

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

PROPONENT: Highways and Transportation
PROPOSAL NAME: Provincial Road 262
(from Rolling River to PTH No. 10
east of Onanole)
CLASS OF DEVELOPMENT: 2
TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT: Transportation
CLIENT FILE NO.: 4403.00

OVERVIEW:

The Environment Act Proposal was dated and received on November 30, 1998. The advertisement of the Proposal read as follows:

“A Proposal has been filed by Manitoba Department of Highways and Transportation to upgrade PR 262 from Rolling River to Provincial Trunk Highway No. 10 east of Onanole, for a distance of 10.4 km. The road will be upgraded to meet current Department of Highways and Transportation standards by improving the grades and curves of the existing road. The roadway will have two 3.7 m lanes with a 1 to 1.5 m shoulder and a 50 m right-of-way. The study area for the upgrade is divided into three study improvement areas: Areas A, B and C. Area A will be upgraded in the near future due to higher traffic volumes. Areas B and C will be upgraded at a later time. An Environmental Assessment Study Report has been filed by Manitoba Highways and Transportation in support of their Application.”

The Proposal was advertised in the Minnedosa Tribune on Tuesday, December 15, 1998. The Proposal was made available for public review at registries located at the Centennial Public Library, R.M. of Park Office and the R.M. of Clanwilliam Office. It was also distributed to the "Transportation" TAC members for comment. Comments were requested by January 14, 1999.

PUBLIC RESPONSE

George and Shirley McLaughlin
Box 116
Onanole MB R0J 1N0

Express three concerns with respect to the Proposal as follows:

- 1) a change in the elevation of PR 262 in front of their property may present a safety problem from their driveway approach onto PR 262.
- 2) request that highways undertake a traffic count along the first mile of PR 262 east of PTH 10/PR 262 intersection to more accurately assess the traffic flow in this area.

- 3) a pair of Saw-whet Owls live on their property. Mention that the Proposal did not address how these owls would be protected and are concerned that the development does not adversely impact the owls.

Disposition: On January 11, 1999 Approvals Branch requested additional information from the Department of Highways which would address these concerns. On February 9, 1999 the Department of Highways filed the additional information with the Approval Branch. The Director of Approvals conveyed the additional information to the respondents by letter dated February 16, 1999 and informed them that as the environmental impacts associated with the Proposal as planned are minimal and mitigable, Approvals Branch will proceed with issuing a Licence for the Development.

COMMENTS FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Natural Resources - If possible, the project should attempt a “no net loss” of wetlands along the proposed route. In addition, as little disturbance as possible should take place in wetland and natural upland areas. The main construction should not occur during the May to July wildlife and waterfowl breeding period. DNR has no concerns with the Octopus and Whirlpool Lake crossings provided that the measures outlined in the proposal are adhered to. Any water diversion or drainage should receive the prior approval from DNR. The DNR Regional Wildlife Manager should be consulted regarding the choice and rehabilitation of borrow areas. Note that the floral and fauna inventory included in the Proposal could have been improved by including a breeding bird survey along the proposed route and by contacting staff from Ducks Unlimited for information regarding critical habitat areas for waterfowl.

Disposition: Recommendations can be accommodated as conditions of licencing. A licence condition which restricts the construction during the wildlife and waterfowl breeding season should mitigate any impacts to these species at critical times in critical habitat areas.

Historic Resources - No concerns with regard to the project’s potential impact on Historic Resources.

Mines Branch - No concerns.

Rural Development - Support the choice A-1 for Area A which proposes the realignment on the Government road allowance to minimize impacts to private property. Note that in Area B there is little difference between B-1 which is the preferred alternative, and B-2. Support the choice of C-3 in Area C as the preferred alternative, as it has the least negative impact on agriculture land and eliminates right angle corners to provide for a smoother and safer traffic flow.

Health - Inclusion in the Licence of the proposed environmental management practices as per section 1.9 of the Proposal should prevent or mitigate potential health related impacts.

Disposition: The Licence will require that the Licencee adhere to the environmental protection measures as outlined in the Proposal.

Environment (Water Quality) - Adherence to all the mitigative measures identified in the Proposal should provide adequate protection for wetlands and watercourses.

Disposition: The Licence will require that the Licencee adhere to the environmental protection measures as outlined in the Proposal.

Environment (Park-West Region) - Request that the Dauphin Office be advised of the proposed construction schedule. Recommend that “Areas B and C” be given a time limitation for completion. Recommend that the Licence include the following:

- 1) Time limits for vegetating exposed erosion prone areas.
- 2) Compliance with MR 439/87 regarding spills.
- 3) On-site petroleum spill recovery equipment.
- 4) Compliance with MR 150/91 regarding waste disposal.
- 5) Hazardous wastes disposed of at a Licenced Waste Disposal facility.

Disposition: The Licence will require that the Licencee adhere to the environmental protection measures as outlined in the Proposal and the above noted recommendations.

Fisheries and Oceans - Report that Octopus Lake does not support or have the potential to support a commercial, recreational, or subsistence fishery and therefore an Authorization pursuant to section 35(2) of the *Fisheries Act* will not be required.

Conclusion and Recommendation

Approvals Branch concludes that the Department of Highways has satisfactorily addressed technical and public comments on the Proposal. A public hearing on the proposal is not recommended. It is recommended that the proposal be licenced as applied for and in accordance with limits, terms and conditions provided in the attached Environment Act Licence. It is further recommended that the enforcement of the Licence be assigned to the Park-West Region.

PREPARED BY:

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February 16, 1999

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