

The Red River Floodway Expansion Project

– A publication by the Manitoba Floodway Authority

More Protection. More Opportunities. - DECEMBER 2006

CEO's Message - Flood Protection Significantly Improving

Welcome to the fifth edition of the Manitoba Floodway Authority's (MFA) community newsletter. The MFA is pleased to report that the Red River Floodway Expansion Project is well on its way to protecting more Manitobans from Red River flooding. As the project moves forward, we will continue to keep you updated on this important public infrastructure project.

The Red River Floodway is an integral part of Winnipeg's flood protection system. Since it was completed in 1968, the floodway has operated over 20 times and prevented over \$10 billion in damage. At the same time, it has prevented widespread social and environmental destruction.

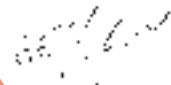
Since construction began just over a year ago, important progress has been made. The level of flood protection has increased from a one-in-90 year level to a one-in-140 year level. By next spring, construction is anticipated to result in a flood protection level of one-in-300, almost half-way to our final target and equivalent to the largest flood in Manitoba history. Once completed, the project will protect more than 450,000 Manitobans, over 140,000 homes and over 8,000 businesses.

This past summer, the federal and provincial governments showed their continued commitment to floodway expansion by jointly contributing \$84 million, making their total contributions to date \$324 million and allowing crucial channel excavation work to continue.

Over the next several months, MFA will be undertaking important channel excavation work to increase channel capacity and improve flood protection, while planning for construction into future years.

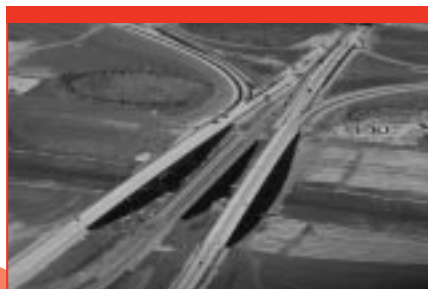
We look forward to working with Manitobans as the floodway project moves ahead. For more information on the project, please visit our website at www.floodwayauthority.mb.ca or call the MFA at 945-4900 (toll free 1-866-356-6355).

Yours sincerely,



Ernie Gilroy
Chief Executive Officer

Two recently constructed bridges will replace the existing Trans-Canada Highway east bridge and ensure that the Trans-Canada Highway is operational during a one-in-700 year flood.



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Federal And Provincial Governments Invest \$84 Million To Move Forward With Floodway Expansion

In July, the Honourable Vic Toews, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, on behalf of the Honourable Lawrence Cannon, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities, and Premier Gary Doer announced an additional \$84 million investment into the expansion of the Red River Floodway. The announcement was made beside the Trans-Canada Highway East Bridge, part of Canada's national transportation infrastructure, which is being replaced by two new bridges and raised to a one-in-700 year level of flood protection.

"The construction of the Manitoba Red River Floodway is important to the safety and security of Manitobans," said Minister Toews. "With the devastation of the 1997 flood still fresh in our minds, there is no denying the necessity of flood protection such as the Red River Floodway."

"Today's announcement will ensure that we are one step closer to reaching the one-in-300 year level of flood protection by next spring as we build to the

one-in-700 year flood protection level," said Premier Doer. "The additional funding will go towards tendering additional channel excavation work and will ensure the project remains on schedule as it moves forward. Again, this spring, the floodway prevented over \$2 billion in flood damages when it was operated to reduce flood water levels in Winnipeg."

Before the July announcement, the governments of Canada and Manitoba had already contributed \$240 million toward the project, bringing the total funding so far to \$324 million.



Announcing \$84 million in additional funding for the floodway expansion project, bringing the total investment to date to \$324 million.



Revised Plan to Ensure Floodway Project Remains on Budget

The MFA has recently unveiled a revised "Go Forward" plan for floodway expansion that provides a one-in-700 year flood protection while ensuring that the project remains on schedule and on budget. The plan also ensures that key national highway and railway routes remain open during a one-in-700 year flood.

"Our No.1 priority is providing a one-in-700 year level of flood protection for the residents in a timely manner," said Ernie Gilroy, CEO of the MFA. "By shifting focus from bridge construction to channel excavation, this plan will provide a one-in-700 year level of flood protection while also keeping the project on schedule and on budget."

The original project plan for floodway expansion was considered optimal and a "best case" plan that proposed enhancements to all of the components of the original floodway construction. However, as a result of recent cost pressures impacting construction projects across the country, MFA re-examined its plan to ensure that it remained within its original \$665 million budget.

While continuing to move forward with key components already undertaken such as the Trans-Canada Highway #1 East Bridge, the PTH 59 South Bridge and the CN Sprague Railway Bridge, the plan includes the replacement of the CN Redditt, CPR Emerson, and CPR Keewatin railway bridges - all of which have been determined to pose a significant hydraulic impact on the flow of floodwater within the channel. Engineering analysis has concluded that the hydraulic impact resulting from maintaining six existing highway and railway bridges - PTH 15, PTH 44, PTH 59 North, the St. Mary's Road (PR 200) and the Greater Winnipeg Water District (GWWD) and CEMR railway bridges - could be compensated for by additional channel excavation.

"By focusing our efforts on the bridges that have the greatest hydraulic impact, this plan increases the level of flood protection for Winnipeg residents to the one-in-700 year flood level while limiting the amount of traffic disruption during a major flood," said Gilroy. "We look forward to moving forward with this plan as we continue to improve flood protection."

To date, the floodway capacity has been increased from one-in-90 year to one-in-140 year and is scheduled to be increased to one-in-300 year by the spring of 2007.

Significant Progress Made in First Year of Expansion

After a full year of construction on the expansion project, significant progress has been made on a number of key components of the overall project including:

1. Excavation of the Floodway Embankment East of Grande Pointe – This work has improved flood protection in the Grande Pointe area. To date, earthwork has been completed and revegetation is continuing at the site.

2. Excavation of Floodway Channel - Channel excavation is currently underway for 31 kilometres (19 miles) of the floodway channel between the Inlet structure and just south of the PTH 59 North Bridge

3. Construction of the PTH 59 South Bridge – This work includes raising and lengthening the two existing bridges on the north and south lanes at the PTH 59 South Bridge to ensure they are above the one-in-700 year flood level. Work on the southbound structure of PTH 59 South Bridge was completed and the bridge was re-opened this fall. Work on the northbound structure will begin this fall and should be completed in the fall, 2007. In addition, channel excavation and reconstruction of Prairie Grove Road is underway. The road is being relocated higher along the bank, ensuring it remains above flood waters.

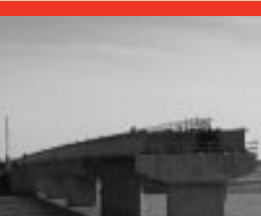
4. Construction of the Trans-Canada Highway Bridge - This project involves replacing the existing bridge with two new structures that cross the floodway. This work also features major safety improvements, including the addition of acceleration (eastbound) and deceleration (westbound) lanes, both designed to increase traffic safety moving on and off the bridge. This bridge was recently opened to the public.

5. Construction of the Sprague Railway Bridge - This work involves making adjustments to the Canadian National Railway (CNR) Sprague Railway Bridge over the Red River Floodway. Train traffic was diverted to a detour structure this summer. This project is scheduled to be completed in the fall of 2007.

6. Relocation of the City of Winnipeg Aqueduct –

Earlier this summer, work began on the relocation of the City of Winnipeg Branch I and II Aqueducts. MFA is coordinating the relocation work with the City of Winnipeg, whose workers are making improvements to the city’s water treatment plant next to the aqueduct.

7. Extension of the West Dike – This work will improve safety and provide protection against wind and wave action during major flood events. The West Dike, which is approximately 45 kilometres (28 miles) in length and located southwest of Winnipeg, will be extended between 10 kilometres (6 miles) and 15 kilometres (9 miles) and raised in height in varying amounts to 1.5 metres (6 feet). To date, work on the first 10 kilometres (6 miles) of the West Dike has been awarded as part of the Aboriginal Set-Aside, an initiative designed to help meet future labour needs while generating economic opportunities for the Aboriginal community.



The PTH 59 South Bridge is being raised and lengthened to ensure the bridge spans are above a one-in-700 year flood level



Workers survey construction on the new Trans-Canada Highway Bridge East



Installation of bridge girders on the new Trans-Canada Highway Bridge East.



Cement pour for the bridge deck on the PTH 59 South Structure.



Installation of the temporary bridge piers at the Sprague Railway Bridge was temporarily suspended when the floodway was operated in the spring of 2006. During the spring, the floodway prevented over \$2 billion in flood damages in Winnipeg.



Work on the West Dike will improve protection against wave and wind action during major flood events.

Framework Established for Key Advisory Groups

The MFA recently announced the framework of two key bodies – a Public Liaison Committee (PLC) and a Groundwater Peer Review Team (GRPT) to provide input and advice as the Red River Floodway Expansion Project progresses. Both bodies are part of the MFA's 10 Point Plan on Public Consultation announced last year. The PLC ensures Manitobans have input into the floodway expansion project during construction while the GRPT ensures that decisions about groundwater protection are based on sound expert advice.

The PLC provides a forum for the community, citizen representatives and the MFA to share information, opinions, and ideas on the expansion project. The 13 member committee will consist of representatives from the general public, local municipalities, the city of Selkirk and Winnipeg, Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, the Manitoba Metis Federation and the MFA. The MFA is currently working with these organizations to finalize details of the committee composition.

The Groundwater Review Team allows an opportunity for arms-length and independent people with expertise to evaluate and advise MFA on groundwater protection. The team will have a health risk expert and four hydrogeology experts, knowledgeable in monitoring, modeling, design and mitigation planning.

“The membership of the Public Liaison Committee will ensure urban, rural, regional, bilingual and Aboriginal representation while the peer review team will ensure that the MFA has access to the expertise of independent third party technical experts on groundwater protection,” said Ernie Gilroy, CEO of MFA.

Aboriginal Set-Aside Initiative Creates Opportunities

This summer, the MFA introduced the Aboriginal Set-Aside Initiative for construction on the first 10 kilometres (6 miles) of the West Dike component of the expansion project. The goal is to help address a future potential skilled labour shortage while generating jobs and economic opportunities for the Aboriginal community.

“The Aboriginal Set-Aside Initiative is a key component of addressing the looming labour shortage within the construction industry,” said Ron Lemieux, Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation. “The set-aside is in a win-win situation for the Aboriginal community and the construction industry.

The companies awarded work on the project are:

- Camster Construction Ltd. from St. Laurent
- Skownan/Dyck Joint Venture Construction Company from Skownan First Nation
- H. Baudry Construction from Ste. Agathe
- L. Chabot Enterprises Ltd. from Winnipeg

To date, three contracts on the set-aside have been completed on time and on budget and the fourth contract for the supply and installation of rock rip rap has recently begun on schedule. MFA will be reviewing the progress made on the first section to determine whether other sections of the West Dike will be tendered as part of the set-aside initiative.



Work on part of the West Dike has been awarded as part of the Aboriginal Set-Aside.

MFA Hosts Groundwater Protection Meetings

In July and September, the MFA held two open house meetings to inform residents about the relocation of the City of Winnipeg Branch I and Branch II Aqueducts and MFA's Groundwater Action Response Plan.

As was required for the PTH 59 South Bridge and the Trans-Canada Highway Bridge, occasional pumping of the groundwater to control pressure during the aqueduct relocation project is required. The MFA does not anticipate any permanent impact on well water over the course of the project. However, as a precaution, a Groundwater Action Response Plan has been established. It includes a 24-hour, seven-day-per-week,

toll-free telephone line designed to respond, in a timely manner, to any well water problems due to floodway construction. Should you experience any problems with your water supply that may be the result of floodway construction, the number to call is:

1-877-456-1201

Groundwater protection and minimizing potential effects to the water table have been, and continue to be, top priorities for the MFA. For more information on the plan, please visit the MFA website at www.floodwayauthority.mb.ca.

Members of the public attend open house meetings on the relocation of the City of Winnipeg Aqueduct and MFA's Groundwater Action Response Plan.



Access to Earth Initiative Makes Earth Available to the Public

In response to public requests, the MFA has developed a process that allows the public to access excavated earth from the floodway project.

For the fall of 2006, members of the public, who had registered with the MFA, had the opportunity to access free earth from a depot site located on the east side of the St. Mary's Road Bridge. This site was open from September 22 to October 16. For smaller vehicles, (i.e. pick-up trucks and small trailers), the MFA had a free loader available to assist with loading on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

Nearly 2,000 loads and approximately 13,000 cubic metres of earth was hauled from the site this fall.

The public was reminded that the available earth was heavy earth and clay fill, not topsoil and that, although the earth was free, applicants were responsible for all transportation costs.

The MFA plans to reintroduce the initiative in upcoming years as floodway work progresses.



Access to earth depot located beside the St. Mary's Road Bridge.

Safe Roads Aims to Prevent Road Construction Injuries

In May, the Manitoba Floodway Authority was pleased to participate in the launch of Safe Roads, a public awareness campaign on traffic safety at road construction zones. Safe Roads delivered the message that “Work Shouldn’t Hurt” to motorists across the province, and urged them to use caution when driving through construction zones.



The SAFE Roads Team is a joint safety effort between seven partners:

- City of Winnipeg
- Manitoba Transportation and Government Services
- Manitoba Heavy Construction Association
- Manitoba Floodway Authority
- Manitoba Hydro
- Manitoba Public Insurance
- Workers Compensation Board of Manitoba

Heavy Equipment Operators Wanted

To help fill future jobs, the provincial government’s Job Referral Service (JRS), which is designed to match qualified workers with floodway contractors who are looking for additional workers, is registering heavy equipment operators, especially those with scraper, dozer, grader and backhoe experience. Those who have appropriate experience and skills will be considered for future jobs.

If you have already registered with the JRS, please note that your registration has to be renewed every six months to ensure that your application remains active. To register, or to update your application, please call 945-0575 in Winnipeg or 1-866-332-5077.

For more information, please contact an employment service advisor at your local Employment and Training Service Centre or visit the online Floodway Job Referral Service at www.gov.mb.ca/jobreferral

Public Safety Along Floodway - Avoid Floodway Construction Zones

Again this fall, the MFA is reminding the public that over the next four years, work on the Red River Floodway Expansion Project will create an active construction site along the length of the floodway channel. This means workers and heavy equipment will be on site at all times and new construction hazards will arise and change throughout the year.

Please remember, workers operating heavy equipment are concentrating on the work they are doing and do not expect to have the children or adults – either on foot, bicycle, or snowmobile or ATV - in the vicinity of where they are working.

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping the construction site safe for the public and for floodway workers.

Manitoba Floodway Authority

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