

Ontario issues RFP to design Highway 17 expansion between Arnprior and Renfrew

By [Robin MacLennan, Editor, Ontario Construction News](#) March 4, 2026

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RENFREW – The Ontario government has issued a request for proposals to design the expansion of Highway 17 from two to four lanes between Arnprior and Renfrew, advancing plans to twin a key section of the Trans-Canada Highway corridor in eastern Ontario.

The province plans to twin 22.5 kilometres of Highway 17 from Scheel Drive near Arnprior to three kilometres west of Bruce Street near the Renfrew.

Highway 17 is part of the Trans-Canada Highway system and serves as a major trade corridor linking communities across eastern Ontario.

Ric Bresee, parliamentary assistant to the minister of transportation, says infrastructure investments are critical as U.S. tariffs continue to affect Canadian families and businesses.

“Expanding Highway 17 will secure a vital trade corridor, fight gridlock and support good-paying jobs during construction,” Bresee said in a statement.

The first stage of the project was completed in November 2023 with the construction of a new bridge and interchange at Highway 17 and Calabogie Road.

Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke MPP Billy Denault said the expansion is an important milestone for the Ottawa Valley.

“This stretch of highway is a critical artery in the Ottawa Valley, connecting communities, supporting our economy and carrying families safely home each night,” Denault said.

The province says it is investing \$30 billion to build, repair and expand highways, roads and bridges across Ontario. In addition to the Calabogie Road interchange, three new interchanges are planned as part of the Highway 17 expansion projects in Renfrew County.

Industry and leaders welcomed the announcement.

“RCCAO is delighted with the progress to expand Highway 17, a significant and meaningful milestone for Eastern Ontario and our province’s infrastructure network,” said Nadia Todorova, executive director, Residential and Civil Construction Alliance of Ontario. “As a critical link in the Trans-Canada Highway corridor, this investment will enhance safety, ease congestion and support the efficient movement of goods and people.

“We commend the Government of Ontario for continuing to prioritize investment in critical transportation infrastructure that creates jobs, drives economic growth and builds stronger, more resilient communities.”

Renfrew County Warden Jennifer Murphy said the project represents an investment in safety and the future of the Ottawa Valley. Horton Township Mayor Daina Proctor said the twinning will improve safety and emergency access, while Renfrew Mayor Tom Sidney said a four-lane Highway 17 will strengthen connections to jobs and services.

McNab/Braeside Mayor Lori Hoddinott said the municipality looks forward to working with the province to advance the project.