



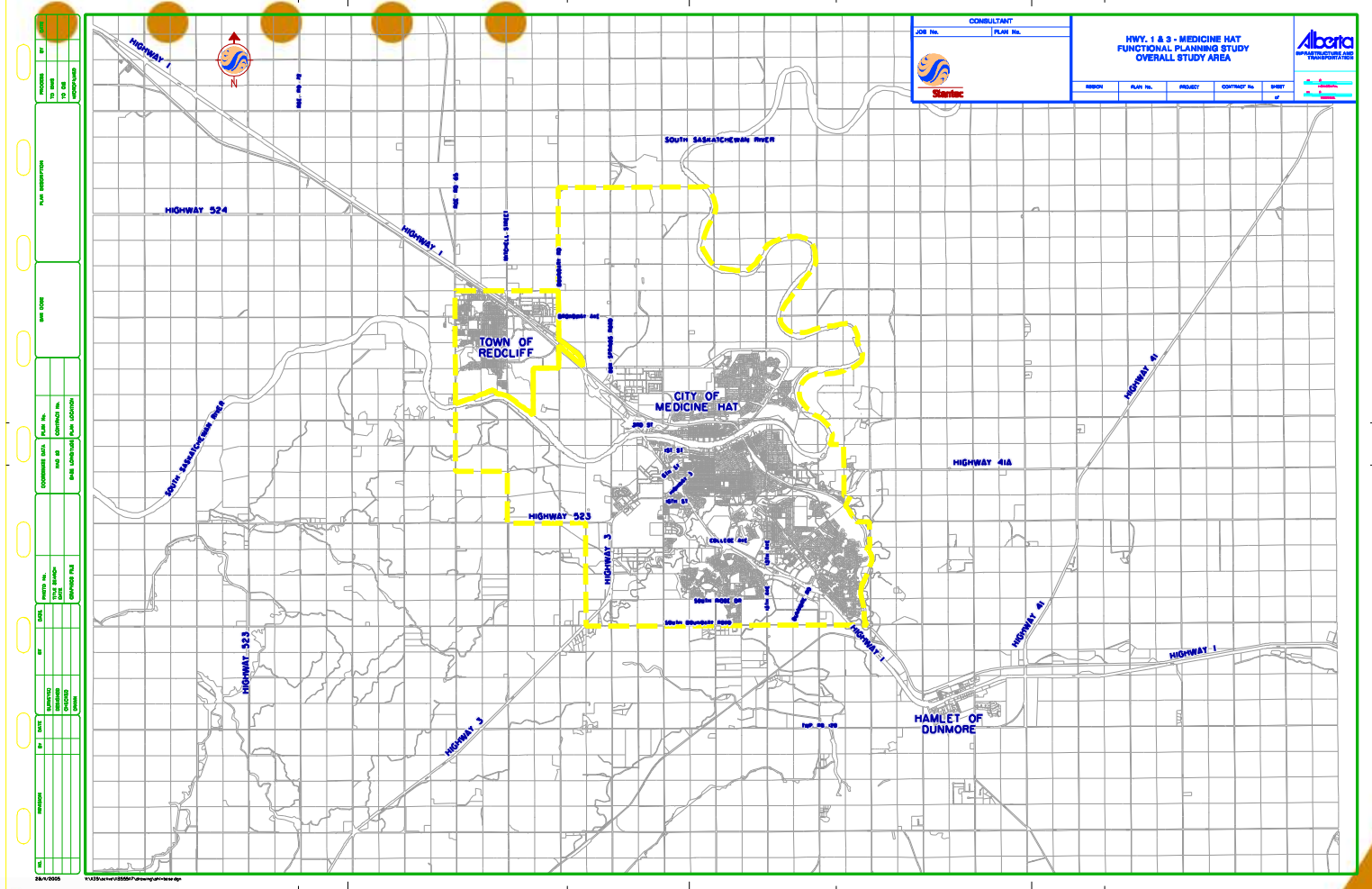
Highway 1 & 3 Network Functional Planning Study City of Medicine Hat

Background



- Highways 1 & 3 are:
 - Part of the National Highway System (NHS)
 - future freeways in Alberta
- In 2000, Alberta Infrastructure & Transportation (AIT) took over direction, control, and management of Highways 1 & 3 through City
- AIT has retained Stantec Consulting Ltd. to:
 1. Identify possible improvements to existing Highways 1 & 3 through the City of Medicine Hat (Internal Route); and
 2. Develop functional plan for ultimate realignment of Highways 1 & 3 in vicinity of the City of Medicine Hat (External Route)
- Technical Review Committee is comprised of :
 - City of Medicine Hat
 - Cypress County
 - Town of Redcliff
 - AIT

Study Area



Previous Studies



- 1982 – “Highway 1 – Hwy 524 to Medicine Hat” – AIT
 - Identified a Highway 1 bypass of Redcliff
- 1998 – “City of Medicine Hat Trans Canada Highway Planning Study” – Stanley Consulting Group Ltd.
 - Developed interchange alternatives between 1st Street & 16th Street
 - Not adopted by City
- 2004 – “Safety & Operational Review – Highway 1 – Town of Redcliff” – Clifton ND Lea Consulting Inc.
 - Identified operational improvements
- 2005 – “Highway 1 – East Medicine Hat Boundary to Highway 41 North – Hamlet of Dunmore” – CastleGlenn Consultants Ltd.
 - Developed access management strategy for the Dunmore area
 - Final report under review by AIT

Study Objectives



Internal Route

- Identify access management strategy to bring existing Highway 1 through Medicine Hat to national highway standards
 - 90 km/h posted speed limit
 - Free flow operations on highway
- Review access management strategy for Highway 3 within city
- Identify deficiencies on existing highways
- Recommend improvements to address deficiencies

External Route

- Identify ultimate realignment of Highways 1 & 3 to achieve freeway status (110 km/h posted speed limit)
- Identify future interchange locations and configurations
- Provide free flow connection between Highway 1 & 3

Study Tasks



Internal Route Only

- Review existing, 20-yr, & ultimate traffic projections
- Conduct Environmental overview
- Conduct noise assessment along Highway 1
- Develop & evaluate access management scenarios

External Route Only

- Develop & evaluate route alternatives
- Conduct environmental, historical, and geotechnical assessments
- Develop drainage master plan

Both

- Conduct Planning Stage Road Safety Audit
- Extensive public consultation phase
- Develop cost estimates
- Determine right-of-way requirements

Study Issues



Internal Route

- Existing highway through Medicine Hat does not meet NHS standards
 - Posted speed < 90 km/h
 - Signalized intersections at 6 Street, 16 Street, & Dunmore Road
- Right-of-way constraints due to:
 - Development
 - Service Roads/ Local Roads

External Route

- Irrigated land
- Country residential development
- Major agricultural operations
- Requires new crossing of South Saskatchewan River

Upcoming Events



- Council Presentations – Nov. 28/ Dec. 5/ Dec. 6, 2005
 - Introduce study to council
- Open House No. 1 – Dec. 7, 2005
 - Introduce study to the public
 - Gather input prior to development of alternatives
 - Displays will include:
 - Geotechnical Issues/ Constraints
 - Environmental Issues/ Constraints
 - Historical Resource Issues/ Constraints
 - Existing Development Issues/ Constraints
 - Existing Traffic Volumes

Where Do We Go From Here?



- December 7, 2005 – Open House No. 1
- Develop and analyze improvement alternatives
- Determine technically preferred improvement strategy
- Meet with impacted landowners/ stakeholders
- Conduct council presentations
- Conduct Open House No. 2 (February & April 2006)
 - Present alternatives considered
 - Present technically preferred improvements
- Develop recommended improvement strategy
- Conduct council presentations
- Conduct Open House No. 3 (June & September 2006)
 - Present recommended improvements
- Study Completion – November 2006