

BACKGROUNDER: WEEKLY PROVINCIAL CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Thursday, July 16, 2009

NEW WORK

Highway 1 between access to Webb and west of Swift Current: Construction is underway on a 24 km portion of Highway 1 between the access to Webb and west of Swift Current. Traffic is reduced to one lane. This work is worth about \$6 million. Work began on July 12. Motorists will be able to drive on a newly paved surface, once work is expected to complete sometime in August.

Highway 1 near Maple Creek: About 30 km of construction work worth about \$7 million is now taking place on Highway 1 near Maple Creek. Traffic potentially reduced to one lane through the area. This season's construction began during the week of July 13 and work will include surfacing. Motorists will be able to travel on a newly paved surface, after the work is expected to be completed at the end of September.

Highway 5 near Englefeld: Construction is underway on about 7 km of micro-surfacing on Highway 5 from 8 km west of its junction with Highway 6 at Watson to west of Englefeld. This project is worth about \$345,000. Traffic will be reduced to one lane through the area. Work began during the week of July 13 and is expected to be completed by late July.

Highway 349 near Naicam: Construction is underway on about 11 km of micro-surfacing on Highway 349 from its junction with Highway 6 at Naicam to the east. This project is worth about \$340,000. Traffic will be reduced to one lane through the area. Work began during the week of July 13 and is expected to be completed by late July.

ONGOING WORK

Highway 1 and 2 junction in Moose Jaw (overpass repairs): Traffic is reduced to one lane in two locations at the junction of Highways 1 and 2 in Moose Jaw to accommodate \$300,000 worth of repair work. Motorists travelling eastbound on Highway 1 will see traffic reduced to one lane and possibly stopped briefly. Motorists southbound on Highway 2 – who travel on the overpass running above Highway 1 – will see traffic also reduced to one lane. Over dimension loads will be restricted to 3.5 metres wide for eastbound traffic on Highway 1 and southbound traffic on Highway 2 near the overpass. Load height will remain the same, which is 4.5 metres. Truckers, shippers and others moving oversized loads should seek alternate routes. The repair work is expected to be complete by August.

Highway 3 near Turtleford: Construction is underway on 18 km from the junction of Highway 26 at Turtleford to 18 km east. This project is worth about \$11 million. Traffic may be reduced to one lane through the area. Work for the season began the week of May 11 and will include grading, along with the application of sand and gravel. After the work is expected to be complete in October, motorists will be able to travel on a new paved surface.

Highway 3 west of Melfort (bridge repairs): Construction began the week of May 25 on a bridge that crosses Thatch Creek about 5 km west of Melfort. The project, worth about \$600,000, is tentatively planned to be open to traffic on July 30, depending on weather. If the weather is unfavourable, the bridge is expected to open sometime after the August long weekend. Highways 368 and 41 will be used as detours for the duration of the project.

Highway 3 near Crooked River: About 11 km of construction work worth about \$3 million is now taking place on Highway 3 from its junction with Highway 23 north of Crooked River and heading east. Traffic will potentially be reduced to one lane through the area. Construction began during the week of

May 18. Work will include surface strengthening and shaping. Work is expected to be completed as early as this weekend, depending on weather. At that time motorists will be able to travel on a newly paved surface.

Highway 6 south of Choiceland: About 7 kilometres of construction work worth about \$2 million is now taking place on sections of Highway 6 from 8 km south of its junction with Highway 55 at Choiceland to 22 km south of the junction. Traffic may be reduced to one lane through the area. Construction began during the week of June 15 and will include surface strengthening and shaping. Motorists will travel on an upgraded, dust-free surface, after the work is expected to be completed in late July.

Highway 8 near Redvers: About 18 km of construction work worth about \$7 million is now taking place on Highway 8, from Redvers north towards Fairlight. Traffic will be potentially reduced to one lane through the area. This season's construction began May 21 and work will include grading, along with the application of sand and gravel. Motorists will travel on a new paved surface, after the work is expected to be completed in July.

Highway 8 near Fairlight: About 16 kilometres of construction work worth roughly \$6 million is now taking place on Highway 8 from Fairlight south towards Redvers. Traffic will potentially be reduced to one lane through the area. This season's construction began during the week of June 1 and work will include grading, along with the application of sand and gravel. Motorists will be able to travel on a new paved surface, after the work is expected to be completed in October.

Highway 11 twinning between Prince Albert and Saskatoon: Construction resumed on Highway 11 north of Saskatoon in early May. Crews are currently working on 12 km of new northbound lanes from north of Hague to south of Rosthern. Motorists should be aware of blowing dust from this grading work. The cost of this portion of the project is about \$5 million.

Highway 13 near Forget: About 11 kilometres of construction work worth about \$1.25 million is now taking place on Highway 13 from Forget to Stoughton. Travellers are advised to be cautious through the work zone. Traffic is potentially reduced to one lane. This season's construction began during the week of June 22. Motorists will be able to travel on a newly paved surface, after the work is expected to be completed at the end of July.

Highway 23 near Crooked River: About 8 kilometres of construction work worth \$2 million is now taking place on Highway 23 from its north junction with Highway 3 north of Crooked River to about 8 km north. Traffic will potentially be reduced to one lane through the area. Construction began during the week of June 15 and work will include the application of gravel. Motorists will travel on a newly paved surface, after work is expected to be completed as early as this weekend, depending on weather.

Highway 26 near St. Walburg: Construction is underway on 15 km from 14 km north of St. Walburg, continuing north. This project is worth about \$9 million. Traffic will potentially be reduced to one lane through the area. Work for the season began the week of May 4 and will include grading, along with the application of sand and gravel. After the work is expected to be complete in August, motorists will travel on a new paved surface.

Highway 32 near Abbey: Construction is underway on 21 km from east of Abbey to Lancer. This project is worth about \$12 million. Travellers are advised to be cautious through the work zone with traffic potentially reduced to one lane through the area. Work for the season began the week of May 4 and will include grading, along with the application of sand and gravel. Motorists will travel on a new paved surface once work is expected to be complete in 2010.

Highways 33 and 35 near Francis: About 21 kms of construction work worth about \$5 million is underway on Highways 33 and 35. One 17-km long segment of the construction area stretches from

northwest of Sedley to Francis on Highway 33. The other 4-km segment on Highway 35 starts about 1 km north of Francis and heads south of the community for 3 km. This season's construction on these segments began during the week of June 15. Motorists will be able to travel on a newly paved surface, after the work is expected to be completed at the end of July.

Highway 35 south of Leross: Construction started the week of June 1 on 12 km of Highway 35 south of its junction with Highway 15. This project is worth about \$4 million. Motorists should expect delays and traffic will potentially be reduced to one lane through the area. The work will include the application of gravel. Motorists will travel on a new paved surface, after the work is expected to be completed in July.

Highway 37 near Climax: Construction is underway on 13 km from Climax north. This work is valued around \$9 million. Traffic may potentially be reduced to one lane through the area. Work for the season began the week of May 4 and will include grading, along with the application of sand and gravel. Motorists will be able to travel on a new paved surface once work is expected to be complete in July.

Highway 40 near Hafford: More than 7 km of construction work worth about \$2 million is taking place on Highway 40 about 13 km west of Hafford. Traffic may be restricted to one lane through the work area. This season's construction began during the week of June 29. Work will include resurfacing the existing lanes. Motorists will be able to travel on a new paved surface after the work is expected to be completed in July.

Highway 47 near Stoughton: About 33 km of construction work worth about \$7 million is now taking place from the Junction of Highway 47 and 361 to Stoughton. Travellers are advised to be cautious through the work zone. Traffic is potentially reduced to one lane. This season's construction began during the week of June 22. Motorists will be able to travel on a newly paved surface, after the work is expected to be completed at the end of July.

Highway 55 near Red Earth: About 17 km of construction worth about \$4 million is now taking place on Highway 55 from about 10 km east of its junction with the Red Earth access road to about 7 km west of the junction. Traffic will potentially be reduced to one lane through the area. Construction began the week of May 18 and work will include the placement of sand and gravel over the existing surface. Motorists will travel on an upgraded, dust-free surface after the work is expected to be completed in 2010.

Red Earth Access Road: Construction is underway on the Red Earth Access Road from its junction with Highway 55 to 14 km north. This project is worth about \$4 million. Traffic may be reduced to one lane through the area. Work for the season began the week of June 22 and will include grading, along with the application of sand and gravel. After the work is expected to be complete in late September, motorists will be able to travel on an upgraded, dust-free surface.

Highway 106 near Smeaton: About 11 km of construction work worth approximately \$3 million is now taking place on Highway 106 from its junction with Highway 55 at Smeaton to 11 km north. Traffic may be reduced to one lane through the area. This season's construction began during the week of May 25 and work will include the application of sand and gravel. Motorists will travel on a newly paved surface, after the work is expected to be completed in August.

Highway 271 near Maple Creek (bridge construction): Demolition of the existing concrete arch bridge and construction of a new bridge that crosses Maple Creek began June 22. The project is worth about \$430,000. A temporary bridge near the work zone will be used as a detour. Work is expected to be complete in July.

Highway 310 near Balcarres: About 8 km of construction work worth about \$2 million is now taking place on Highway 310, from Balcarres north towards Ituna. Traffic may be reduced to one lane through the area. This season's construction began during the week of July 6 and work will include surface mixing, along with the application of sand and a seal. Motorists will be able to travel on a newly sealed surface, after the work is expected to be completed in the middle of August.

Highway 368 south of Lake Lenore and south of St. Brieux: Construction is underway on 10 km south of Lake Lenore. This project is around \$7 million. Motorists should expect delays, blowing dust and traffic potentially reduced to one lane through the area. Work for the season began the week of May 11. Motorists will travel a new paved surface once work is expected to be complete on this segment of Highway 368 in late August. Meanwhile, about 25 km of construction work between Lake Lenore and St. Brieux worth about \$16 million began the week of June 15. Traffic in this area may be restricted to one lane through the work zone and detours may also be in place as work takes place on the subgrade and surfacing structure. Motorists will be able to travel on a new paved surface, after the work is expected to be completed on this segment in October.

Highway 903 northwest of Cole Bay: Work is underway to replace the existing culverts through Highway 903 about 9 km east of Upper Cummins Lake, close to where this highway ends. (This location is also about 65 km northwest of Highway 903's junction with Highway 965 near Cole Bay.) A small portion near the end of Highway 903 has been temporarily closed as new culverts are installed, but may be open as early as this weekend, depending weather. Work began on this \$335,000 project during the week of July 6 and is expected to be complete by late July.

Wascana Parkway Bridge that crosses Highway 1 (Ring Road) in Regina: One westbound lane, the sidewalk and one eastbound lane are currently closed on the Wascana Parkway Bridge, as repairs are made to the structure's concrete traffic barriers. Pedestrians will still be able cross the overpass during construction. Motorists are reminded to slow to 40 km/h. The project began April 6 and is expected to be finished in July. It is valued at \$250,000.

<u>NOTE:</u> Construction work is subject to weather conditions and contractor progress. Motorists can also get important travel information on the Summer Road Conditions and Road Conditions Map sections of the Highway Hotline online at www.highways.gov.sk.ca/road-conditions/. Highway Hotline information via telephone is as follows: Regina and area at 306-787-7623; Saskatoon and area at 306-933-8333; on the SaskTel Cellular Network at *ROAD; and now throughout Canada at 1-888-335-7623.