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ROAD CONTRACTS AWARDED FROM TAGISH TO TOP OF THE WORLD

WHITEHORSE –Another 60 Yukoners will be hired this summer as a result of \$1.6 million in highway projects recently awarded by the Yukon government to local contractors.

Mountain Transfer Ltd. has received a \$559,000 contract for highway construction on the Tagish Road. This will employ about 15 Yukoners from now until mid August.

Aurora Construction has been awarded a \$83,000 contract to repair the Yukon (Lewes) River Bridge concrete deck. The company will employ four people for two weeks in July.

“We have awarded projects for road construction and maintenance totaling more than \$30 million so far this year,” Infrastructure Minister Scott Kent said. “Approving the 2002/03 capital budget last fall has enabled us to award contracts much earlier in the season, to the satisfaction of local contractors. This also results in improved highway conditions and significant employment benefits for Yukoners.”

The president of Aurora Construction, Ruben Bicudo, echoed that sentiment. “It’s a good idea to award these contracts early. It allows us to better plan and budget for the short construction season.”

The government also handed out a number of contracts under its operation and maintenance budget. Summit Aggregates Inc. received two contracts worth \$873,000 to produce and stockpile aggregate along the Top of the World and Dempster highways. About 35 workers will be employed to drill, blast and crush rock for use in the Yukon government’s maintenance camps along these routes.

Meldon Construction and Landscaping has been awarded \$82,000 to undertake brush and weed control along the Alaska Highway between Pelly Crossing and the Dempster corner. Bigfoot Construction will receive \$35,400 for brush and weed control at various locations on the Silver Trail. The Yukon companies each intend to employ two to three people for three weeks this summer.

For information on construction projects taking place in the Yukon this summer, visit the government Web site at www.gov.yk.ca and click on Summer Road Construction under Featured Sites.

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