Naskapi Nation of
Nation Naskapi de
KAWAWACHIKAMACH

1009, Naskapi Road
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Nuchimiyushiiy, Québec
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PROJECT Q&A

Nuuhchiimiiu Maaskinuw

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What is the purpose of the road project?

The purpose of this project is to explore the feasibility of a Naskapi-led multi-user road through Nuchimiyuschiiy (ᓄᒋᒥᔪᔅᒋᔾ) that supports community access, strengthens territorial governance, and enables more coordinated regional development.

Where would the road be located and what route options have been identified?

The road under consideration would be within Nuchimiyuschiiy, with a strategic direction toward Schefferville, using existing infrastructure where possible. If built, the road would connect remote areas of the territory to the rail network in Schefferville while avoiding areas of ecological sensitivity and cultural importance.

Route options have not yet been identified. If the project advances, route selection will be informed by technical, environmental, and cultural considerations and led by the Naskapi Nation.

What needs does this project respond to?

From the Naskapi perspective, the road under consideration responds to three primary needs:

1. A coordinated approach to infrastructure development on their traditional territory
2. Increased self-determination in land use planning and management
3. Improved access to Nuchimiyuschiiy by Naskapis, from Schefferville

What stage is the project currently at?

The project is currently in the pre-feasibility phase. No decision has been made to proceed with road development, and no potential corridors have been selected or approved.

At this stage, the focus is on assessing potential road options, engaging with Indigenous Nations and regional stakeholders, and evaluating the project's social acceptability.

Advancement to a formal feasibility study would only be considered if the Naskapi Nation determines that the project has sufficient social acceptability among the Indigenous Nations and communities concerned.

What are the main objectives of the project?

1. To assess whether a Naskapi-led transportation corridor can be developed through Nuchimiyuschiiy
2. To evaluate how such a corridor could support partner activities while advancing Naskapi economic development

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How does this project align with Naskapi priorities and long-term vision?

The project aligns with the Naskapi Nation's priorities by supporting self-determination, strengthening stewardship of Nuchimiyuschiiy, and ensuring that any development reflects Naskapi governance, values, and long-term community interests.

Who are the parties involved in this project?

Naskapi Chief and Council mandated Deputy Chief Nathan Uniam and Councilor Louise Mameanskum to oversee the Nuuhchiimiiu Maaskinuw Project through the Project Management Committee. They also chair the Industry Working Group, joined by industrial stakeholders with representatives from Mont Royal Resources, Scandium Canada and Torngat Metals, as well as government stakeholders from Société Plan Nord and the Minister of Natural Resources and Forests.

Additional working groups are planned to address environmental concerns, technical considerations and business opportunities. These groups will be made up of relevant Naskapi portfolio holders, experts and advisors.

Other than the Naskapi Nation, the parties who will be invited to participate in the consultation process will include:

- Innu Nation of Matimekush-Lac John
- Town of Schefferville
- Innu Takuaikan Uashat mak Mani-utenam (ITUM)
- Inuit community of Kuujjuaq
- Inuit community of Kangiqsualujjuaq
- Kativik Regional Government
- Makivik

Leadership from each party will be invited to identify stakeholders to be engaged for this project.

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What is the role of each party in the Industry Working Group?

The Naskapi Nation is leading the project, supported by its partners. The Industry Working Group is chaired by Nathan Uniam, Deputy Chief of the Naskapi Nation. All parties recognize the Naskapi Nation as rightsholder on the territory.

Industry and government proponents in the Industry Working Group participate by contributing to analysis and planning discussions related to potential road access for their regional activities.

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Who is leading the project and making final decisions?

The project is initiated, led, and chaired by the Naskapi Nation, ensuring that all decisions align with its governance, rights, and priorities. The Naskapi Nation believes in the importance of seeking consent from other impacted communities, including the Innu and Inuit.

The Industry Working Group is chaired by the Deputy Chief, Nathan Uniam, and decisions within the group are made by consensus. Each industry and government proponent also maintains its own internal decision-making processes.

What agreements are in place between the Naskapi Nation and other parties in the Industry Working Group?

All participants to the Industry Working Group have signed a Multi-Partied Non-Disclosure Agreement and Terms of Reference that outlines the structure, roles, and expectations for collaboration.

The Naskapi Nation also has Pre-Development Agreements signed with Torngat Metals and Scandium Canada.

The Naskapi Nation also has agreements confirming both in-kind and in-cash contributions from government proponents.

What are the expected benefits of a road for Indigenous communities and organizations?

Expected benefits for Indigenous communities and organizations include:

- Better access to traditional territories for community members
- More coordinated regional development
- Reducing cumulative environmental impacts of fragmented development
- Greater alignment of development with Indigenous governance and stewardship priorities
- Increased control over infrastructure within traditional territories

What benefits will industry and government proponents in the Industry Working Group receive if a road is built?

Expected benefits for project partners may include:

- Improved social acceptability through collaboration with the Naskapi Nation
- Better access to regional information and constraints
- Opportunities for shared infrastructure and cost efficiencies
- Potential interim access solutions that could support project development

How will the community be informed and engaged throughout the social acceptability assessment project?

The Naskapi Nation will lead engagement through community meetings, information sessions, and ongoing communication at each stage of the project.

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How will community feedback influence decision-making?

Community input will play a central role in shaping project decisions, including routing, design, and implementation. Adjustments will be made where necessary to reflect community priorities and concerns.

What environmental studies would be conducted if a road is built?

Environmental studies have not yet been initiated due to the early stage of the project. If the project advances, all required environmental assessments and studies will be completed in accordance with applicable regulations. Beyond these regulations, the Naskapi Nation is also committed to leading any further studies that may be necessary in order to protect its interests.

How would potential environmental impacts be avoided or minimized?

Environmental considerations will be integrated into all stages of the project. Planning and design will aim to avoid sensitive areas and minimize impacts through appropriate mitigation measures.

The Naskapi Nation has stewarded Nuchimiyuschiiy since time immemorial, and this responsibility continues to guide all aspects of the Nation's development decisions.

What approvals are required for the project to proceed?

Required approvals will be identified in later project phases but are expected to include environmental assessments and permits at the provincial and/or federal level.

What environmental assessment processes must be completed?

The environmental assessment processes associated with this project will be identified if and when route options are determined.

All industry and government proponents in the Industry Working Group are subject to their own environmental assessment processes for their activities on Nuchimiyuschiiy.

When would construction be expected to begin?

Construction is not authorized at this time. The project is still in the planning and assessment stage. Furthermore, the objective is not to build a road for the sake of building a road, but rather to ensure that any road required to be built, in particular for a mine, is designed taking into account Naskapi values and interests, rather than reacting to road proposed by a proponent.

How would construction impacts (noise, dust, traffic) be managed?

Management measures will be developed in later phases and will aim to minimize impacts on the environment and surrounding areas.

Who would own the road if it were built?

Ownership has not yet been determined and will be defined in future phases, with Naskapi leadership as a central consideration.

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Who would be responsible for operating and maintaining the road?

Operations and maintenance have not yet been determined and will be defined in future phases, with Naskapi leadership as a central consideration.

What role would the Naskapi Nation play in long-term management of a potential road?

Should this project move forward, the Nation will evaluate its capacity to lead construction, operations and maintenance. Regardless of ownership, the Naskapi Nation will play a central role in governance, oversight, and stewardship of the road over the long term.

Indigenous participation in such a project is a priority for the Nation.

What is the estimated cost of the social acceptability assessment project?

The estimated cost of a potential road is still being determined and will depend on the scope and design of the project. The estimated cost of the assessment is evaluated between $1M and $2M.

How will the social acceptability assessment project be funded?

The project is expected to be funded through a combination of federal and provincial government programs, contributions from the Naskapi Nation of Kawawachikamach, and financial support from industry and government proponents in the Industry Working Group with interests in regional resource development.

The Naskapi Nation is leading the assessment to ensure that decisions regarding potential road infrastructure reflect its priorities, values, and long-term interests. Contributions from industry and government proponents do not constitute approval of a road or a commitment to future construction.

What is the overall social acceptability assessment project timeline?

The assessment project is expected to last at least one year. While further planning is required for a precise timeline, and subject to approval of a mine, construction of a road is not currently anticipated to start before 2028 and be completed by the end of 2030 or later. Since no mine has received any approval, such dates are only indicative.