



Release

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For Immediate Release

THIRD TENDER ISSUED FOR FLOODWAY EXPANSION PROJECT

Tender for 500 Concrete Median Barriers Issued

Winnipeg, MB – The Manitoba Floodway Authority (MFA) has advertised the third construction tender for the Red River Floodway Expansion Project that will supply 500 concrete barriers to be used as traffic safety measures during highway bridge construction.

“Everyday approximately 60,000 people use six highway bridge crossings to cross the floodway,” said Steve Ashton, Minister of Water Stewardship. “Over the next five years, all of these crossings will be replaced and upgraded as a part of the floodway project. These improvements will improve traffic safety and strengthen economic ties for the local communities in the vicinity of the floodway.”

“The Red River Floodway Expansion project will not only widen the floodway but will also improve the quality of the 6 crossing bridges linking the communities to the city of Winnipeg,” said Reg Alcock, President of the Treasury Board and Minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board. “We will ensure measures are in place to provide safety for all commuting Manitobans, Canadians and tourists during the construction period of the project.”

The tender involves the supply and delivery of 500 precast concrete barriers that are used for dividing traffic traveling in different directions across highway bridges during construction. The tender indicates the following fabrication and delivery schedule:

- 400 barriers fabricated and delivered by September 30, 2005; and
- 100 barriers fabricated and delivered by October 14, 2005

“By using existing bridges during the construction of new bridge crossings, MFA expects minimal traffic disruptions during bridge construction at all locations,” said Ernie Gilroy, CEO of the MFA. “The concrete barriers will help to ensure traffic safety on the bridges that are being used during construction.”

The deadline for bids for the tender is 12:00 noon on June 28, 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

Gilroy noted that a four lane crossing is being planned for PTH 15 to meet increased traffic flows "During our public consultation meetings, Springfield residents clearly indicated their desire for a bridge that would accommodate increased 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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