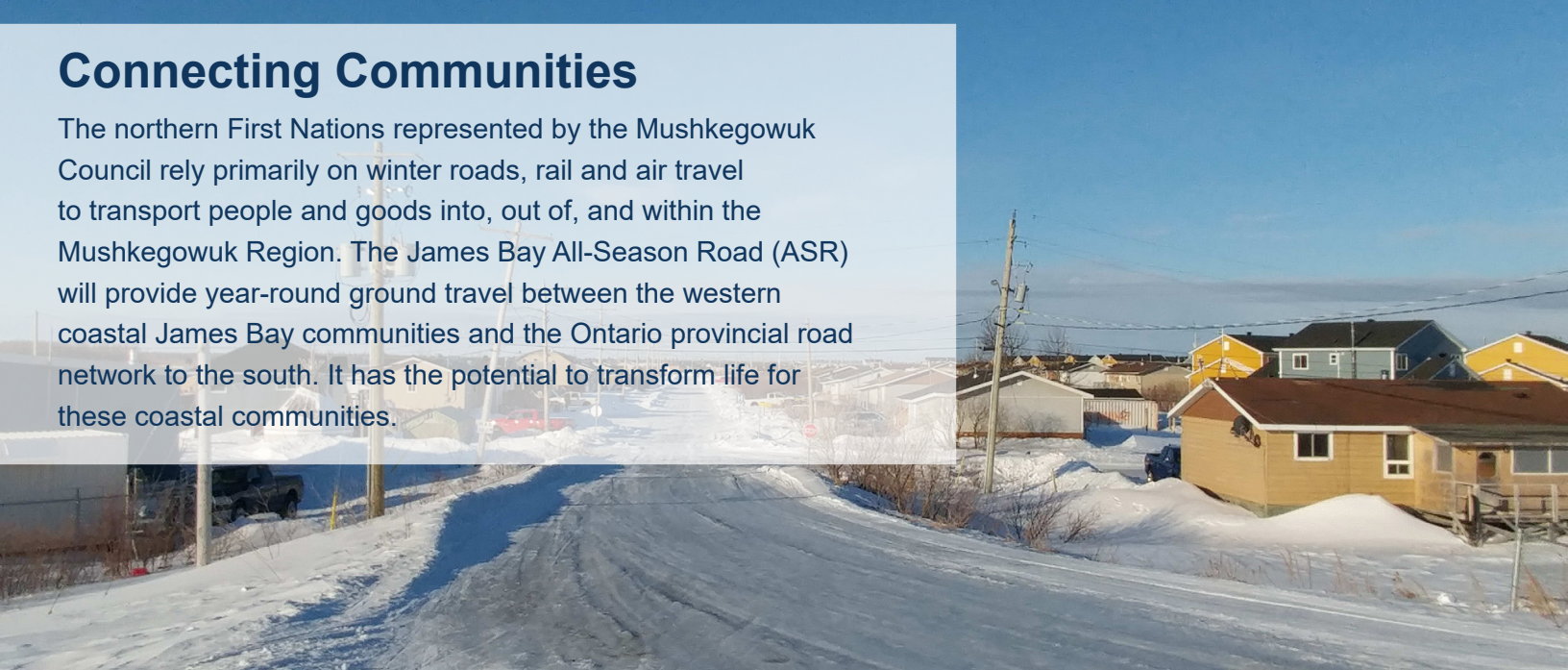


JAMES BAY ALL-SEASON ROAD: TAKING TIME FOR LISTENING AND LEARNING

Connecting Communities

The northern First Nations represented by the Mushkegowuk Council rely primarily on winter roads, rail and air travel to transport people and goods into, out of, and within the Mushkegowuk Region. The James Bay All-Season Road (ASR) will provide year-round ground travel between the western coastal James Bay communities and the Ontario provincial road network to the south. It has the potential to transform life for these coastal communities.



A Vast Study Area

Given the size of the study area, a key challenge faced by the study team was determining a preferred corridor, particularly given the varying strongly held preferences of the different communities. The evaluation considered some 44 individual criteria - within natural environment, socio-economic environment, cultural environment and cost factor groups.

Based on the assessment of corridor and alignment alternatives, the recommended ASR is defined as 525 km of all-season road on a new right-of-way. This ASR is comprised of two primary ASR sections (inland and coastal) that together constitute the Recommended ASR Route.

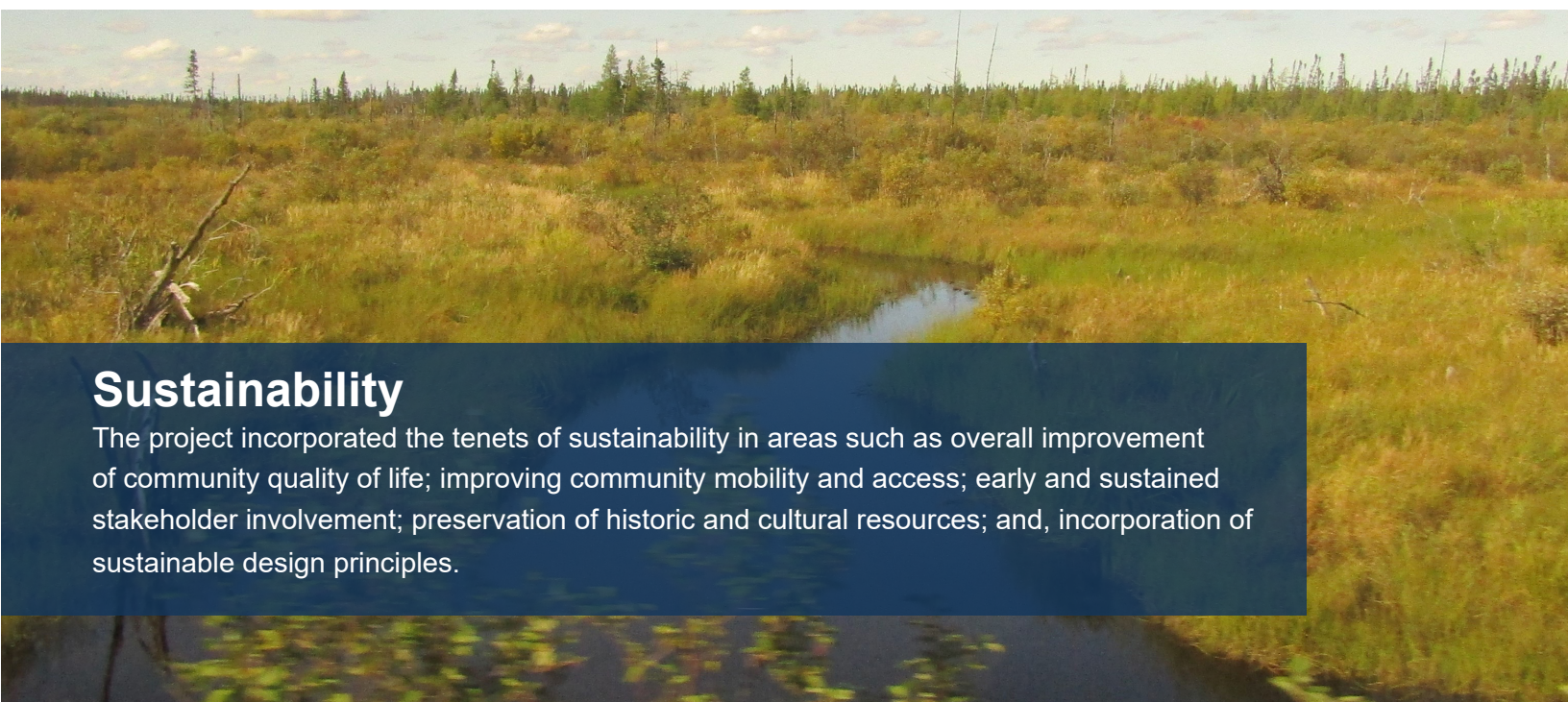




Innovative Approach to Design

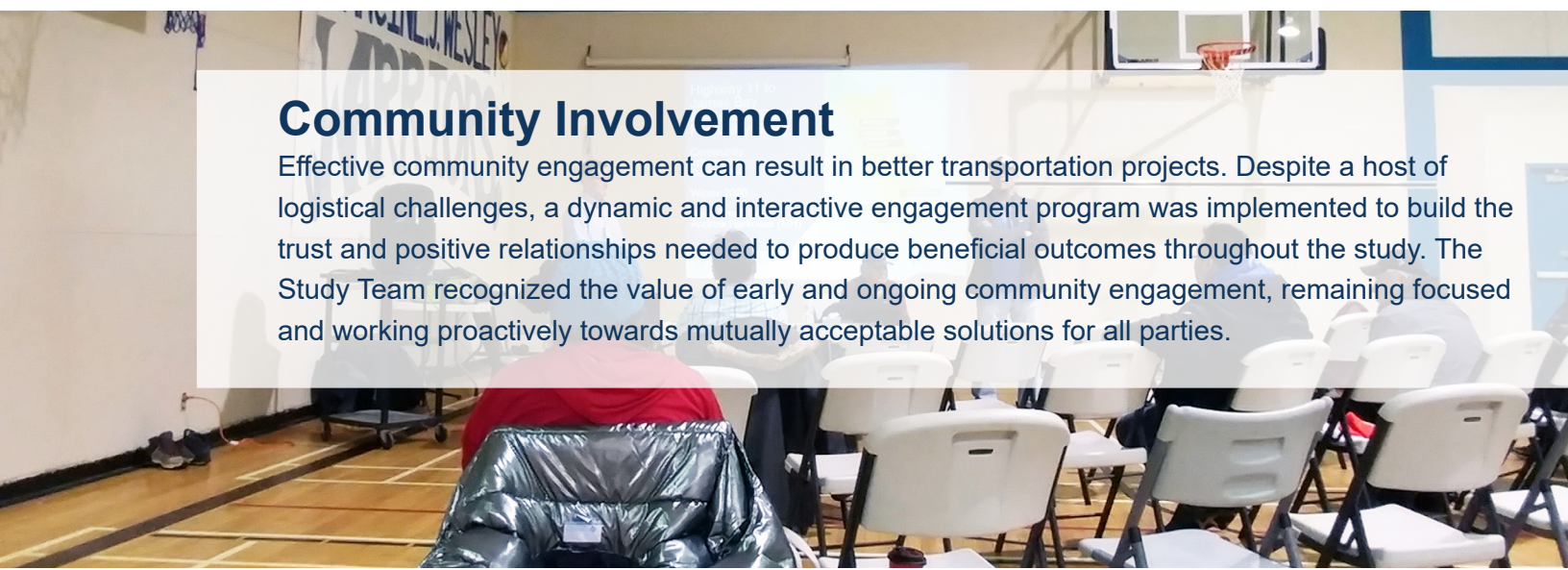
Through studies and analysis, conceptual designs were developed where it was proposed that using composite layers of geosynthetic pavement structure would mitigate concerns with differential settlement and allow for uniform distribution of loads over a wider footprint. This allows for a floating pavement design in muskeg areas.

The conceptual roadway designs considered the lack of readily available granular materials typically used in construction, in proximity to the alignment. Options were also explored to search for suitable construction material, including drilling programs, surficial geology interpretation, and subsurface electromagnetic resistivity scans.



Sustainability

The project incorporated the tenets of sustainability in areas such as overall improvement of community quality of life; improving community mobility and access; early and sustained stakeholder involvement; preservation of historic and cultural resources; and, incorporation of sustainable design principles.



Community Involvement

Effective community engagement can result in better transportation projects. Despite a host of logistical challenges, a dynamic and interactive engagement program was implemented to build the trust and positive relationships needed to produce beneficial outcomes throughout the study. The Study Team recognized the value of early and ongoing community engagement, remaining focused and working proactively towards mutually acceptable solutions for all parties.