

# **“Bridge over International Waters” New Brunswick-Maine Clair-Fort Kent**

Robert Sharpe, M.Sc.E., P.Eng.  
NB Department of Transportation and Infrastructure

# 10 International Bridges Between NB & Maine



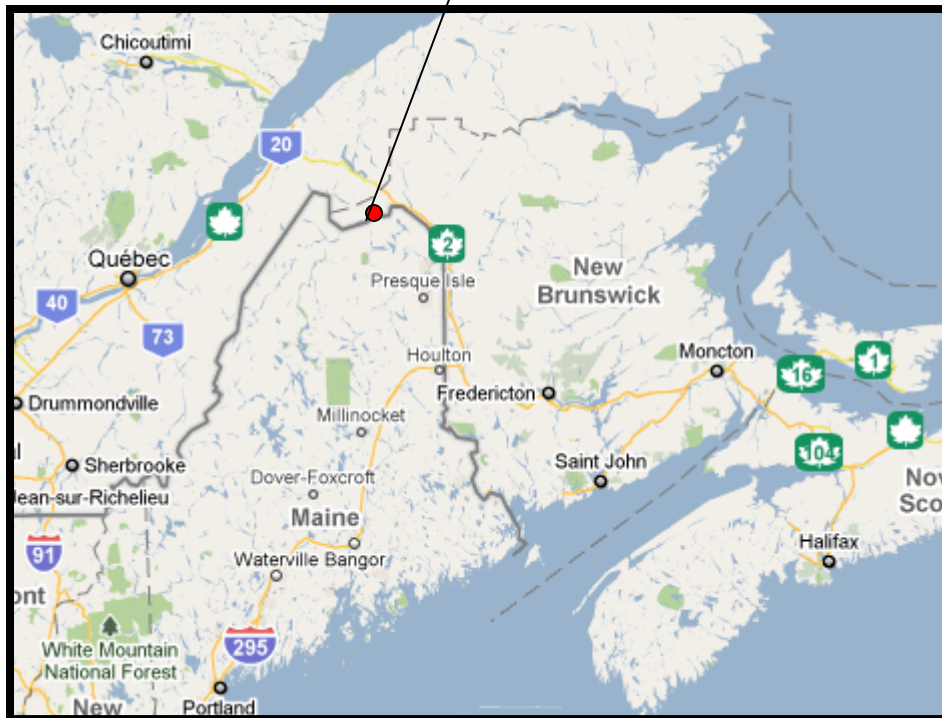
All State/ Province  
Owned

# Coordination - Border Transportation

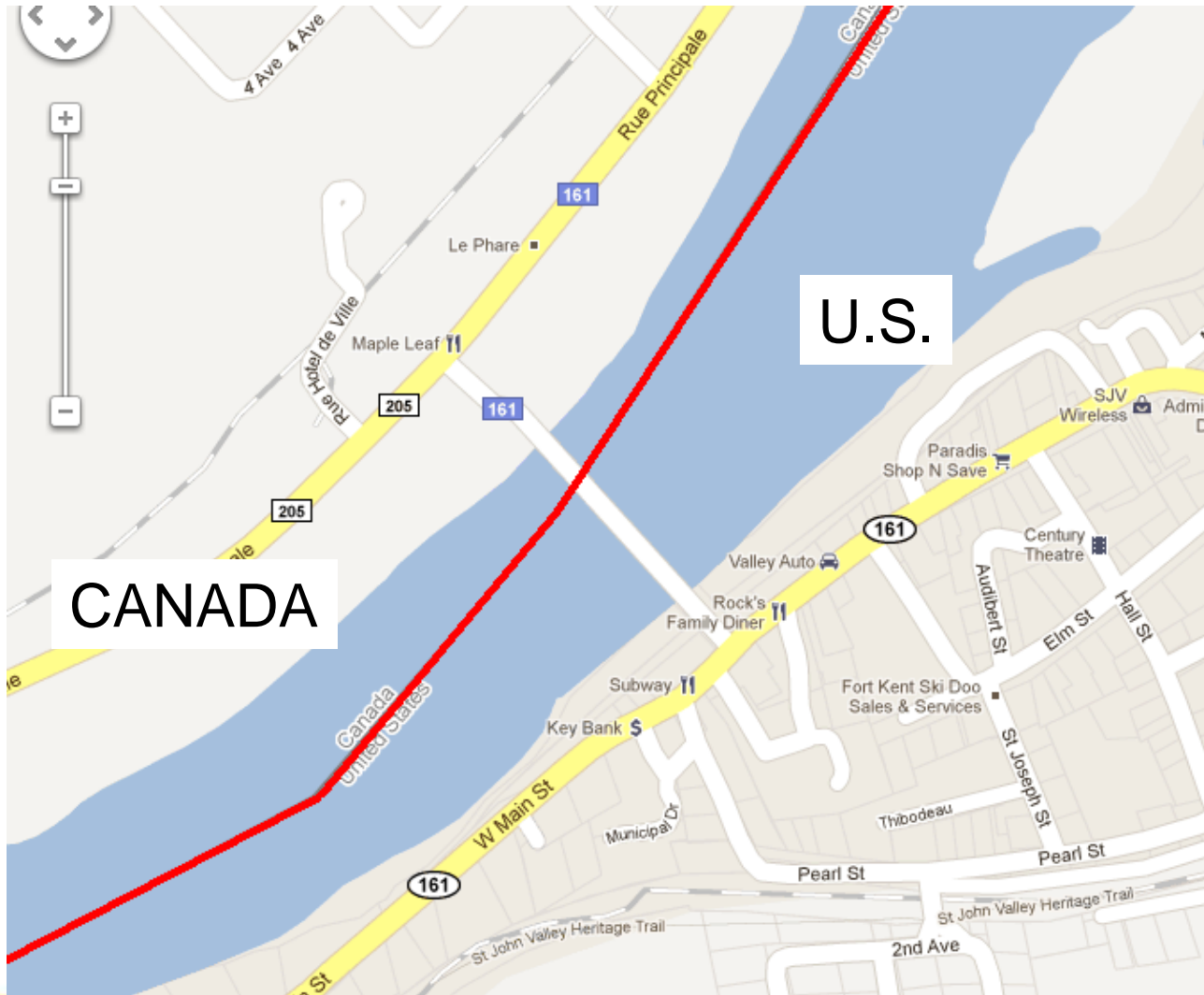
- Cooperation between NB and Maine;
  - Communicate regularly on bridge issues, share experiences, & ideas.
  - Joint inspections are undertaken as logistics permit
- However, Int'l Bridges are a challenge;
  - Infrastructure Deficit - \$'s, & priorities
  - DTI's responsible for bridge only, not ports of entry.
  - Many stakeholders influence the project
  - Legal/Regulatory difficulties working at the border
- Canada-U.S. Transportation Border Working Group
- “By their nature, border crossing projects are complex, time consuming, and subject to **political**, financial, regulatory, and logistical setbacks.” (US State Department)



# Clair Fort Kent Bridge



# International Boundary







INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE, FORT KENT, MAINE



Three span Steel Truss built  
in 1931. ~83 years old.

Bridge ID'd due to;

- Structural Condition
- Functional Obsolescence
- Frequent Flood Risk



**Clair, New Brunswick** (NBDTI Inspection 2006)





Flooding, April 30, 2008



# Brief Project History

- 1990 NB takes over co-ownership from GOC.
- 1993 NB, Maine & stakeholders began disc. Future of the bridge.
- 1996 to 2000 NB - rehab of deck, painting and piers.
- 2002 Maine and NB proceed with replacement.
- 2003 Maine delays project. Historically Significant.
- 2006 project re-start as a rehabilitation briefly.
- 2009 re-start as a replacement.
- Replacement tender Oct/2011, bids are 30% over budget; decide to re-tender.
- Construction now completed and removing the old bridge.



# Stakeholders

- International Bridges and Tunnels Act (Canada 2007). Reviews & Approvals.
- Presidential Permit (US 1968), Permit or Exemption.
- International Joint Commission – common waters.
- International Boundary Commission – boundary survey information.
- Canadian Border Services Agency & Public Works Canada.
- US Border Patrol, US Customs, Homeland Security & US Government Services Agency.





# Stakeholders (Continued)

- ENVIRONMENTAL - Canada;
  - Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency – screening
  - NB Dept. of Env.– Env. Assessment & Watercourse Alteration Permit
  - CAN Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans approval Harmful Alteration Disruption or Destruction of Fish Habitat.
  - Transport Canada Approval - Navigable Waters
- ENVIRONMENTAL – US
  - Maine Department of Environment
  - United States Army Corps of Engineers – levee that protects Fort Kent.
  - Department of the Army, Office of Environmental Services
  - United States Coast Guard – Navigable Waters



# Construction at the Border

Issues requiring attention in the contract documents & from the successful contractor include;

- Tax System GST/HST, Personal and Corporate Taxes
  - North American Free Trade Agreement NAFTA (1994)
- Buy America (1933)
- Labour & Immigration



# Opportunities for the Future

- Comprehensive planning of the entire port facility. Partnered NB and Maine Asset Management for all components of the border facilities.
- Reduce # of stakeholders influencing the project or establish a representative with authority for decisions.
- Simplify regulatory regime associated with construction at the border.
  - *A **free trade zone (FTZ)** or **export processing zone (EPZ)** , also called **foreign-trade zone**, formerly **free port** is an area within which goods may be landed, handled, manufactured or reconfigured, and re-exported without the intervention of the customs authorities*
- Reduction of project timeline. Is 12 years too much?
- Dedicated International Bridge personnel.





Questions?