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**PRIORITY PASSES REMAIN AN OPTION FOR DAWSON FERRY USERS**

WHITEHORSE – The Yukon government will take every appropriate action to ensure the timely movement of people and goods across the Yukon River at Dawson City this summer season in light of the Dawson City Chamber of Commerce decision to discontinue priority ferry passes.

“The Yukon government recognizes the value of priority river-crossing for Dawson residents,” Highways and Public Works Minister Glenn Hart said. “Officials in the department are looking at ways to implement an alternative to the discontinued service for the people and businesses of Dawson.”

The line-up for the George Black ferry is often long during the height of the Dawson tourist season. In 1989, the Dawson City Chamber of Commerce, with the support of the Yukon government, initiated a priority pass program to assist businesses and residents of West Dawson to cross the river in a timely fashion.

As part of this year’s planning process for operating the ferry service, the department will include a program comparable to the existing service, and ensure continued priority for residents and commercial enterprises as operational requirements permit.

This year’s start of bridge construction is expected to have minimal impact on traffic flow and ferry operation. The department is developing a plan to minimize ferry service disruptions, should they occur.

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