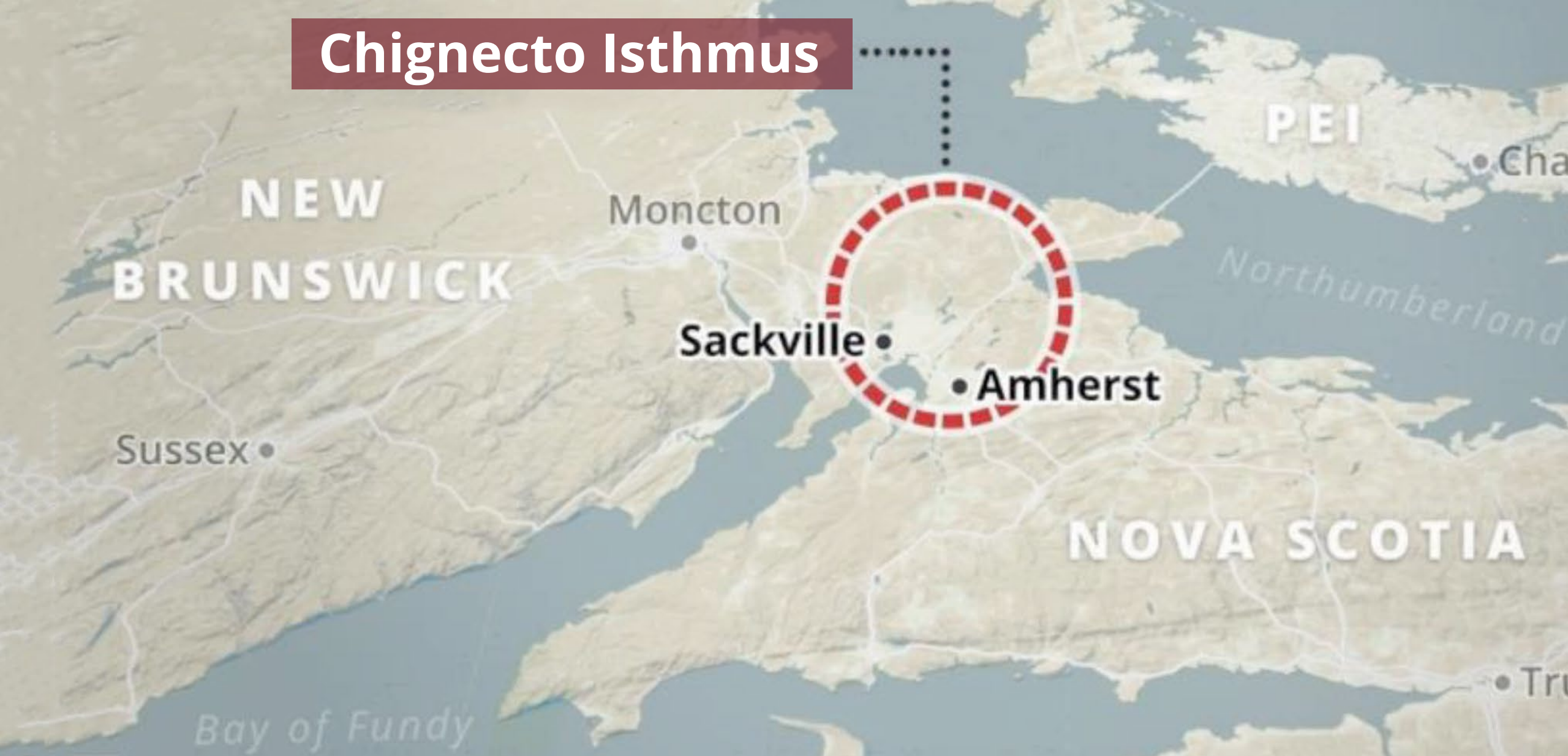


Chignecto Isthmus Resiliency Project:

Presentation to EBTC 2025 Conference
Quebec City
May 7, 2025

Chignecto Isthmus



Chignecto Isthmus Resiliency Project

The Chignecto Isthmus is a narrow land bridge which physically connects the Provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. It is a critical land transport corridor for people and goods travelling between **Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador, and the rest of Canada.**

An estimated **\$250 million per day or \$94 billion annually of trade** rely on this transport corridor*.

This area is located in a very complex landscape containing environmental, archaeological, cultural, First Nation, and historical significance.

* Updated value from unreleased report

Agenda

01 Governance

04 Resources

02 Activities

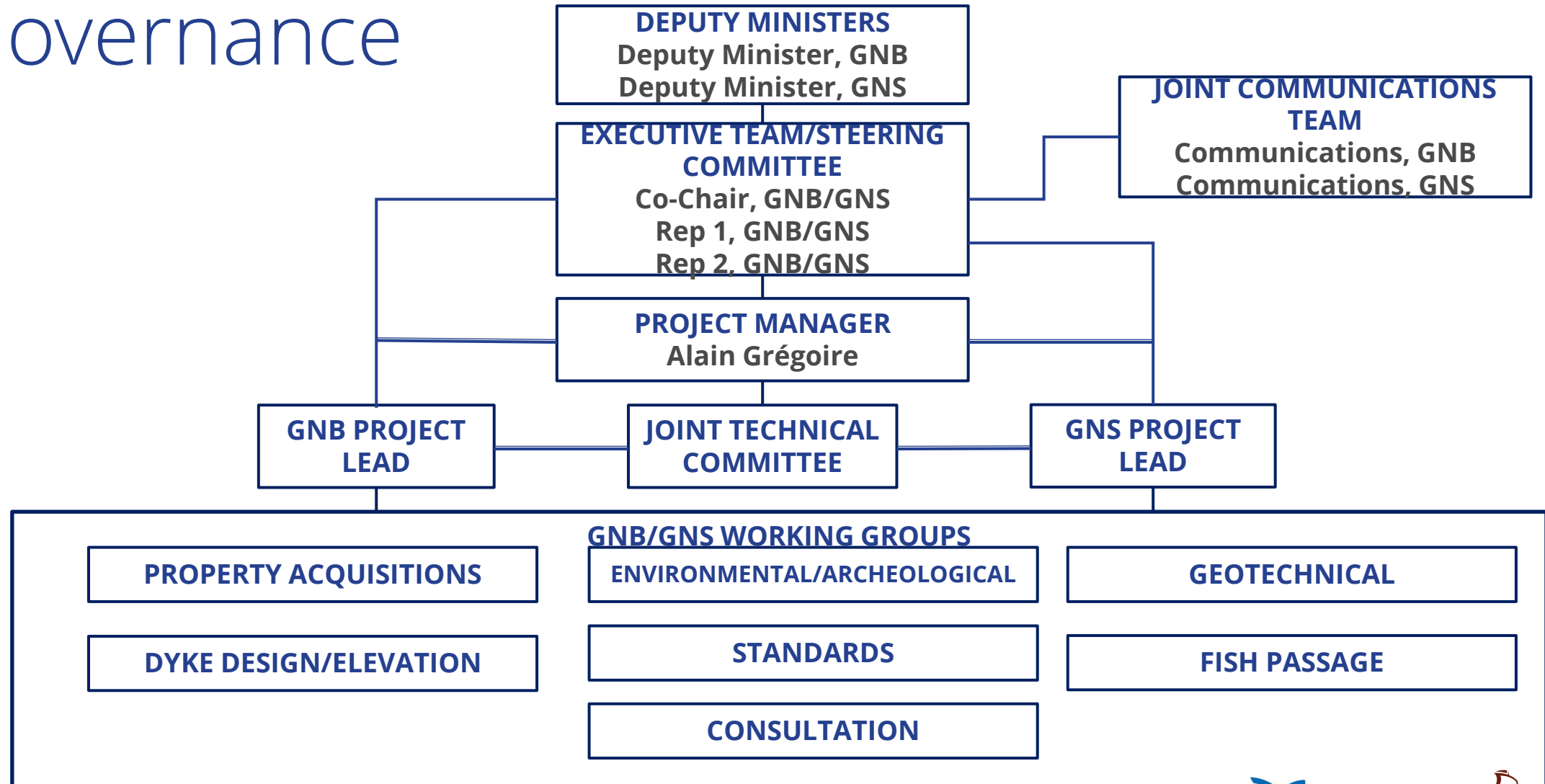
05 Budget

03 Engagement

06 Funding

Chignecto Isthmus Resiliency Project

Governance

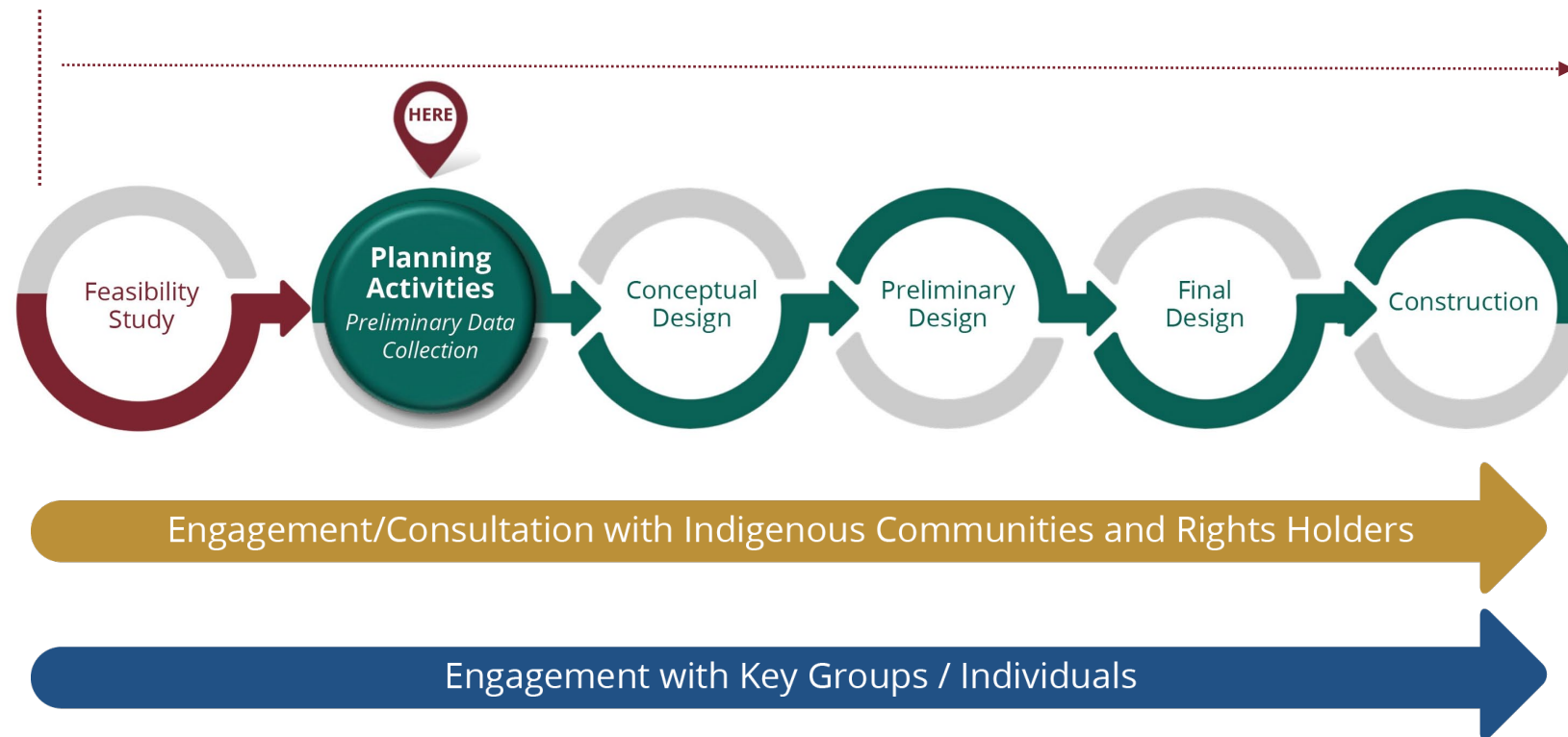


NB/NS Chignecto Isthmus Resiliency Project

Developing preliminary work approach - prioritizing the main areas of focus.

Engagement early in the project is key to success - it provides transparency and opportunity to gain insight and knowledge necessary for the design.

Design options and solutions are determined through various technical analyses, stakeholder engagement and Indigenous consultation along core ***Stages of a Project.***





Made By: Checked By:	123 123	 Department of TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE Environmental Branch	Chignecto-Isthmus Resilience Project EBS Study Area	GENERAL MAP	Date: 17 JUL 2024 FIGURE 1
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Activities

- Property Acquisition
 - Acquisition Plan under development – Building a Joint plan with NB/NS including benchmark land appraisal review – **Ongoing**
 - Acquisition Plan is being reviewed by subgroup - **Ongoing**
 - Acquisition approach, joint appraisal (funding) and tentative start date to be determined - **Ongoing**
- Environmental
 - NS Field work began mid-summer 2024 - **Ongoing**
 - NB ENV RFP closed and is currently in selection process– **Ongoing**
- Engineering
 - Geotechnical
 - Evaluation of data gaps from the feasibility study (2022) with external consultant – **Complete**
 - Identify anticipated activities (field work) and milestones for the next 6 months - **Ongoing**

Activities (continued)

- Missaquash Early Planning
 - Consultant to undertake early planning work on fish passage- **Ongoing**
 - Step 1 is to Identify and complete Pre-Analysis Fish Passage Options – **Ongoing**
 - Step 2 is to analyze Alternative Crossing Locations - **Planned**
- Standards
 - Joint consultation on provincial standards relating to Dyke Design Standards & Elevation - **Planned**
- Owner's Engineer
 - Exploring retaining the services of a technical consultant to advance the design criteria, solutions - **Planned**
- Marinova Economic Report
 - Final report being reviewed for approval by designated NB/NS committee members with intent to release in Spring 2025 – **Ongoing**

Activities (continued)

- NRC Tide and Storm Surge Simulation Report
 - Final report being reviewed for approval by designated NB/NS committee members with intent to release in Spring 2025 - **Ongoing**
- Governance - Gantt Chart, Project Plan, and Decision Tracker
 - Schedule and Gantt chart for the next 2 years, including key milestones and intersections - **Planned**
 - Create a Project plan including reporting requirements - **Planned**
 - Develop a decision tracker linked to quality assurance - **Planned**
- Engagement
 - Initial engagement meeting held with municipalities and special groups - **Ongoing**

Stakeholder/Key group Engagement

- Draft engagement plan completed and is being reviewed by the Steering Committee – **Ongoing**
- Final plan was distributed to the Steering Committee in January in preparation for the joint consultation meeting – **Planned**
- Joint consultation meeting in May– larger meeting with key groups/individuals to talk about the project to ensure we have all key information/expertise – **Planned**
- There may be a need to have a small External Technical Steering Committee of NGOs/SMEs – efficient way to consult/collaborate with the broader representation – **Planned**

Indigenous Engagement

- The provinces continue to work on Approach to Collaboration, Engagement and Consultation document - **Ongoing**
- A draft document from DIA and OLA has been submitted for review and feedback– **Ongoing**
- Meetings held in NB with MTI and Kopit Lodge – **Ongoing**
- Proposals on Project Participation and Knowledge Studies to be submitted – **Ongoing**
- Formal consultation to be initiated by NB/NS – **Planned**

Contingency Plan

- Continue to assess alternate route requirements, Public Safety Canada exercise now delayed until early Summer 2025.

Resources

- Internal Resources
 - TBD what resources will be needed by Spring 2025 – **Ongoing**
- External Resources
 - PM and provincial leads to identify external resources for the project based on project delivery model.

Examples

- Stakeholder Engagement oversight for overall CIRP Project
- Provincial Owner Engineer (Oversight for Engineering, Environmental (Regulatory, Archaeology...), Targeted Engagement)

Funding

- **Milestone:** On March 20, 2025, the federal government and the province of NB and NS formally announcing a commitment to fund the project. The Minister of Housing Infrastructure and Communities **announcing DMAF federal funding of up to \$325 Million and the provinces committing to fund equally the remaining project funding.**
- **Next Steps:**
 1. Receive formal “**Approval-in-Principle**” federal funding letter.
(Timeline – approximately 4 – 6 weeks post federal election, June 2025)
 2. Negotiation and Signing of **Federal Funding Contribution Agreement:**
includes;
 - NB & NS drafting & signing an “**Amendment to the Cooperation MOU**” to address the cost-sharing of the remaining provincial share of project costs and other potential cost-sharing partners (eg: CN),
 - NB and NS going to their respective governments to ask permission to enter into this Agreement.
(Timeline – approximately late Fall / early Winter 2025.)

Legal – Initiatives towards full federal funding

- Nova Scotia launched a **Constitutional Reference case** in the Nova Scotia Court of Appeal – initial hearings were held in March 2025 and as a result Nova Scotia's Court of Appeal has reserved its decision on whether the federal government is solely responsible for the dike system that protects the low-lying land corridor linking Nova Scotia with New Brunswick.
- Senator Jim Quinn of New Brunswick introduced an **independent Bill in the Senate (S-273)** in September 2023 to declare the Chignecto Isthmus Dykeland System and related works to be for the general advantage of Canada – adopted by Senate and referred to House of Commons.

Note: this independent Senate Bill died on the order table when Parliament was prorogued on January 6/25. To move forward it would have to be introduced.

Milestones by late Fall / early Winter 2025

- Signing an “Amendment to the Cooperation MOU” to address the cost-sharing of the remaining provincial share of project costs and other potential cost-sharing partners (eg: CN),
- Receive Formal “approval-in-principle” of federal DMAF funding to permit cost-sharing
- DMAF Funding and Contribution Agreement
- Governance structure, Project Plan, Gantt Chart, Decision Tracker
- Hydrotechnical and Geotechnical Data Collection
- Tantramar River and Missaquash River Early Planning
- Environmental Data Collection
- Targeted Engagement
- Acquisition study, acquisition approach, and tentative start date to be determined
- Owner Engineer
- Project Deliver Method
- Options analysis

Questions?



Proportions of the Work

Estimated Total Dyke System Length ~ 14 km

NB Length of Dyke System estimated ~ 9.5 km

NS Length of Dyke System estimated ~ 4.5km

Major Water Control Structures – Tantramar River, Aulac River, Carters Brook

Major Water Control Structure at demarcation point– Missaguash River*

*Building in the dry may cause this structure to be on one side of the border and maybchange the location of the border

Total Project Cost from DMAF Application

Cost Item (\$2023)	Basis of estimate	Updated Cost Estimate
Contractors' costs for dyke system	quantities and unit rates	\$240,000,000
Contractors' costs for large aboiteaux and water control structures	quantities and unit rates	98,000,000
Total contractors' costs (\$2023)		\$338,000,000
Construction Contingency	30% of contractors' costs	\$101,400,000
Environmental permitting and monitoring costs	5% of contractors' costs	\$16,900,000
Total Construction Costs (\$2023)		\$456,300,000
Detailed Design Costs	5% of total construction costs	\$23,000,000
Construction Engineering Costs	10% of total construction costs	\$46,000,000
Total Construction and Engineering Costs (\$2023)		\$525,300,000
Land Acquisition Costs	0.3% of total construction and engineering costs	\$2,000,000
Design and construction changes for environmental approval	5% of total construction and engineering costs	\$26,000,000
Total capital costs (\$2023)		\$561,300,000
Total cost including inflation until end of construction (current\$)	15.8% increase in 2023 costs for inflation (see Table 8)	\$650,000,000