

Tłıchǫ All Season Road Project

Mackenzie Valley Review Board

EA1617-01 Whatı Public Hearing

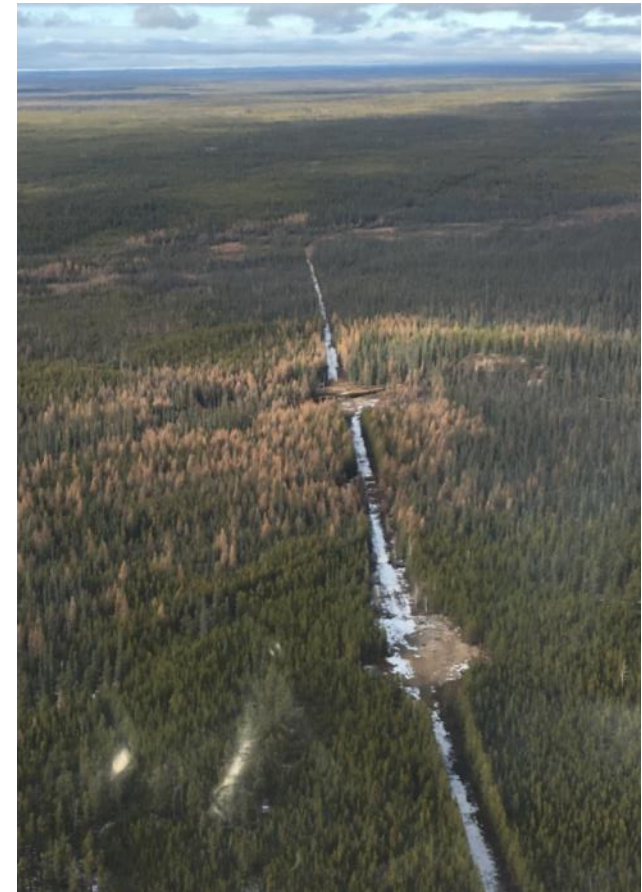
November 15, 2017 (Day 1)





Outline

- Project History & Purpose
- Project Description
 - Design & Procurement
- Overview of Environmental Assessment
- Key Areas of Focus in this EA
- Conclusions
- Next Steps





Project History

- Over the years, the GNWT and the Tłıchǫ Government have thought of improving transportation to the Tłıchǫ communities
- Early 2011, both governments came together under Tłıchǫ Roads Steering Committee (TRSC)
- Overall vision has been to pursue development of an all-season road, and Project Description Report (PDR) work began in 2012
- The route would end at the boundary of the community government of Whatì and predominantly follow ‘Old Airport Road’, an existing alignment that was used up until the late 1980s as an overland winter road



Purpose for Road

- Improve access to services
- Improved quality of life
- Employ NWT residents
- Economic development
- Reduce cost of living
- Connect communities





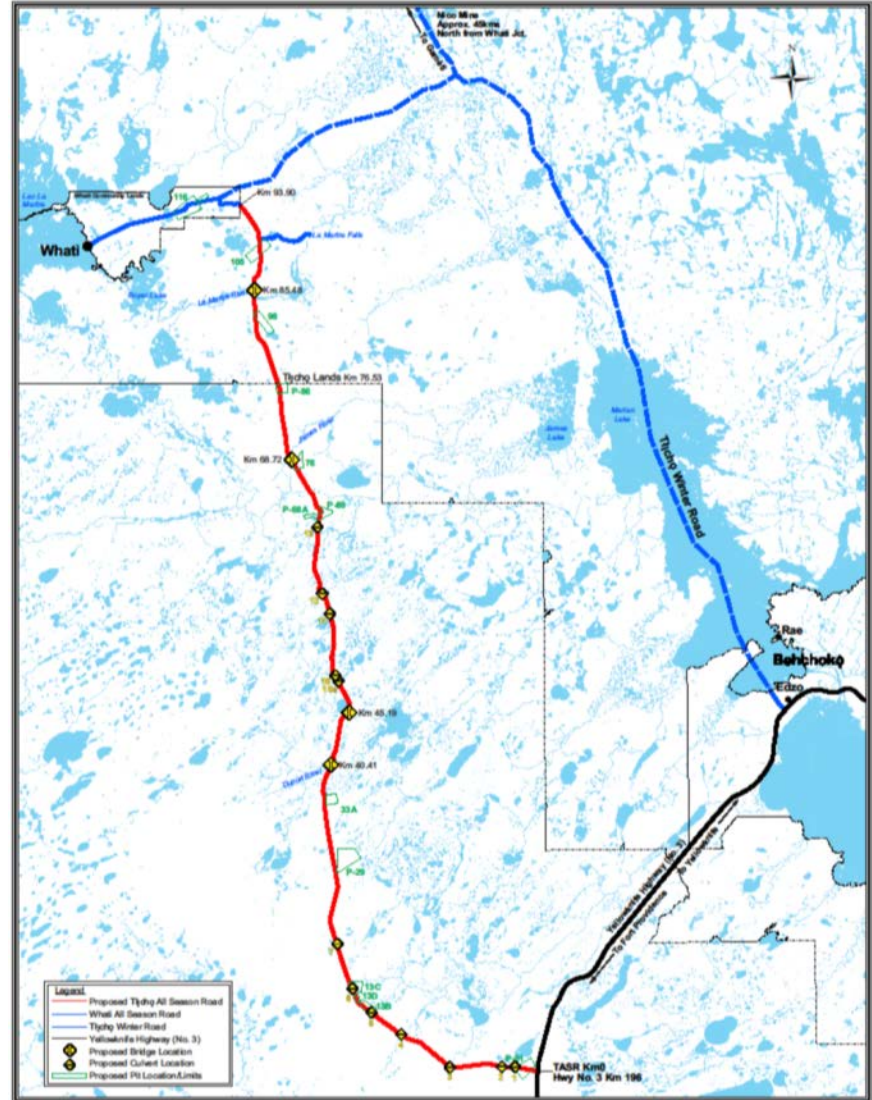
Project Support Through GNWT Mandates

- Commitment under *Proposed Mandate of the GNWT 2016-2019*
- Various strategies summarized in *Connecting Us* support improved transportation
- Tłıchq All-Season Road is a priority of the NWT's 18th Legislative Assembly



Proposed Road, Water Crossings and Gravel Pits

- Starts at KM196 off Highway 3
- Road is 94km to Whatì boundary

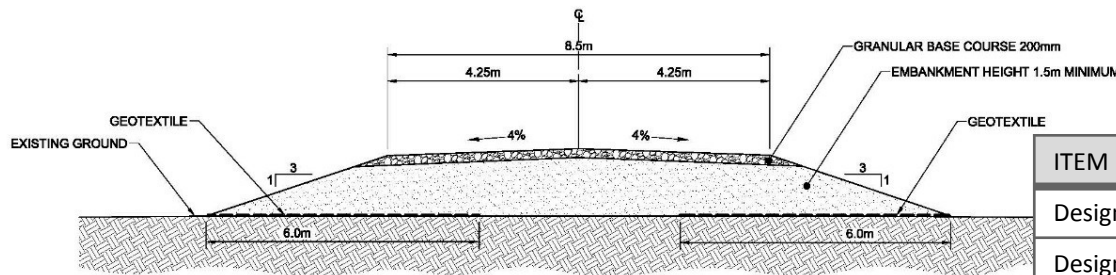


August 2017



Brief Project Description

- Key components of the Project include the following:
 - Construction of a two lane all-season gravel road 94 km long
 - Including upgrade of an additional 3 km on Whatì community access road
 - Construction of 15 water crossings (11 large culverts and 4 bridges)
 - Construction of smaller drainage culverts as required



ITEM	STANDARD
Designation	RLU 80
Design Speed	80 km/h
Finished Roadway Width	8.50 m (3.50 m lanes and 0.75 m shoulders)
Normal Side Slopes	3:1
Minimum Surface Gravel	200 mm
Bridge Design Loading	CL-800



Road Structures and Design

- See posters and handouts
- Poster 1: Photos of project area at different times of year since 2014
- Poster 2: Bridge crossing locations and proposed structures
- Poster 3: Culvert crossing locations and proposed structures
- Poster 4: Comparable NWT highways to TASR



GNWT-TG Land Exchange

- Land exchange, use and access agreement signed.
 - Exchange does not occur until after EA.
 - Tłıchǫ Government remains a decision maker for EA.
- Agreement ensures the proper legal arrangements have been made between both governments in order for the project to proceed through the regulatory phase and into construction.
- Once construction is complete, it will become a Territorial Highway on Territorial lands.



Tłıchq Government Involvement

- Contributed to Project Description Report
 - TK & socioeconomic studies
- Whatı Interagency Committee Partner
- Land Access Agreement
- Environmental Assessment Process
 - Social, Environmental and Cultural Mitigations
 - Participation and decision maker
- Requiring commitments in the Request for Proposals
- Identifying and Realizing Economic Opportunities
 - Tłıchq Investment Corporation
 - Community Organizations and Corporations
 - Individuals and Small Businesses
- Other Opportunities
 - Training
 - Jobs





Procurement Process – P3 Roles



- Define PPP scope and objectives
- Selects operator, awards contract
- Pays for service
- Owns the infrastructure (TASR)

**Private
Sector**

- Design and Build infrastructure
- Finance project
- Operate/maintain infrastructure
- Provides service on behalf of GNWT



How can local communities benefit from P3s?

- Help generate local jobs
- Opportunities for local businesses
- Opportunities for local expertise and skills
- Subcontracts with local trades and business



Procurement Update



- RFQ issued by the GNWT on March 20, 2017 and closed on June 9, 2017.
- RFP expected to be issued by the GNWT in early December 2017.
- When procurement process is complete, the Preferred Proponent will design, build, finance, operate and provide maintenance, repair for the TASR for a 25 year period.



Procurement Timeline

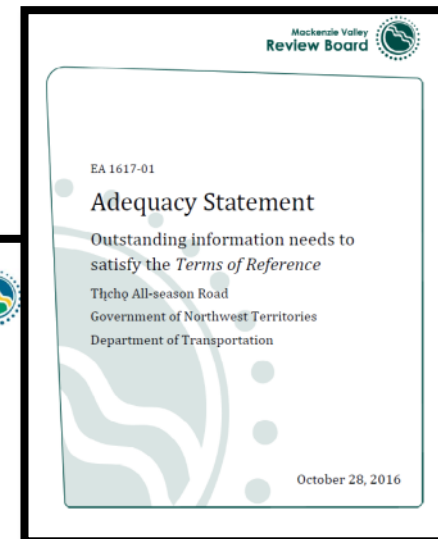
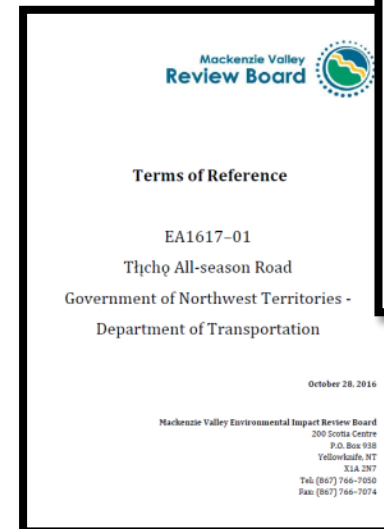
- Construction estimated to start in winter 2019
- Mobilization of equipment using winter road only expected in winter 2019
- Need: permits, approved management plans & completed EA prior to construction





Environmental Assessment Overview

- Scoping session
- Terms of reference & adequacy statement
- Developer's assessment report
- Information requests
- Technical session
- Party to party meetings
- Developer-led workshops
- Technical reports
- Public hearing





GNWT's Role through EA process

- GNWT is considered the Developer
- GNWT depts. work together internally
 - Only the Applicant (INF) has submitted material to MVEIRB
- GNWT-Lands has a dual role
 - Coordinating GNWT participation in Review Board process
 - Decision maker and coordinator under s.130 MVRMA



Key Areas of Focus in this EA

- Fish, caribou, wildlife, including species at risk
- Traditional use, culture and heritage resources
- Economic well-being
- Stable and healthy communities
- Water, permafrost and other



Corridor Working Group

- Information sharing group
- Objectives:
 - review & comment on monitoring programs, annual reports
 - provide advice on monitoring and mitigation results that may contribute to adaptive management
 - share results publically via project-specific website





Resource and Wildlife Management

- New post-tech session commitments from Tłıchǫ Government
- The GNWT has developed a number of draft plans to ensure resources and wildlife are respected. Plans include:
 - Quarry Operations Plan
 - Spill Contingency Plan
 - Waste Management Plan
 - Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Plan
 - In-Field Water Analysis Plan
 - Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan



Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan

- Outlines:
 - ways the GNWT can reduce Project impacts on wildlife and wildlife habitat
 - what type of wildlife monitoring will be done to understand the impacts of the road on wildlife, test the predictions made during the EA, and inform adaptive management
- Will:
 - meet the requirements of section 95(2) of the *Wildlife Act* and other relevant legislation
 - be updated to reflect any measures from this EA and relevant comments from parties
 - undergo a public review



Land Recreational Leasing Management Framework

- Articulates GNWT's goals and priorities for: planning, management, administration and issuance of leases for cabins and recreational uses
- Working with TG and Canada to examine next steps in creating a Wek'èezhìi Area Land Use Plan for public lands



Ground Ambulance and Highway Rescue Services Action Plan

- Action plan examines current rescue services in NWT
- Multi-departmental collaboration
- Results will inform longer term planning involving NWT communities
- Action plan will take a close look at the Multi-Agency Rescue Coordination System
- Well underway – report in new year



Stable and Healthy Communities

- The GNWT works to continuously improve programs and services to promote and support community health and wellness, including mental health and addictions recovery
- The GNWT will continue to work closely with TG, TCSA, non-profits, and other partners to support stable and healthy communities in the Tłıchq region
- The GNWT will continue to support the RCMP and the communities they serve to build strong partnerships and keep residents safe



Conclusions

- Continue to work collaboratively with parties
- Mitigation, adaptive management and compliance to conditions & commitments
- After management and mitigation, **no likely significant environmental impacts**





Review Board's Updated Work Plan

Start Date	End Date	Process Step	Duration
1-Nov-16	13-Apr-17	Developer submits Adequacy Statement Response	
13-Apr-17	28-Apr-17	Conformity check of Adequacy Statement Response	2 weeks
29-Apr-17	29-May-17	Information requests	4 weeks
30-May-17	21-Jul-17	Developer responses to information requests	~4 weeks
21-Jul-17	15-Aug-17	Board and parties prepare for technical sessions	3 weeks
15-Aug-17	17-Aug-17	Technical Session in Behchokò	1 week
18-Aug-17	25-Aug-17	Developer response to undertakings from technical session	TBD
25-Aug-17	11-Oct-17	Technical Reports submitted (Parties' Interventions)	3 weeks
25-Oct-17	25-Oct-17	Pre-hearing conference	-
11-Oct-17	27-Oct-17	Developer response to Technical Reports (Intervention)	TBD
27-Oct-17	3-Nov-17	Deadline for Parties' Presentations	1 week
3-Nov-17	6-Nov-17	Deadline for Developer's Presentation	TBD
15-Nov-17	17-Nov-17	Public Hearings in Whatì	1 week
17-Nov-17	1-Dec-17	Developer undertakings from hearing	TBD
1-Dec-17	15-Dec-17	Closing arguments from Parties	2 weeks
15-Dec-17	19-Jan-18	Developer closing arguments and closure of public record	TBD
19-Jan-18	23-Mar-18	Report of EA and Reasons for Decision	9 weeks
		Decision from Minister of Lands and Tłı̨chò Government	TBD



GNWT Approach for Public Hearing

- Russ Neudorf – primary GNWT speaker
- Departmental representatives – to speak on respective mandates
- Golder Associates – to speak on effects analysis
- Tłıchǫ Government and/or Firelight – to speak on community driven programming and mitigations
 - Community Government of Whatì and Tłıchǫ Community Services Agency may also contribute



Masi Cho!



Questions?