



Clearing the Path Committee

c/o SARM
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Clearing the Path Municipal Primary Weight Corridor System

Background:

The Clearing the Path (CTP) initiative was started in 2004 by SARM and SUMA to improve the economic development climate in rural communities. There are two subcommittees – transportation and development – that include elected members from each SARM division, as well as members of the SARM and SUMA boards.

In 2005, the Clearing the Path Transportation Subcommittee, chaired by Mr. Richard Porter of Shellbrooke, SK, recommended that a municipal primary weight corridor system be developed to address an evolving impediment to economic development in Saskatchewan – the lack of transportation facilities to accommodate heavy haul primary weights in rural areas.

The CTP Committee overwhelmingly heard from stakeholders that the current transportation situation is a serious barrier to investment in rural communities. Due to high transportation costs, businesses in communities without primary weight access are at a severe competitive disadvantage. Efficient transportation infrastructure is a key element in facilitating economic development and ensuring the overall success of rural communities.

The main objective of this project is to implement an integrated transportation system in Saskatchewan by identifying sections of municipal road that could provide strategic primary weight links to the current primary weight highway system. This will lead to reduced transportation costs and productivity gains for all of Saskatchewan's economic sectors and increase economic development opportunities in rural Saskatchewan.

The Clearing the Path program is a joint initiative, with SARM in partnership with SUMA, and the Province providing maintenance funding for incremental maintenance costs and construction costs in the future. Transport Canada also provided funding for consultation meetings.



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The CTP Primary Weight Corridor System

There are currently 4,500 kilometers currently being implemented in phase I. The budget for 2007 is \$5 million, and will increase to \$10 million in 2008. Currently the committee is implementing phase one roads - those that are currently to a primary standard. Phase two roads are those that cannot be brought onto the system at this time (due to structural deficiencies, secondary highway links, etc.) and will be brought into the system in the future.

For more information or to view the CTP corridor maps, visit www.clearingthepath.ca.