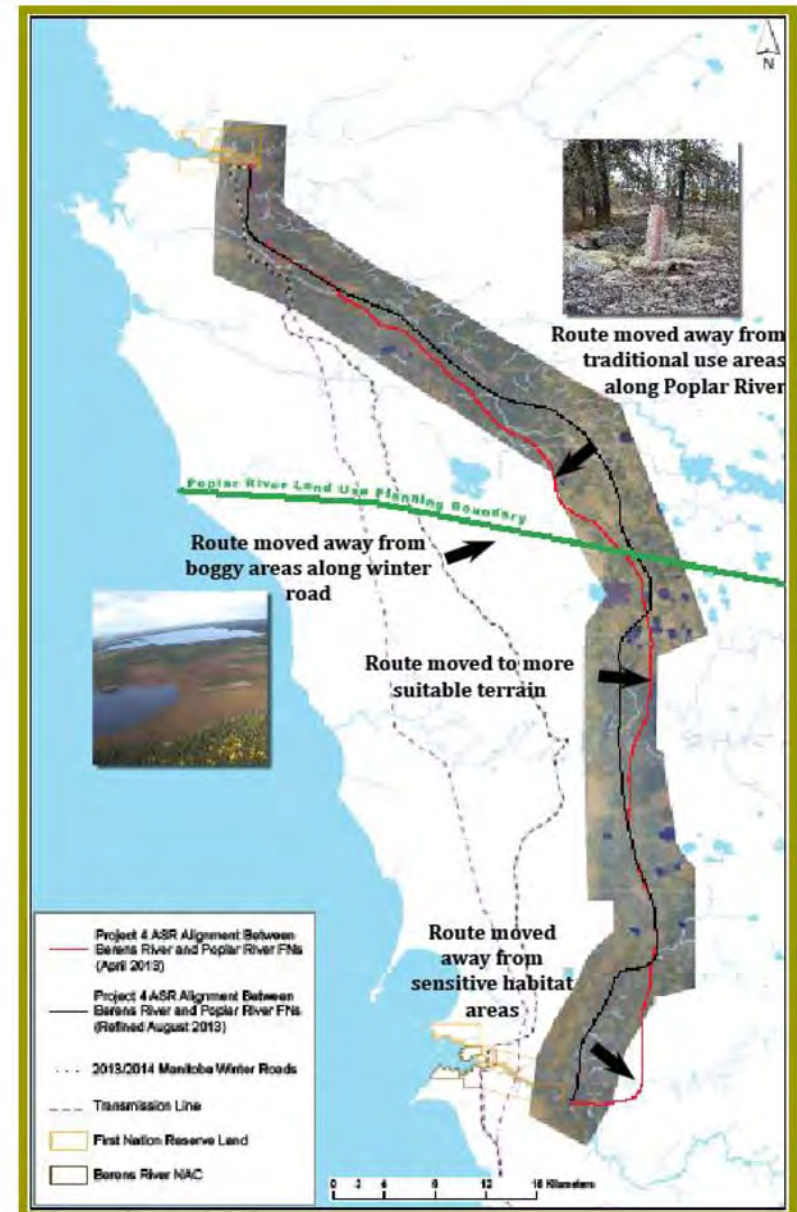


MAINTENANCE



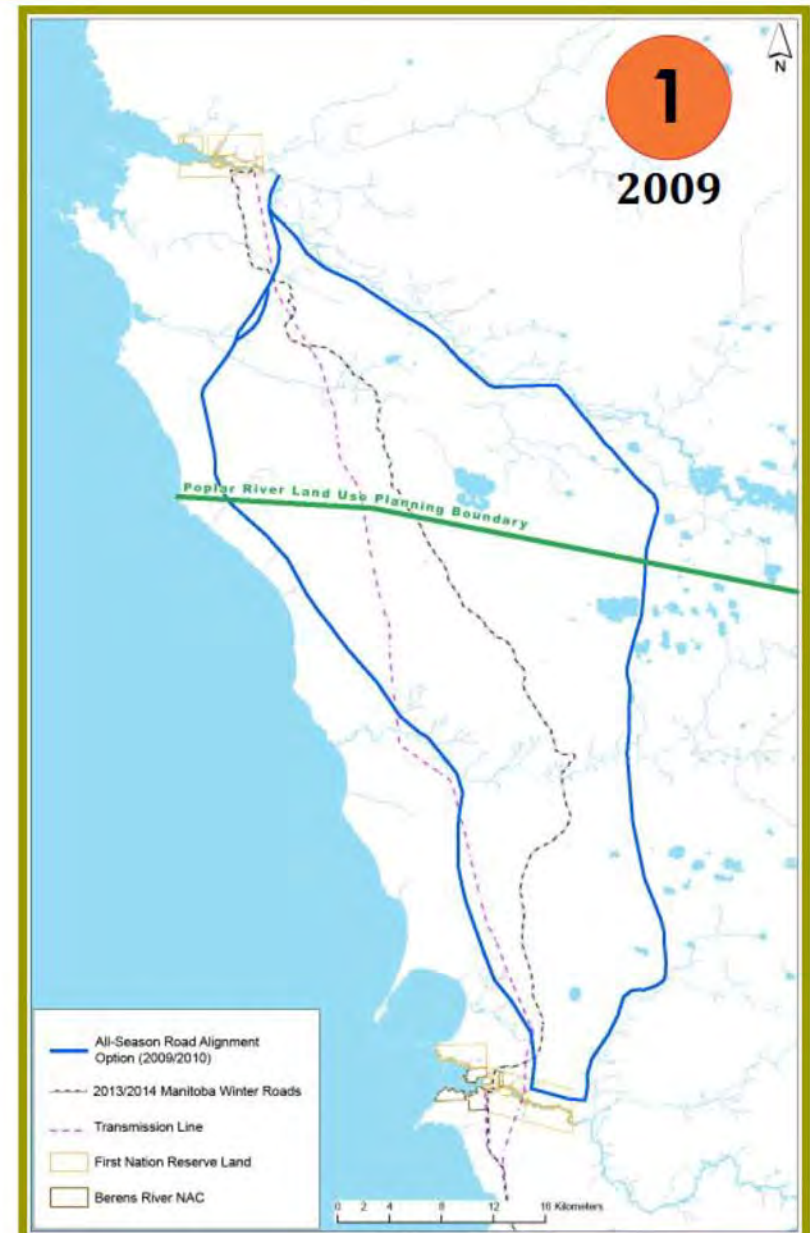
Road Route Refinements (overall)

- Original route concept has been refined several times based on:
 - community feedback and knowledge of the land
 - results of traditional knowledge, archeology, soils and wildlife investigations



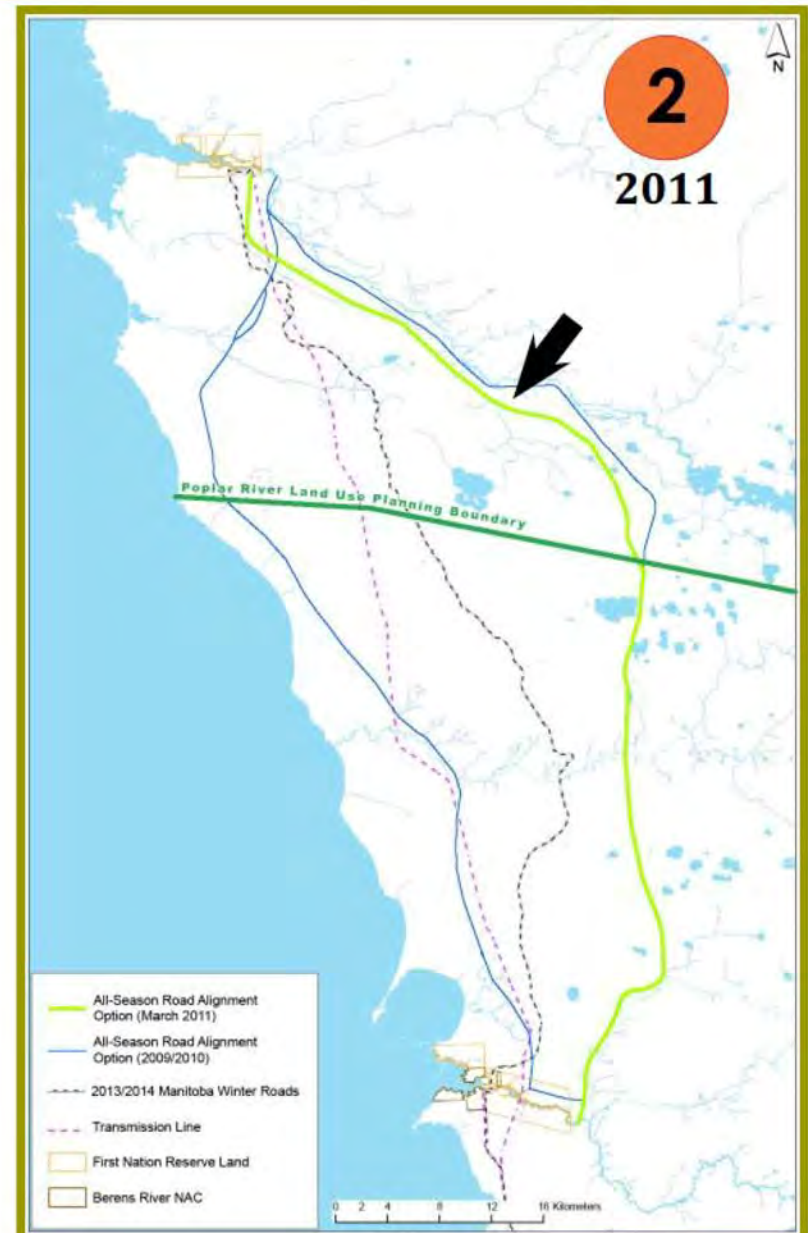
Evolution of Road Route Refinements

- Two route options originally identified –
 - Coastal Route
 - Inland Route
- Considered topographic, physiographic, geological, social-economic and natural environmental information
- Moved route from muskeg areas near Lake Winnipeg further inland to suitable terrain for constructability



Evolution of Road Route Refinements

- Moved route from muskeg areas near Lake Winnipeg further inland for constructability
- Moved portion of route to west away from Poplar River traditional use areas



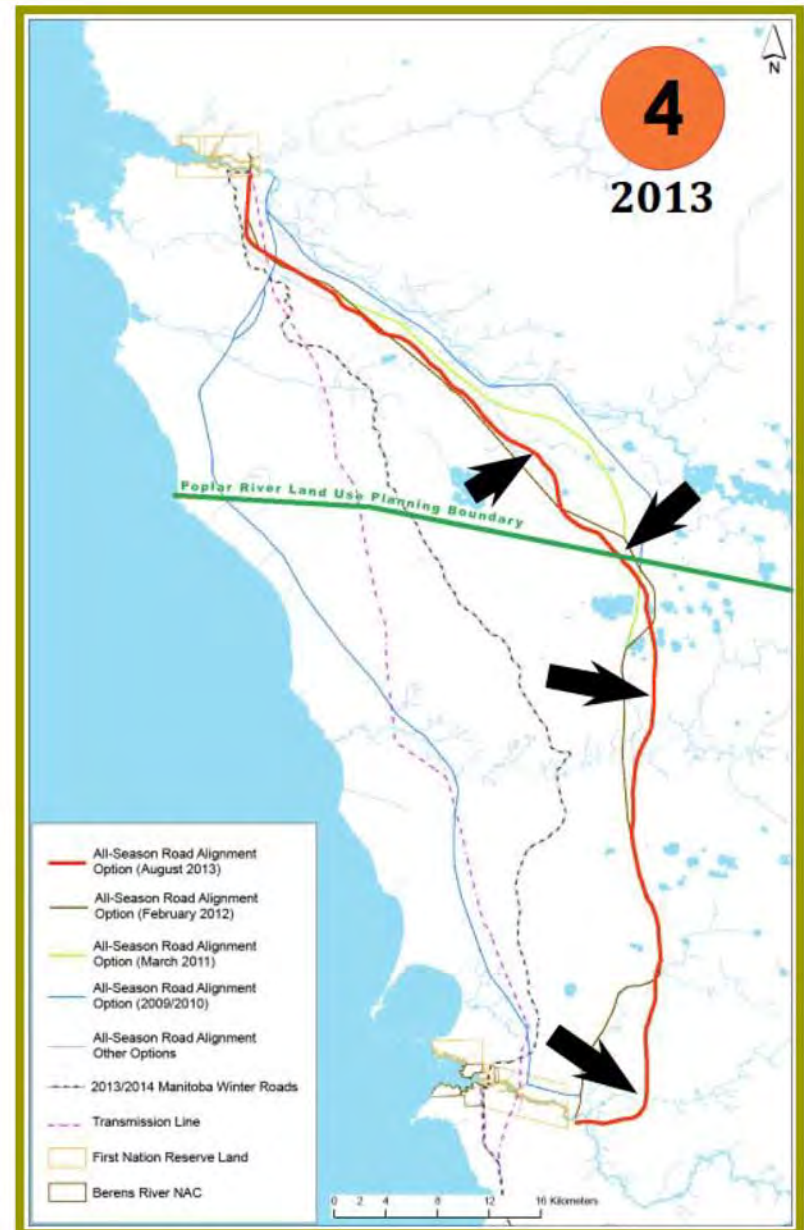
Evolution of Road Route Refinements

- Moved route from muskeg areas near Lake Winnipeg further inland for constructability
- Moved portion of route to west away from Poplar River traditional use areas
- Moved route further to the west to avoid sensitive sites



Evolution of Road Route Refinements

- ❑ Moved route from muskeg areas near Lake Winnipeg further inland for constructability
- ❑ Moved portion of route to west away from Poplar River traditional use areas
- ❑ Moved route further to the west to avoid sensitive sites
- ❑ **Moved portion of route to east away from sensitive habitat and traditional use areas near Etomami River**

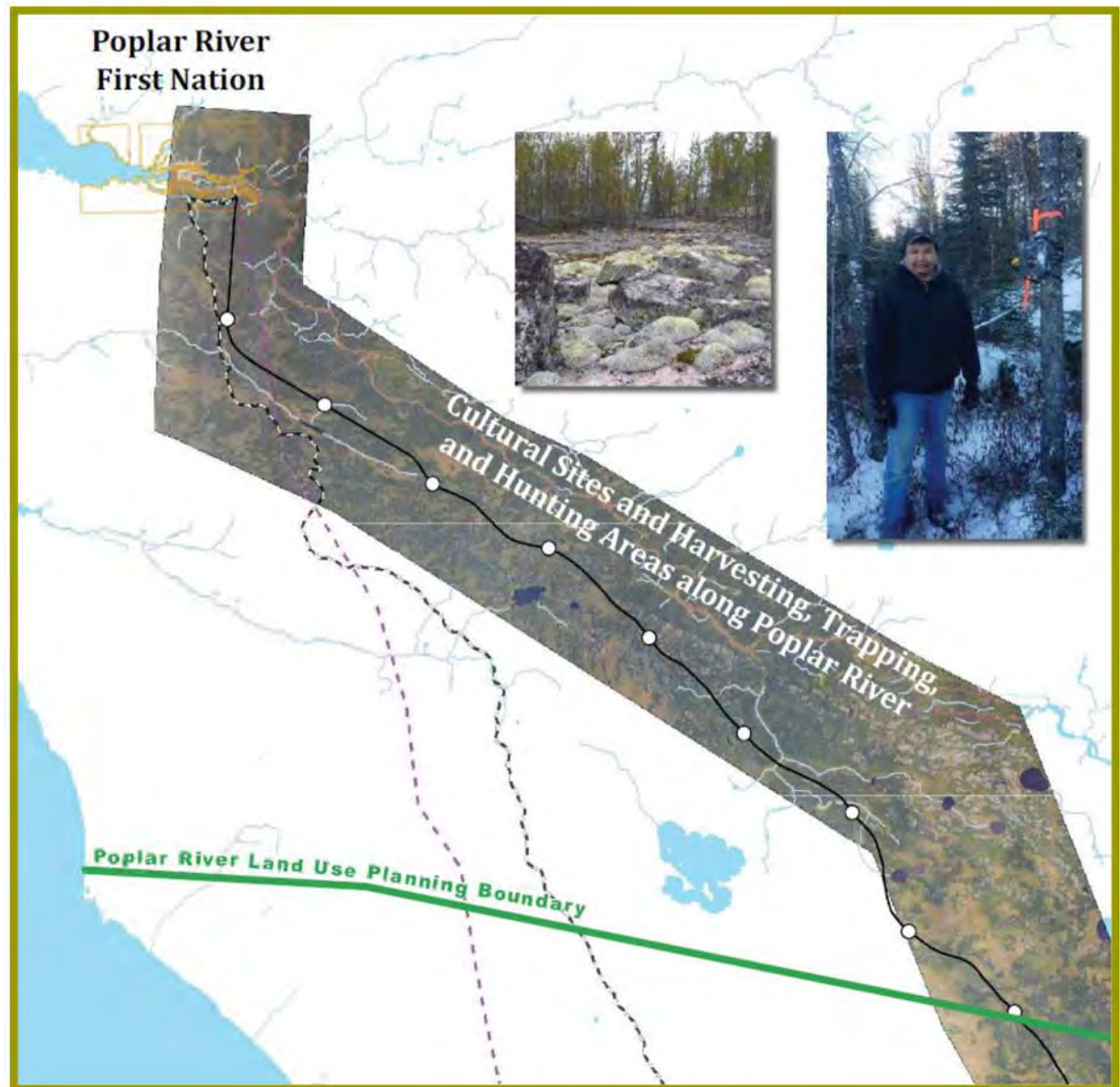


Summary of Road Route Refinements – Poplar River

- Moved portion of route west to avoid Poplar River
 - Harvested plants
 - Cultural /sacred sites
 - Traditional land use

- Moved portion of route further west to avoid sensitive sites identified during baseline studies and discussions with Elders

- Avoids muskeg and wetlands along shoreline route and winter road



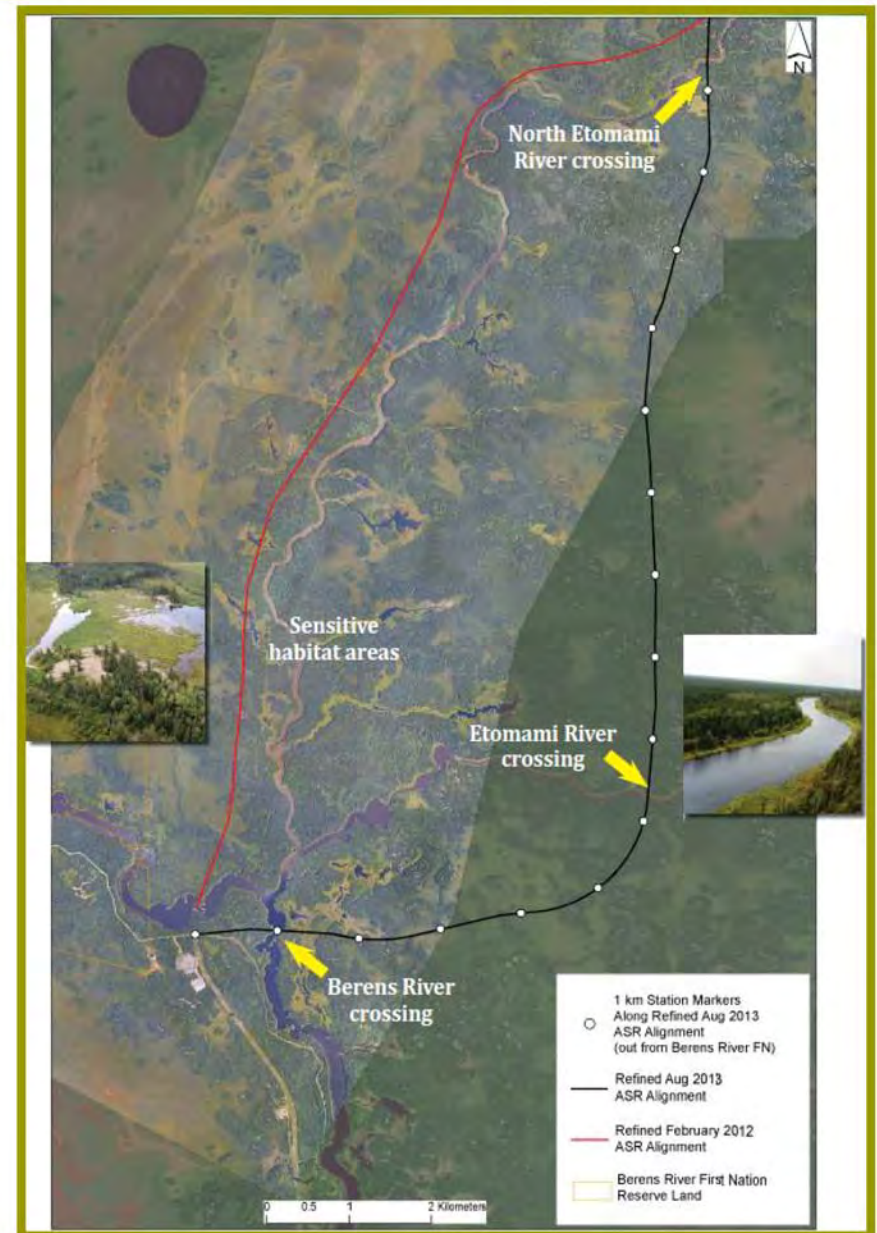
Summary of Road Route Refinements - Berens River

- Realigned road to avoid:
 - Habitat
 - Traditional land use areas

- Moved portion of route further east to avoid Etomami valley

- Requires additional river crossing sites

- Avoids muskeg and wetlands along shoreline route and winter road

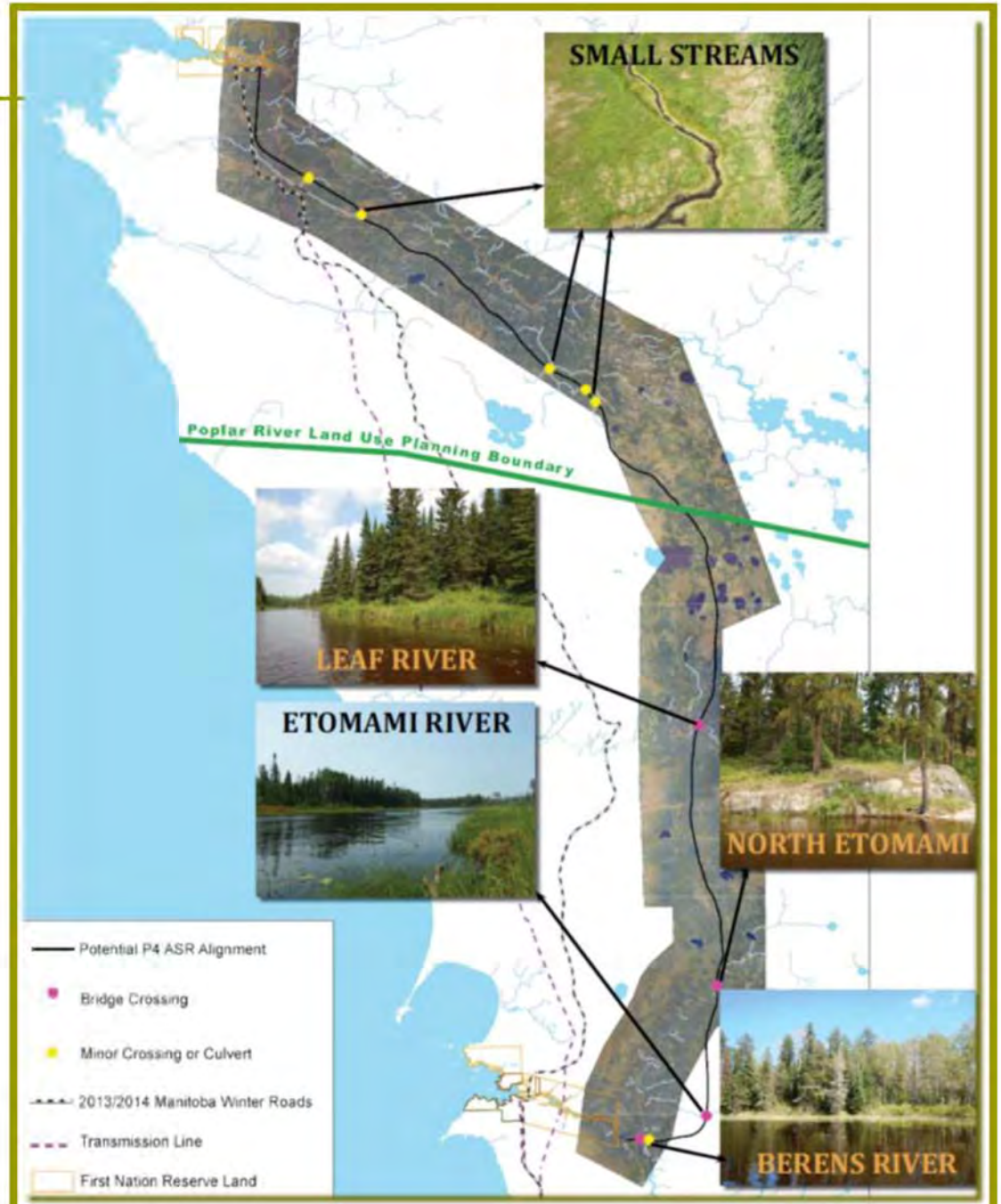


River Crossings

- Revised route will require additional river crossing sites
 - More crossings, but away from sensitive community areas

- Four bridge crossings:
 - Berens River
 - Etomami River
 - North Etomami River
 - Leaf River

- Six minor crossings or culverts



In-Community Meetings

- ❑ The first series of In-Community meetings were held on:
 - April 23, 2015 Poplar River
 - April 30, 2015 Berens River

- ❑ The purpose of the In-Community meetings was to:
 - Provide an overview of the project;
 - Inform the community of the overall Environmental Impact Assessment process;
 - Discuss how the proposed road alignment has evolved based on feedback to avoid community sensitive areas; and,
 - Dialogue with the community about which Valued Components should be included or highlighted in the process.



Summary of What We Heard – In-Community Meetings

- What we heard from Berens River & Poplar River communities:
 - Revised road alignment has been moved away from community sensitive areas, and was well received;
 - How information for Traditional Knowledge Studies are used;
 - Appropriate community and cultural activities should occur prior to any construction activities or disturbance of the land;
 - Project-focused communication to inform communities on progress and activities;
 - Protect waterway travel routes;
 - Moose, caribou, furbearers and their habitat are valued components for the communities;

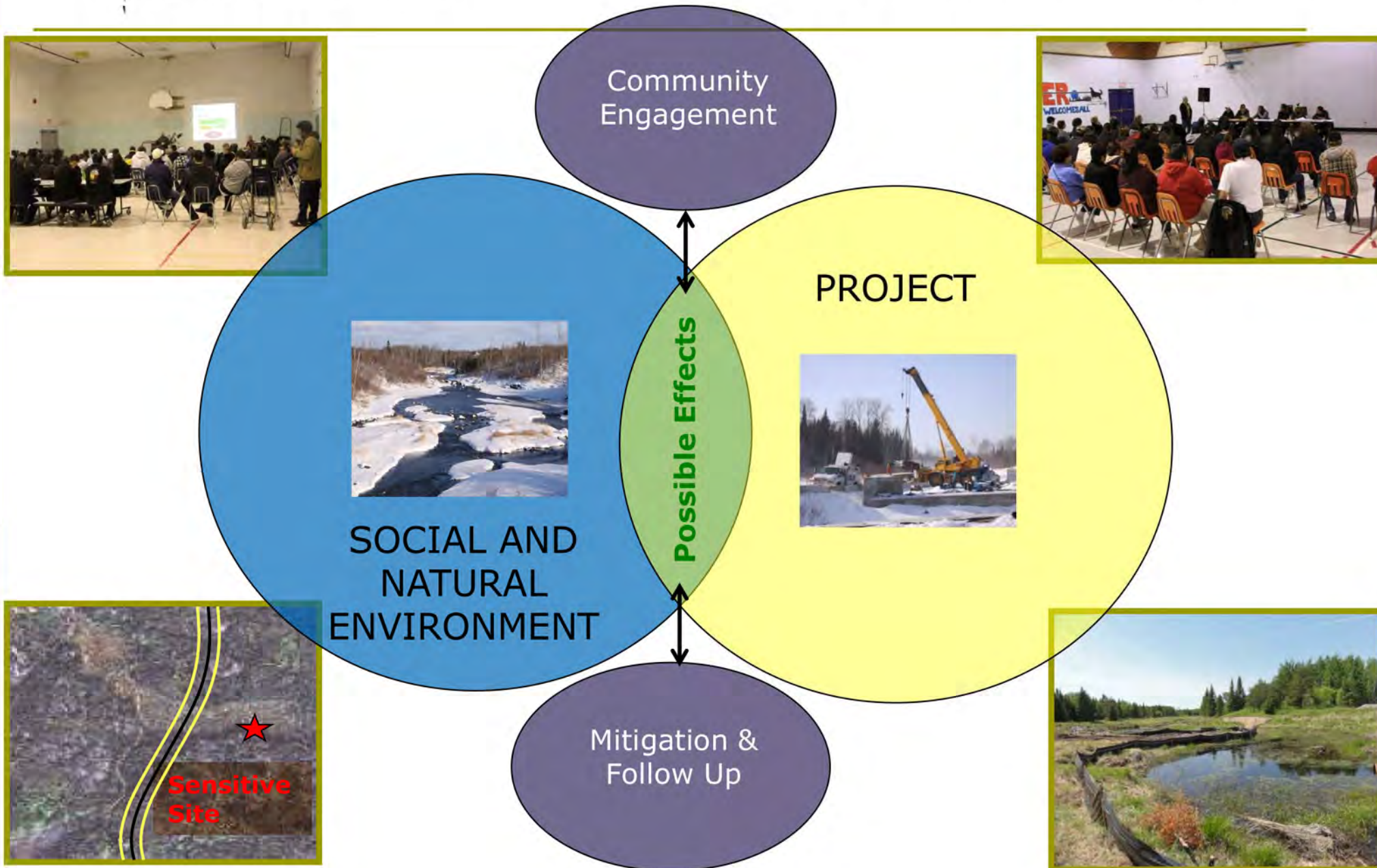


Summary of What We Heard – In-Community Meetings

- What we heard (continued):
 - Ensure travel routes and access to trap lines are maintained;
 - Consider setbacks, restricting access, and temporary barriers to protect sensitive sites;
 - For sensitive lifecycle stages (i.e. spawning fish) schedule construction activities appropriately
 - Interest in the potential effects of construction noise and blasting on sensitive areas;
 - Restrict hunting along the road alignment and during construction; and,
 - Concerns over how a provincial or federal election may impact the project.



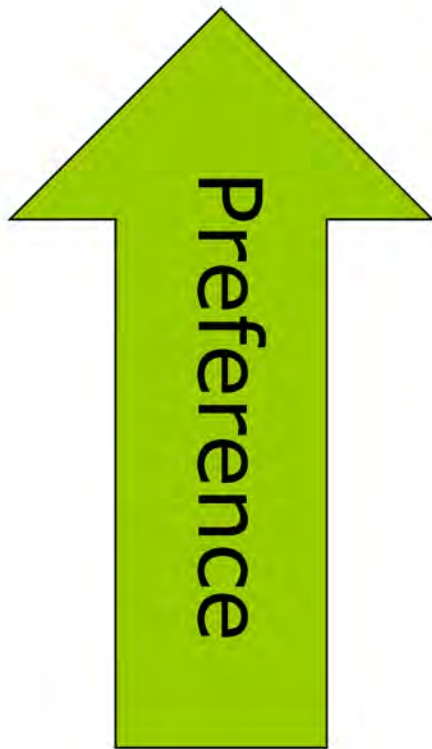
What is Environmental Impact Assessment?



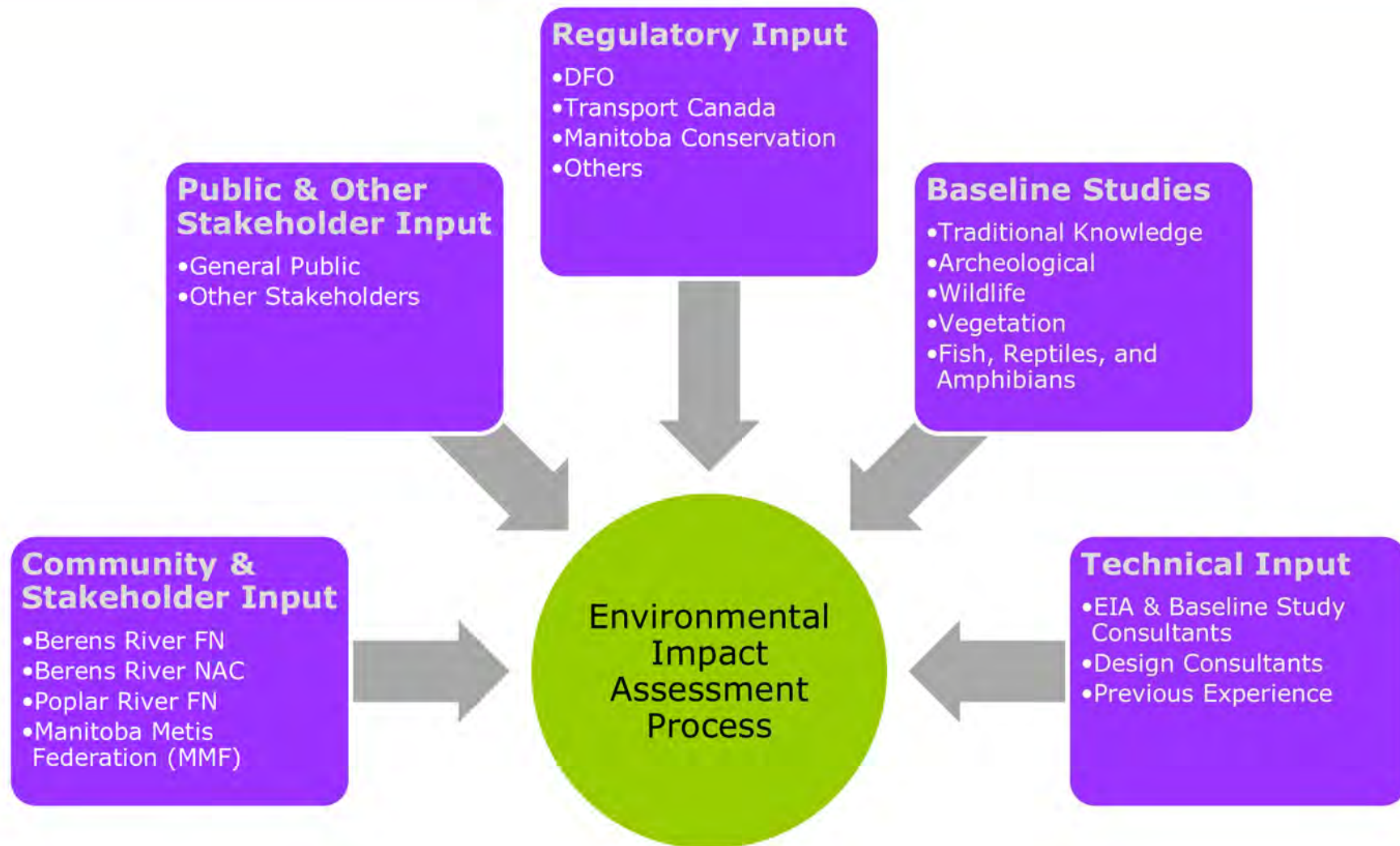
What is Environmental Impact Assessment?

□ "Spectrum of Preference":

- **Avoid**
- **Minimize**
- **Restore**
- **Reduce or Eliminate**
- **Offset**
- **Monitor**

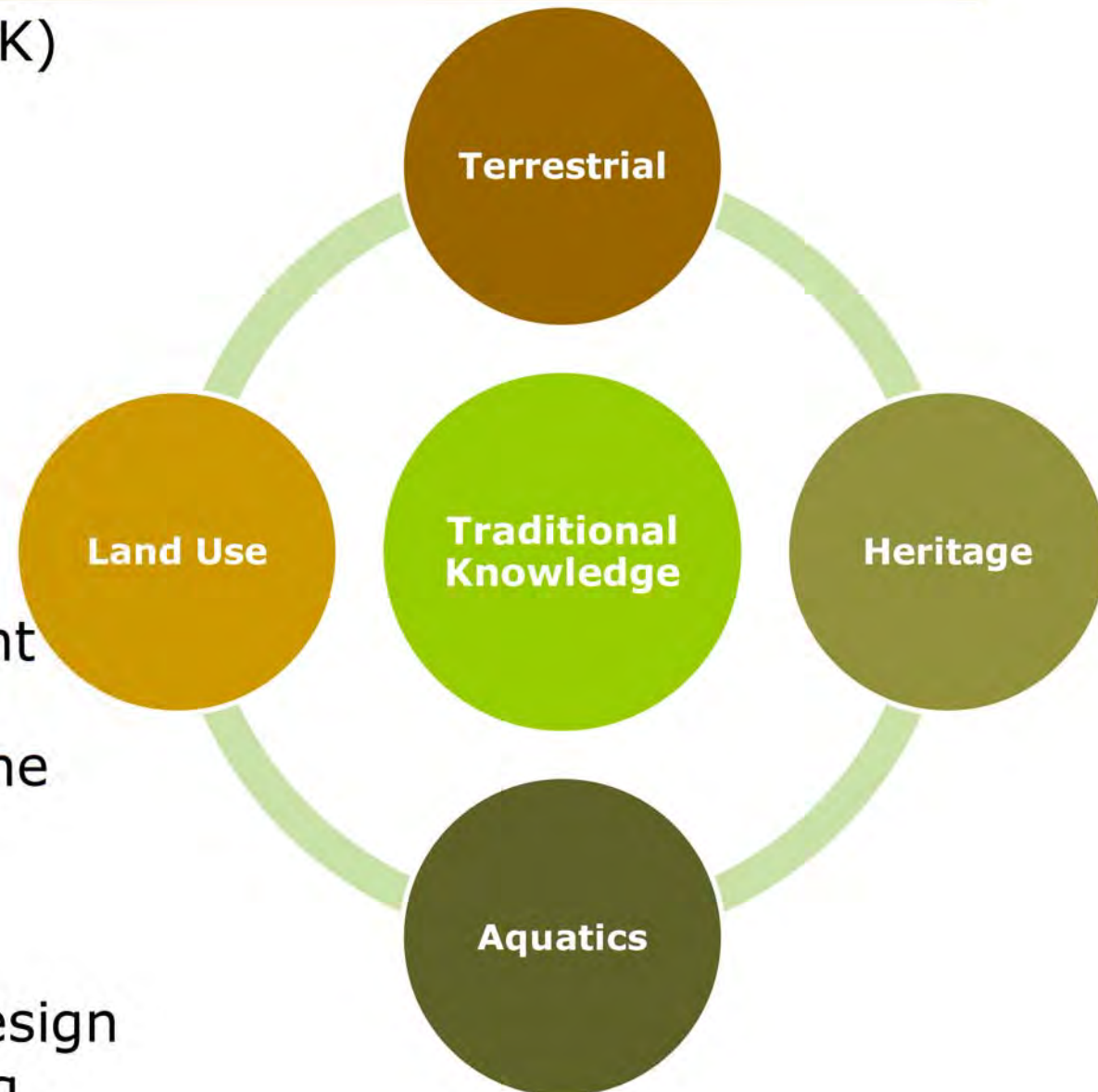


Inputs into the Environmental Impact Assessment Process



Baseline Data

- ❑ Traditional Knowledge (TK)
- ❑ Biophysical studies to augment TK studies
 - Vegetation
 - Wildlife surveys
 - Archaeological studies
 - Fisheries and habitat
- ❑ Used to confirm alignment
- ❑ Provide information for the Environmental Impact Assessment
- ❑ Referenced for project design and construction planning

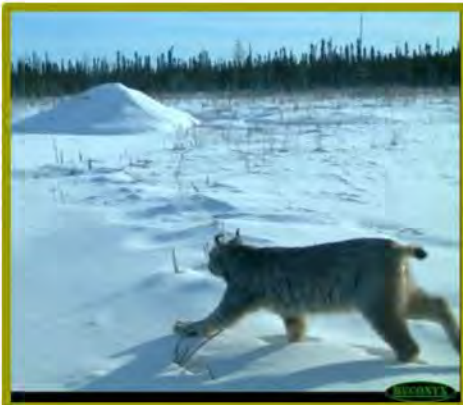


- ❑ Identify important habitat
- ❑ Identify presence of protected species
- ❑ Incorporate local knowledge
- ❑ Evaluate movement relative to existing roads, transmission lines, cut lines, etc.
- ❑ Predator/prey relationships
- ❑ Focus on:
 - Caribou
 - Furbearers (trapped species)
 - Moose
 - Wolves
 - Birds



Wildlife – Trapper Program

- Program started winter 2013/2014
- Trappers are recording:
 - Fur harvest information
 - Weather conditions
 - Animal tracks and sign
 - Collecting samples



□ Vegetation

- Aerial imagery studies to document plant communities
- Field visits to document individual species
- Species at risk, edible plants, medicines

□ Soils & Topography

- Geotechnical studies
- Evaluation of potential change



- ❑ **Field assessment of fisheries, aquatic habitat, and watercourse characteristics**
 - ❑ Aquatic species and habitat
 - ❑ Channel conditions and characteristics
 - ❑ Riparian (stream banks)
 - ❑ Species at risk
 - ❑ Spawning areas

- ❑ **Community discussions on:**
 - Harvested species
 - Sensitive areas



Cultural and Traditional Land Use

- Input from:
 - Communities
 - Elders
 - Traditional Knowledge
 - Archeological studies

- Cultural and archeological sites

- Areas important for community health and well-being

- Harvesting of edible, medicinal, and cultural plants

- Trapping & hunting



Schedule

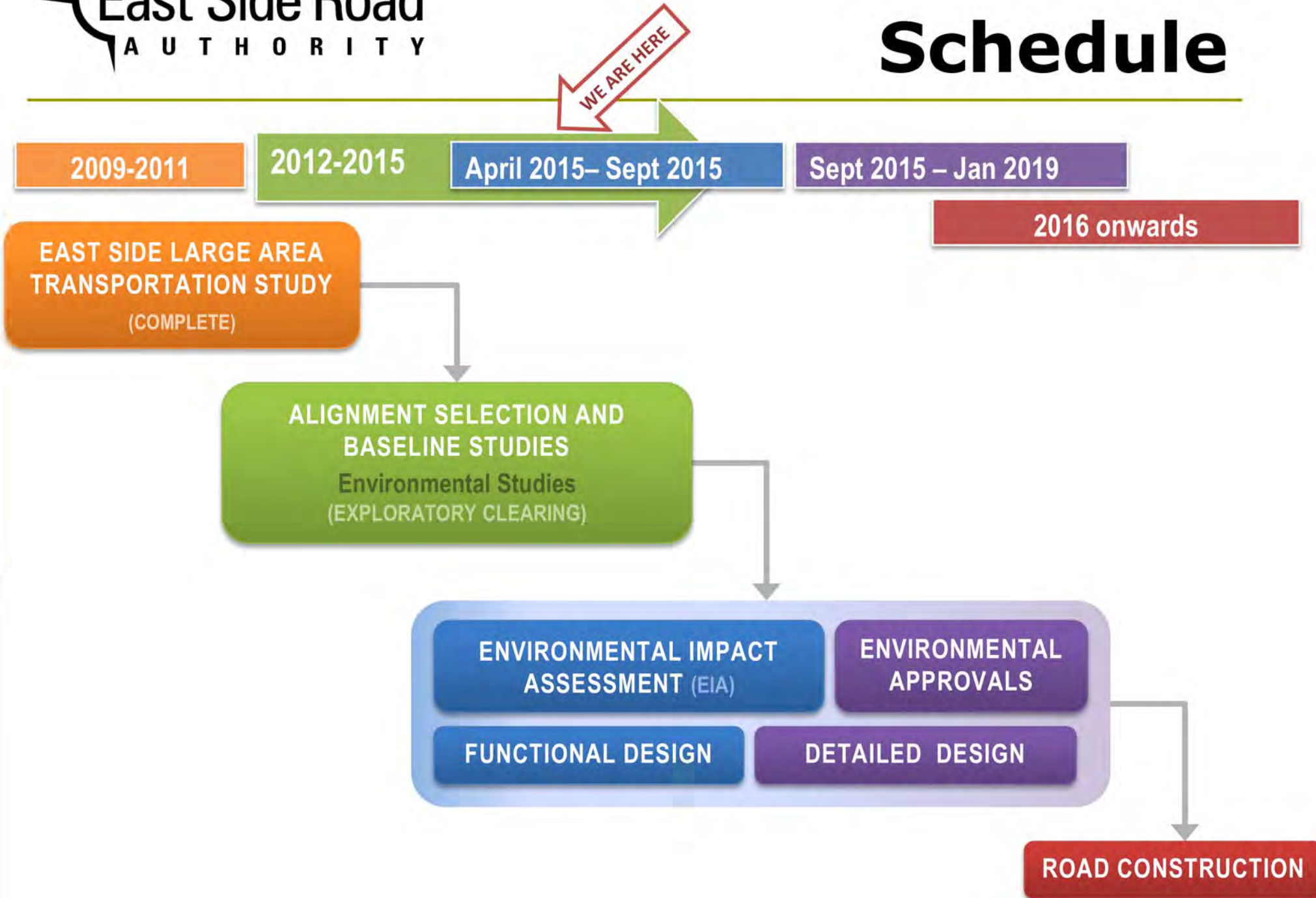


Table Talks!

- ❑ We want to hear and learn from you
- ❑ Write on boards what is important to you, and what should be considered
- ❑ Complete a comment form

We will be back to meet with you to discuss the following:

- **Summer 2015:** To discuss measures to protect the environment

Please stay and talk with us!



Thank you for your participation!

Contact Information

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