

BACKGROUNDER: WEEKLY PROVINCIAL CONSTRUCTION UPDATE (Thursday, Nov. 18, 2010)

NEW WORK

PROJECT: Highway 56 over Larogues Creek just east of Lebret, bridge replacement

ESTIMATED COST: \$520,000

START OF THIS YEAR'S CONSTRUCTION: Week of Nov. 8

DESCRIPTION: Replacing existing timber bridge with new nine-metre-long concrete bridge

IMPACT ON MOTORISTS: Traffic will be detoured on local roads

ESTIMATED COMPLETION: Late 2010

PROJECT: Highway 56, two culvert installation locations, about 10 km and 11 km northwest of the Qu'Appelle River Bridge, near Katepwa Point Provincial Park

ESTIMATED COST: \$104,000

START OF THIS YEAR'S CONSTRUCTION: Week of Nov. 15

DESCRIPTION: Removal of existing wood box culverts, replacing with two steel culverts

IMPACT ON MOTORISTS: Local detour on Grid 619, drivers should be cautious

ESTIMATED COMPLETION: Late 2010

PROJECT: Highway 334, one culvert installation, about 17 km east of Avonlea

ESTIMATED COST: \$220,000

START OF THIS YEAR'S CONSTRUCTION: Week of Nov. 15

DESCRIPTION: Removal of existing wood pile bridge, replacing with three steel culverts

IMPACT ON MOTORISTS: Local detour, drivers should be cautious

ESTIMATED COMPLETION: Late 2010

ONGOING WORK

PROJECT: Highway 1 west of Maple Creek to Alberta-Saskatchewan border

ESTIMATED COST: To be determined

START OF THIS YEAR'S CONSTRUCTION: June 20

DESCRIPTION: Restoration of two-lane service in the eastbound lanes that opened to traffic on June 26, opening of new westbound crossovers on July 15 to allow for a smoother and easier transition for motorists, along with improved movement of various semi truck and trailer combinations from four-lanes to two-lanes, with work starting the week of Sept. 13 to restore westbound lanes

IMPACT ON MOTORISTS: Highway 1 in this area is currently operating as a two-lane highway for about 3 km. For west-bound traffic, the two-lane section starts about 2 km west of the Highway 21 junction. For east-bound traffic, the two-lane section starts about 5 km west of the Highway 21 junction. Motorists are advised to reduce speeds and be cautious and alert in the area

ESTIMATED COMPLETION: Re-opening of Highway 1 to two-lane-traffic occurred June 26, opening of new westbound crossovers on July 15, with work starting the week of Sept. 13 to restore westbound lanes and four-lane operation expected to be re-established late 2010

PROJECT: Highway 1 and Lewvan Drive Interchange at Regina

ESTIMATED COST: \$34 million

START OF THIS YEAR'S CONSTRUCTION: Week of July 26

DESCRIPTION: Work will include completion of utility relocates, construction of bridge structure and ramp embankments

IMPACT ON MOTORISTS: Traffic has been directed onto temporary access roads west of the existing intersection, with the exception of southbound traffic on Lewvan Drive wishing to turn left (east) onto Highway 1. These motorists are being routed down Gordon Road to Albert Street and can use the Albert Street interchange to access Highway 1. Heavy truck traffic is not being routed down Gordon Road but is instead required to take an alternate route. Traffic on Highway 1 may also be reduced to one lane and speed will be reduced to 60km/hr when passing workers and equipment

ESTIMATED COMPLETION: Fall 2011

PROJECT: Highway 2 over Qu'Appelle River/Buffalo Pound Lake, bridge rehabilitation

ESTIMATED COST: \$2 million

START OF THIS YEAR'S CONSTRUCTION: Week of Aug. 9

DESCRIPTION: Rebuilding a 45-metre long bridge from a timber and concrete to a steel and concrete structure

IMPACT ON MOTORISTS: Traffic restricted to one lane with a maximum width of 3.8 metres, motorists advised to slow down to 60 km/hr through the area and over dimension loads are advised to seek alternate routes

ESTIMATED COMPLETION: End of November 2010 (Final surfacing to be completed in 2011)

PROJECT: Highway 4 north of Glaslyn

ESTIMATED COST: \$13.2 million

START OF THIS YEAR'S CONSTRUCTION: Week of June 21

DESCRIPTION: About 24 km of work from about 20 km north of the north junction of Highway 4 and Highway 3 to the north, which includes widening of the shoulders on about 18 km, boring under road for culvert, along with paving of the entire 24 km.

IMPACT ON MOTORISTS: Traffic may be reduced to one lane through the work area and motorists should be aware of potential blowing dust

ESTIMATED COMPLETION: Spring/Summer 2011

PROJECT: Highway 5, about 8 km west of Humboldt

ESTIMATED COST: \$5 million

START OF THIS YEAR'S CONSTRUCTION: Week of Nov. 1, 2010

DESCRIPTION: Permanent repairs to a segment of Highway 5 to restore shoulders and raise the grade of the Highway 5, which builds upon a completed short-term fix in the summer of 2010 to restore service

IMPACT ON MOTORISTS: Traffic delays, reduced speeds and, at times, one-way traffic, watch for people and equipment working

ESTIMATED COMPLETION: Late 2010 (Final paving to be completed in 2011)

PROJECT: Highway 10 railway overpass, about 6 km west of Balcarres

ESTIMATED COST: To be determined

START OF THIS YEAR'S CONSTRUCTION: Week of Oct. 11

DESCRIPTION: Repair at railway overpass due to some slumping earth

IMPACT ON MOTORISTS: Construction will occur adjacent to road, motorists advised to slow down to 60 km/hr in the work zone and watch for construction equipment and workers

ESTIMATED COMPLETION: Late 2010

PROJECT: Highway 15 near Outlook

ESTIMATED COST: \$5.8 million

START OF THIS YEAR'S CONSTRUCTION: Week of Aug. 9

DESCRIPTION: About 15 km of surfacing from its junction with Highway 45 to about 15 km west

IMPACT ON MOTORISTS: Traffic may be reduced to one lane, be aware of potential blowing dust and fresh oil

ESTIMATED COMPLETION: Spring 2011

PROJECT: Highway 52 west of Yorkton (Yorkton West Truck Route Project Phase 2)

ESTIMATED COST: \$4.1 million

START OF THIS YEAR'S CONSTRUCTION: Week of Oct. 4

DESCRIPTION: About 6 km of grading and paving work for the construction of a bypass highway connecting Highway 16 and Grain Miller Road to Highway 52 and the construction of turning lanes at the intersection of Highway 52 and the bypass highway

IMPACT ON MOTORISTS: Motorist should be alert

EXPECTED TO BE OPEN TO TRAFFIC: Summer 2011

PROJECT: Highway 55 from Alberta-Saskatchewan border to east of Pierceland

ESTIMATED COST: \$18.2 million

START OF THIS YEAR'S CONSTRUCTION: Week of Aug. 23

DESCRIPTION: About 26 km of work on Highway 55 from the Alberta-Saskatchewan border to about 10 km east of Pierceland, which includes grading along with the application of sand and gravel followed by paving

IMPACT ON MOTORISTS: Traffic may be reduced to one lane through, while motorists should be aware of potential blowing dust and watch for soft portions, fresh gravel and allow for potentially extra travel time
ESTIMATED COMPLETION: Fall 2011

PROJECT: Highway 55, about 10 km southwest of its junction with Highway 9, bridge replacement

ESTIMATED COST: \$500,000

START OF THIS YEAR'S CONSTRUCTION: Week of Nov. 1, 2010

DESCRIPTION: Replacing existing timber bridge with new nine-metre-long concrete bridge

IMPACT ON MOTORISTS: Traffic will be accommodated on a temporary detour adjacent to the highway

ESTIMATED COMPLETION: Late 2010

PROJECT: Highway 56 over Qu'Appelle River near Katepwa Point Provincial Park, bridge work

WORTH: \$1.2 million

START OF THIS YEAR'S CONSTRUCTION: End of September/early October

DESCRIPTION OF CONSTRUCTION: Dismantling of an existing bridge and replacing it with a new bridge on Highway 56, about 21 km north of its junction with Highway 1

CONSTRUCTION IMPACT ON MOTORISTS: Traffic will be detoured onto a grid road (locally known as Wide Awake Road) during the project

ESTIMATED COMPLETION: Late 2010

PROJECT: Highway 165, almost 5 km west of its junction with Highway 106, bridge replacement

ESTIMATED COST: \$560,000

START OF THIS YEAR'S CONSTRUCTION: Week of Nov. 1, 2010

DESCRIPTION: Replacing existing timber bridge with new 12-metre-long concrete bridge

IMPACT ON MOTORISTS: Traffic will be accommodated on a temporary detour adjacent to the highway

ESTIMATED COMPLETION: Late 2010

PROJECT: Highway 310 near Foam Lake

ESTIMATED COST: \$10.9 million

START OF THIS YEAR'S CONSTRUCTION: Week of May 17

DESCRIPTION: About 20 km of grading and paving from Foam Lake to Fishing Lake

IMPACT ON MOTORISTS: Traffic may be reduced to one lane

ESTIMATED COMPLETION: Spring 2011

PROJECT: Highway 368 south of St. Brieux

ESTIMATED COST: \$23 million

START OF THIS YEAR'S CONSTRUCTION: Week of Aug. 16

DESCRIPTION: About 25 km of grading followed by paving remains between Lake Lenore to 5 km south of St. Brieux to complete this entire 35-km long upgrade (About 10 km between Grid 756 and Lake Lenore was finished in 2009, which included the completion of all grading and paving on this 10-km long segment)

IMPACT ON MOTORISTS: Motorists should be alert

ESTIMATED COMPLETION: Spring 2011

NOTE: Construction work is subject to weather conditions and contractor progress. Motorists and media can also get additional travel information online at www.highways.gov.sk.ca/road-conditions/. Highway Hotline information via telephone or wireless device 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 toll-free across Canada at 1-888-335-7623; and at <http://roadinfo.telenium.ca/mobile.html>. Please remember in Saskatchewan it's illegal to use hand-held cell phones to talk, text, email or surf the Internet while driving.