
News Release

GOVERNMENTS “GREEN LIGHT” TWO FLOODWAY BRIDGES FOR RECONSTRUCTION

Winnipeg, Manitoba, December 22, 2008 — Two bridges were given the green light for replacement as part of the Red River Floodway Expansion project. The cost of replacing the two bridges is \$ 47 million, which will be shared 50-50 by the federal and provincial governments.

The Honourable Vic Toews, President of the Treasury Board along with Gary Doer, Premier of Manitoba, made the announcement today.

“Our Government understands the importance of infrastructure to help stimulate the economy and create jobs. This announcement is a further example of our support for infrastructure projects, just as we have delivered for the Red River Floodway in Manitoba,” said Minister Toews. “As one of the largest public infrastructure projects in Manitoba’s history, over 2000 workers and over 100 companies have worked on the project. We will continue to deliver on our commitment to provide safe, modern infrastructure for Manitobans, and all Canadians.”

“The governments of Manitoba and Canada agree that fast-tracking infrastructure projects is central to steering our province and country through this current global economic downturn,” said Premier Doer. “We are extremely pleased that the floodway project is under budget and we now have the opportunity to upgrade two more bridges within the original floodway budget. With the advance planning that has gone into the floodway, we are in a position to get shovels in the ground quickly on both of these additional projects.”

“Over the course of the project, the floodway authority has been working diligently to ensure that the project is delivered on budget,” said Ernie Gilroy, CEO of the MFA. “We are pleased that our diligence has provided an opportunity to reduce project costs and include two more bridges into the project. We thank the Governments of Canada and Manitoba for their support as we continue to improve flood protection in Manitoba.”

The PTH 15 Bridge will be replaced ensuring that the new structure will meet current design standards and will provide a service life of 75 years. The PTH 44 Bridge will be replaced ensuring that the new structure is above the 1-in-700 year flood level.

To date, the floodway expansion project has achieved 1-in-500 year flood protection, which provides significantly greater flood protection for Winnipeg residents than its initial 1-in-100 year level. The project is on schedule to be completed to 1-in-700 year flood protection by next spring. Once finished, the project will protect more than 450,000 Manitobans, over 140,000 homes, over 8,000 businesses and prevent more than \$12 billion in damages during a major flood.

For further information visit Infrastructure Canada www.infc.gc.ca.

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