



Release

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FIRST HIGHWAY BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT UNDERWAY AS PART OF RED RIVER FLOODWAY EXPANSION PROJECT

PCL Constructors Canada Inc. Awarded \$18 Million Bridge Construction Contract

Winnipeg, MB – The Manitoba Floodway Authority (MFA) announced today that PCL Constructors Canada Inc. has been awarded the first highway bridge construction contract to replace the PTH 59 South Bridge as part of the Red River Floodway Expansion Project.

“The important decision to widen rather than deepen the floodway channel to protect groundwater supplies required that the bridges be raised and lengthened as part of the floodway expansion project,” said Steve Ashton, Minister of Water Stewardship. “The floodway expansion project provides an important opportunity to upgrade existing bridges and improve highway safety.”

“Bridge construction is a critical component of the overall floodway expansion project,” said Reg Alcock, President of Treasury Board and Minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board. “While improving flood protection and facilitating increased capacity of the channel, floodway expansion also represents an important investment in our transportation infrastructure.”

As part of the contract, PCL will replace the two existing bridges that cross the Red River Floodway on the northbound and southbound lanes of the PTH 59 South Bridge, including related roadworks and channel excavation. In addition, Prairie Grove Road will be relocated higher along the bank, ensuring that the road remains above the flood water level for longer periods during flooding periods. Work on temporary detours in preparation for the project began last month and was recently completed. Bridge construction recently begun and is anticipated to be completed by 2008.

“The Red River Floodway Expansion is an extremely important development for the Province of Manitoba and PCL are proud to be working with the Manitoba Floodway Authority on this historic project,” said Kevin Skinner, Vice President and District Manager for PCL Constructors Canada Inc.. “We believe our strengths in management, quality and construction will benefit the entire team and bring unsurpassed value. We look forward to a successful project with MFA and the Wardrop Engineering Group”.

As a Manitoba General Contractor, PCL set up a permanent office in Winnipeg in 1963 and over the course of 42 years, have built or are building many of the signature projects in the province including the Norwood Bridge, Main Street Bridge, the MTS Centre and the Manitoba Hydro Downtown Office Building. PCL is a traditional builder and self performs work, directly employing a significant number of Manitobans on their projects.

In September, 2005, the MFA issued a tender for the replacement of the PTH 59 South Bridge. PCL Constructors Canada Inc. submitted the lowest bid in response to the tender. The estimated contract value is \$18 million.

“We are pleased that PCL Constructors Canada Inc. will be bringing their expertise and experience to the floodway expansion project,” said Ernie Gilroy, CEO of the MFA. “We look forward to working with them on the PTH 59 South Bridge project.”

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. For construction on the PTH 59 South Bridge, the Northbound Bridge will remain operational in the first year of construction and will be replaced by the Southbound Bridge in the second year of construction. It is estimated that over 60,000 people use the six highway bridges to cross the floodway every day.

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.

To ensure the safety of the public and construction workers, motorists are advised to use extreme caution and slow down when traveling through highway construction zones at all times. For more information on highway construction throughout the province, the public can visit the Manitoba Government website at www.gov.mb.ca

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