



Release

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For Immediate Release

SECOND TENDER ISSUED FOR FLOODWAY EXPANSION PROJECT

Tenders for Concrete Girders to Support Highway Bridge Construction Over Five Years

Winnipeg, MB – The Manitoba Floodway Authority (MFA) has advertised the second construction tender for the Red River Floodway Expansion Project that will supply concrete girders for the construction of six highway bridge crossings.

“Transportation infrastructure is critical to the economic development of local communities,” said Reg Alcock, President of the Treasury Board and Minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board. “This tender will support improvements that will strengthen transportation links and help to better address the needs of local communities long into the future.”

“A significant component of the overall floodway project is the construction of highway bridges that cross the floodway channel,” said Steve Ashton, Minister of Water Stewardship. “For this reason, this tender will ensure that the girders are on hand when required for construction of these important transportation links.” Ashton noted that the fabrication of concrete girders is a very specialized trade.

“The public and the construction industry have expressed significant interest in the floodway expansion project,” said Ernie Gilroy, CEO of the MFA. “We are pleased to keep the public and the industry updated on the tendering process as we move forward. We encourage the industry to take this opportunity to review the tender and bid on the work.”

The tender involves the supply and delivery of 403 precast, prestressed concrete girders. The tender indicates the following fabrication and delivery schedule:

- 133 girders fabricated and delivered by March 31, 2006
- 121 girders fabricated and delivered by March 31, 2007
- 119 girders fabricated and delivered by March 31, 2008
- 30 girders fabricated and delivered by March 31, 2009

The deadline for bids for the tender is 12:00 noon on June 16, 2005 and is expected to be awarded in mid July.

For more information on tender requirements, please visit the MERX electronic tendering service at www.merx.com. For this contract and all other future floodway expansion tenders, digital bid documents will be distributed **only** through MERX. Contractors are advised to monitor MERX on an ongoing basis as the floodway project proceeds.

As part of the floodway expansion project, six highway bridge crossings that cross the floodway channel will be replaced at the following locations:

- St. Mary's Road, PR 200
- PTH 59 south
- Trans Canada Highway East
- PTH 15
- PTH 59 north
- PTH 44

It is estimated that over 60,000 people cross the six highway bridge crossings over the floodway on a daily basis.

The MFA is committed to ensuring minimal traffic disruptions during bridge construction at all locations by utilizing existing bridges during the construction of new bridge crossings. Gilroy noted that a four lane crossing is being planned for PTH 15 to meet increased traffic flows in the future. "During our public consultation meetings, Springfield residents clearly indicated their desire for a bridge that would accommodate future traffic flows."

Pending environmental approval, construction will begin in summer of 2005 and is scheduled to occur over five years. The project is scheduled to provide a 1-in-700 year level of flood protection for the spring of 2009 with associated bridge and related work being completed in 2010.

The Red River Floodway Expansion Project will divert more water around Winnipeg during major floods by more than doubling the capacity of the floodway channel. By improving flood protection to 1 in 700 year level of protection, floodway expansion will protect more than 450,000 Manitobans, over 140,000 homes, over 8,000 businesses and prevent more than \$12 billion in damages to the provincial economy. Canada and Manitoba have confirmed their commitment to floodway expansion project.

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