

FOR RELEASE #156
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ROAD CONSTRUCTION AWARENESS MEASURES UNDERWAY

WHITEHORSE – The Yukon government is taking proactive measures to alert the traveling public and tourists about construction zones along the north Alaska Highway that will improve road conditions.

"A number of initiatives have already been implemented and more are underway," Infrastructure Minister Scott Kent said. "We have run print ads of the summer road construction program and provided a schedule to Visitor Reception Centres (VRCs) in the territory. We also issue a daily road report via a telephone hot line, the government website and local radio stations."

A brochure entitled "Driving the Alaska Highway" is being re-issued. It contains road construction zones, information on the Shakwak project, directory listings and travel safety tips. The brochure is being distributed to the VRCs in Dawson Creek and Fort Nelson, B.C., in Tok, Alaska and throughout the Yukon. As well, department staff is working with the contractors to improve traffic control in construction zones and minimize the disruption to the extent possible.

Approximately 22 kilometres of new Bituminous Surface Treatments (BST) has been completed north of Haines Junction this year and a further 26 kilometres will be completed over the coming weeks, which will relieve the situation considerably.

In addition, three major construction projects involving 33 kilometres of the highway are currently under way. The reconstruction work involves rebuilding or relocating inferior sections of the original road. This construction is much more difficult than the southerly areas because of the presence of permafrost. Permafrost areas are subject to continuous thawing and heaving as ice within the underlying soil either melts or builds up. The disturbance caused by construction work can accelerate these changes.

"Reconstruction of the old highway means a better driving experience for tourists and Yukoners in the future," Kent said. "A certain amount of delay and inconvenience to travelers is inevitable, but it's only temporary. If normal conditions were expected on every kilometre of highway at all times, there would not be a construction program of any kind and our road conditions would never improve."

Most of the reconstruction of the north Alaska Highway, which began in 1992, has been completed. In addition, the Haines Road has been fully reconstructed. The Yukon portion of the Alaska Highway totals 958 kilometres, of which 804 kilometres are now fully reconstructed to a modern two-lane paved or BST-surfaced highway.

Attached: 2002 Yukon Highway Construction Schedule (two pages)

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2002 Yukon Highway Construction Schedule

Alaska Highway, B.C. - Sikanni

Km 265-301

June - July

Work includes chip sealing. Expect equipment on the road, minor delays, dusty conditions and loose gravel.

Alaska Highway, B.C. - Coal River

Km 825-832

May - Sept.

Reconstruction from Coal River to Km 832 and replacement of the Coal River Bridge.

Expect equipment on the road, minor delays.

Alaska Highway, B.C. - Iron Creek

Km 919

Aug. - Sept.

Construction on Iron Creek Bridge. Expect minor delays. One way detour in effect.

Alaska Highway, B.C. - Lower Post

Km 942-957

May - July.

Reconstruction from Km 942 to Lower Post.

Expect equipment on the road, minor delays, pilot cars, dusty conditions and loose gravel.

Alaska Highway - Swift River

Km 1163-1175, 1190-1193, 1201-1218.7, 1218.7-1221.9

May 29 - June 13

Bituminous Surface Treatment (BST)

Alaska Highway - Whitehorse

Km 1438-1455

May - July

Reconstruction from Km 1438 to Carcross Corner. Expect equipment on road, minor delays and pilot cars.

Alaska Highway - Whitehorse

Km 1553-1554.8

June 24 - 25

Bituminous Surface Treatment (BST)

Alaska Highway - Whitehorse

Km 1558-1573

May - Sept.

Reconstruction from Mendenhall Creek to Km 1573 including the replacement of the Mendenhall Creek Bridge. Expect detours, equipment on the road and minor delays.

Alaska Highway - Haines Junction

Km 1556.8-1573

August 14 - 20

Bituminous Surface Treatment (BST)

Alaska Highway - Haines Junction

Km 1604-1615, 1620-1628.2, Haines Road, Km 228.4-228.6, 240-246

June 26 - July 5

Bituminous Surface Treatment (BST)

Alaska Highway - Haines Junction

Km 1664-1674, Jarvis Creek

May - July

Work includes placement of gravel base course and chip sealing from Jarvis Creek to Km 1674. Expect equipment on the road, minor delays, pilot cars, dusty conditions and loose gravel.

Alaska Highway - Haines Junction

Km 1674-1684, Christmas Creek Area

May - July

Reconstruction from Km 1674-1684. Expect equipment on the road, minor delays, pilot cars and slow speeds.

Alaska Highway - Haines Junction

Km 1684-1692, Silver Creek Area

May - July

Expect equipment on the road, minor delays, pilot cars, dusty conditions and loose gravel.

Alaska Highway - Destruction Bay

Km 1738-1750

May - July

Reconstruction from Km 1738-1750. Expect equipment on the road, minor delays, pilot cars and slow speed.

Alaska Highway - Destruction Bay

Km 1758-1768, Burwash Landing to Duke River

May - July

Work includes placement of gravel base course and chip sealing from Burwash Landing to Duke River. Expect equipment on the road, minor delays, pilot cars, dusty conditions and loose gravel.

Alaska Highway - Destruction Bay

Km 1776-1787, Burwash Creek to Quill Creek

May - Oct.

Reconstruction from Burwash Creek to Quill

Creek. Expect equipment on the road, minor delays, pilot cars and slow speeds.

Alaska Highway - Destruction Bay

Km 1798-1820, Kluane Wilderness Village to Donjek River

June - July

Work includes placement of gravel base course and chip sealing from Kluane Wilderness Village to Donjek River. Expect equipment on the road, minor delays, pilot cars, dusty conditions and loose gravel.

Klondike Highway - Whitehorse

Km 198-200

June - July

Asphalt overlay from Takhini Hot Springs road to Km 200. Expect equipment on the road, minor delays and pilot cars.

Klondike Highway - Carmacks

Km 398.9-411.1

June 17 - 21

Bituminous Surface Treatment (BST)

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Haines Road

Km 121-136, 159-165

July 9 - 19

Bituminous Surface Treatment (BST)

Haines Road

Haines Road, Km 228.4-228.6, 240-246

June 26 - July 5

Bituminous Surface Treatment (BST)

Campbell Highway - Drury Creek

Km 425.2-431.2, 468-479

July 23 - 30

Bituminous Surface Treatment (BST)

Campbell Highway - Ross River

Km 406-408

June - July

Reconstruction from Buttle Creek to Km 408.

Expect equipment on the road, minor delays, dusty conditions and loose gravel.

Campbell Highway - Ross River

Km 373.7-376.2, (Margaret Thompson Hill)

August 1

Bituminous Surface Treatment (BST)

Tagish Highway - Carcross

Km 2-7

June - August

Reconstruction from Km 2 to Km 7. Expect equipment on the road, minor delays, dusty conditions and loose gravel.

Top of the World Highway - Dawson

Km 86-105

July - August

Subgrade repairs Km 86 to Alaska Border.

Expect equipment on the road, minor delays, dusty conditions and loose gravel.

Silver Trail - Mayo

Km 10-14, 52-57

August 7 - 12

Bituminous Surface Treatment (BST)

Pelly Subdivision Roads - Stewart Crossing

August 5 - 6

Bituminous Surface Treatment (BST)

For 24-hour changes on the road conditions please call (867) 456-7623 or toll free 1-877-456 -7623 or visit www.gov.yk.ca/roadreport