

The Department of Highways and Transportation has worked with the Roadbuilding Industry to provide a safe transportation system that strengthens our economy and supports the social development of Saskatchewan.

2004-05 Accomplishments

Recognizing transportation's role as an enabler of economic development, the provincial government committed \$294.8 million to build better highways in 2003-04. The 740 km of highway improvements planned for 2004-05 included 325 km of resurfacing and 185 of Thin Membrane Surface upgrades.

In addition, legislative amendments introduced by the province allow the department to carry over unexpended portions of its capital budget to the next fiscal year.

Major accomplishments this construction season included:

- Completion of 40 km of twinning on Highway 1 east, which was opened to traffic in October. Grading was completed on an additional 25km of new lanes. Surfacing on Highway 16, surfacing of another 13 km of new lanes will be completed in 2005. The department is on track to complete twinning of Highway 1 and Highway 16 between the Battlefords and Lloydminster in 2007.
- Completion of surfacing of 16.2 km of Highway 6 north of the U.S. border. Work on this section at the border marks the completion of Highway 6 from a Thin Membrane Surface (TMS) highway to a paved standard.
- Partnering with the Government of Canada and the City of Regina on improvements to Victoria Avenue/Highway 1 East to improve traffic flow and increase capacity.
- The province invested \$31.1 million to preserve, operate and improve highways, bridges and airports in northern Saskatchewan.
- Vehicle Weights and Dimensions regulations were amended to lengthen winter weight season, weather permitting.

Winter Tender Schedule

On November 29 the province released its 2004-05 Winter Tender Schedule. The value of the tender schedule is \$79.5 million and includes 29 highway projects, three bridge rehabilitation projects, one drainage structure project, one right-of-way clearing project and 11 stockpiling projects.

Major projects include:

- 53.7 km of twinning work on Highways 1 and 16.
- Over 100 km of thin membrane surface highways converted to a paved standard province-wide.

The department estimates the Winter Tender Schedule results in the following material quantities:

- 1,489,000 m³ of earth;

- 2,219,000 t of granular; and
- 580,000 t of asphalt concrete.

The projects listed on the Winter Tender Schedule will create jobs for more than 700 seasonal construction workers. Approximately 175 of those jobs will begin this winter with the balance in the 2004-05 construction season.

The Winter Tender Schedule represents approximately 63 per cent of planned construction activity in 2005-06. Additional projects may be added this winter pending contractor progress and weather. Further highway improvement projects will be announced when the 2004-05 budget is released.

Cw\c:\WCR&HCA 2004-05\Sask Report to AGM for 2004