

The Department of Highways and Transportation has worked with the Roadbuilding Industry to provide a safe transportation system that strengthens our economy and supports the social development of Saskatchewan.

2003-04 Accomplishments

The government committed \$296.2 million to building better highways in 2003-04. More than 700 km of highways were reconstructed and paved in the past year.

A major accomplishment this construction season was the final 38 km of twinning on Highway 1 west, which was opened to traffic on October 27, 2003. With the completion of twinning, motorists and commercial drivers now enjoy a safer four-lane highway extending from Regina to the Alberta border.

Construction on the final 38 km section began in 2002, and surfacing commenced in June 2003. Surfacing involved three separate contracts, beginning 8.5 kilometres west of Tompkins and ending 3 km east of the Junction of Highway 21. Over two years, a total of 38 kilometres was twinned at a cost of \$22.1 million.

The department is on track to accelerate twinning on Highway 1 and Highway 16. An additional 37 km of grading in preparation for twinning will be completed on Highway 1 East and Highway 16 West in the 2003-04 construction season.

Over 700 km of the provincial highway system was improved or restored in 2003-04. This includes resurfacing 350 km of pavements and upgrading 222 km of thin membrane surface (TMS) highways.

Of the TMS highway improvements, 140 km were upgraded to a paved standard in 2003 through the Prairie Grain Roads Program. An additional 26 km of upgrading on Highway 3, Highway 31 and Highway 40 is in contract and will be completed in 2004.

The department completed a grading project on a vital north-south trade corridor, Highway 6 north of the US border. Additional aggregate is being processed this winter to facilitate completing the final surfacing project in 2004.

The province invested \$31.1 million to preserve, operate and improve highways, bridges and airports in northern Saskatchewan.

In 2003-04, 75 bridges were repaired, 3 bridges were strengthened, and 27 bridge replacement projects were completed.

In summary, for 2003-04 the department, in conjunction with the road building industry, completed:

- 107 km of grading;
- 114 km of surfacing;
- 135 km of combined grading and surfacing; and

- 350 km of resurfacing.

The department estimates that the road building industry moved:

- 6.21 million cubic metres of earth;
- 1.46 million tonnes of sub base;
- 1.09 million tonnes of base; and
- 943 500 tonnes of asphalt concrete.

Winter Tender Schedule

On November 20, 2003, the province released its 2003-04 Winter Tender Schedule. The value of the tender schedule is \$72.8 million and includes 25 major projects, one bridge rehabilitation project, 15 aggregate and bitmix stockpiling projects and 4 micro-surfacing projects, resulting in the following material quantities:

- 2 208 300 m³ of earth;
- 1 887 700 t of granular;
- 399 410 t of asphalt concrete;
- 921 400 t of aggregate stockpiling; and
- 2 720 t of bituminous mix stockpiling.

The projects listed on the Winter Tender Schedule will create jobs for more than 700 seasonal construction workers. Approximately 175 of those jobs will begin this winter with the balance in the 2004-05 construction season.

The Winter Tender Schedule represents approximately 56 per cent of planned construction activity in 2004-05. Additional projects may be added this winter pending contractor progress and weather. Further highway improvement projects will be announced when the 2004-05 budget is released.

Highlights of the 2003-04 Winter Tender Schedule include:

- 174 km of pavement resurfacing valued at \$22 million;
- 148 km of grading and paving valued at \$34 million;
- 275 km of micro surfacing valued at \$4 million;
- 15 gravel stockpiling projects valued at \$10.6 million

Major initiatives include:

- 36 km of newly-twinning lanes on Highway 16 and Highway 1 East;
- 16.2 km of Thin Membrane Surface (TMS) road converted to pavement on Highway 6 to complete a paved standard link between Regina and the U.S border; and
- another 70 km of TMS converted to a paved standard province-wide.