

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

PROPOSER: Department of Highways
PROPOSAL NAME: Upgrading of PTH #16
(from PTH #83 to PTH #21)
CLASS OF DEVELOPMENT: 2
TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT: Transportation
CLIENT FILE NO.: 4206.00

OVERVIEW:

The Proposal was dated on September 11, 1996 and was received on September 17, 1996. The advertisement of the Proposal read as follows:

"A Proposal filed by the Manitoba Department of Highways to upgrade 37 km. of Provincial Trunk Highway # 16 from the east junction of PTH#83 in the R.M. of Birtle to PTH #21 in the R.M. of Shoal Lake. The proposed upgrade consists of grade widening the existing roadway to accommodate additional base, new pavement and shoulders. Grade widening will acquire up to 7.2 meters of additional right-of-way along both sides of the highway. In areas where the railway abuts the existing highway 7.2 m of additional right-of-way will be acquired from one side only. Highways will proceed with finalizing the project design and land acquisition once all government agencies' approvals have been met."

The Proposal was advertised in the Birtle Eye-Witness and in the Shoal Lake Star on September 30, 1996. It was placed in the Main Registry, the Manitoba Eco-Network, the Centennial Public Library, and the Western Manitoba Regional Library in Brandon. It was also distributed to the "Transportation" TAC members for comment by October 25, 1996.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

The Department of Environment was copied on a letter of response, dated October 25, 1996, from the R.M. of Shoal Lake to the Department of Highways Brandon District Office. The R. M. of Shoal Lake wrote to advise Highways that they passed a resolution requesting that turning lanes be provided on PTH #16 on the mile north of 8-17-23 for access to their Industrial Park. Also mention that a trucking firm located south of the CPR has raised concerns with the RM of Shoal Lake regarding difficulty experienced turning onto PTH 16 from PTH 42 to PTH 16 going east. Mention that the CPR have advised the RM of Shoal Lake that they do not want to put a crossing between Sec. 7-17-23 and Sec. 18-17-23 unless the approach directly crosses the railway.

No other responses were received as a result of the Environment Act advertisement of the Proposal.

COMMENTS FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Manitoba Natural Resources Suggest that a specific erosion control plan be developed for the culvert lengthening at Oak River which is similar to the one mentioned in the Proposal for Birdtail Creek. Request that, if possible, construction at both sites be avoided between April 1 to June 1. Plans for erosion control at both locations should be submitted to DNR regional staff two weeks prior to construction start-up to allow for on site inspection and approval. DNR supports the use of wetland replacement sites and is willing to discuss plans for wetland creation with the proponent. Note that previously created replacement wetland sites are now being used on a regular basis by waterfowl.

Disposition:

The comments can be accommodated as a licence conditions

Manitoba Environment - Water Quality Note that Water Quality Management concerns have been addressed in the Proposed Mitigative Measures Section of the Proposal.

Disposition: The comments can be accommodated as a general condition of the licence by requiring that the proponent construct the development in accordance with the Proposal which documents the proposed environmental management practices.

Manitoba Environment - Park-West Region No concerns

Historic Resources Heritage Resource concerns have been addressed in the Environment Act Proposal. Heritage Resources will conduct a field reconnaissance of borrow sites once the locations of the sites are known.

Mines Branch No concerns.

Health Comment that the inclusion in the Environment Act Licence of the proposed environmental management practices described in the Proposal are expected to prevent or mitigate potential health hazards from the project.

Fisheries and Oceans DFO recommendations on the Proposal are included in the proposed environmental management practices section of the Proposal. DFO has no additional concerns regarding the Proposal.

PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing is not recommended for this project. The comments provided by the RM of Shoal Lake directly to Highways are related to the traffic safety engineering and design considerations and therefore fall outside the scope of the Environment Act review of the Proposal. This matter is being pursued directly between the Highways and the RM of Shoal Lake.

RECOMMENDATION:

The comments and concerns identified by the TAC can be accommodated as conditions of licencing for the project. Therefore, it is recommended that the Development be licenced under The Environment Act subject to the limits, terms and conditions as described in the attached Draft Environment Act Licence. It is further recommended that enforcement of the Licence be assigned to the Manitoba Environment Parkwest Region.

PREPARED BY:

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