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**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Abandoned Vehicles**Highways and  
Public Works

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**Recommended response:**

- Ensuring safe, well-maintained highways is of utmost importance to the Department of Highways and Public Works.
- The road surface, as well as the right-of-way, must be kept clear, so the department can do tasks like brushing and winter plowing.
- Abandoned vehicles left in any part of the road or right-of-way can interfere with the flow of traffic, impede visibility, and during the winter months can impede snow removal and become a public safety hazard.
- To help reduce the risk of collisions along the highways and roads, the Yukon government encourages the public to report abandoned vehicles to the RCMP.

**Additional response:**

- If an abandoned vehicle presents an immediate safety concern, the RCMP will have the vehicle towed to a storage facility so that it does not present a road safety hazard.
- If there is no immediate safety concern, the vehicle is left in place and the Yukon government attempts to contact the last registered owner.
- If no contact can be made with the last registered owner, the government will tow the vehicle and store it at a towing facility.

**Third response:**

- In all cases, the Yukon government sends a registered letter to the last registered owner,

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Abandoned Vehicles**Highways and  
Public Works

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notifying them that their vehicle has been towed or needs to be removed from its location.

- In the event their vehicle has been towed, registered owners are advised that:
  - they are responsible for all costs associated with the towing and storage of the vehicle;
  - vehicles must be removed from the storage facility within 30 days; and
  - they will be unable to renew any vehicle registration until the debt to government has been paid.
- Once towed, unclaimed vehicles stored at towing facilities are liquidated after 30 days.
- The Yukon government compensates the tow operators for any costs associated with towing, storing and disposing of the vehicle and works to recover these costs from the last registered owner.

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**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- People sometimes abandon vehicles along roadways and other areas in the Yukon as it can be cheaper to do so than to dispose of a vehicle through proper means.

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**Background**

- RCMP (or other designated officers) investigate reports of abandoned vehicles.
- Once confirmed, RCMP notifies the Yukon government of an abandoned vehicle so that they can contact the last registered owner and request that the vehicle be removed from the roadway, or that they claim their vehicle from a storage yard.

<b>Approved by:</b>
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Prepared for Minister Clarke  
Department of Highways and Public Works

Date prepared: January 10,  
2022

Last Updated: January 31,  
2022

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Session Briefing Note

Spring 2022

Abandoned Vehicles

Highways and  
Public Works



January 31, 2022

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public  
Works

Date Approved

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Accessibility**Highways and  
Public Works

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**Recommended response: Accessibility Design Requirements**

- All new Government of Yukon buildings are designed to meet the National Building Code barrier-free requirements and standards for accessibility.
- In 2020, the Government of Yukon released a new Building Design Requirements and Technical Standards Manual that contains standards for inclusive and accessible buildings.
- The manual is referenced in all project tender documents, and must be complied with. The manual includes mandatory accessibility provisions such as:
  - in senior and health care facilities corridor handrails are required to provide wall protection and greater accessibility, and required locations will be specified in the functional program for the specific use or occupancy;
  - elevators or lifts are required in all multi-story buildings, unless an upper floor is used only for storage. Accessibility requirements apply to any form of disability; and
  - parking lots and walkways must not have grades more than five per cent to maintain accessibility.

**Additional response: Snow Clearing**

- Highways and Public Works is responsible for clearing snow and ice at the majority of Government of Yukon owned buildings, not including buildings with specific requirements such as 24/7 group homes, or Yukon Housing buildings.



**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Accessibility**Highways and  
Public Works

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- We prioritize building clearings, with the first tier covering continuing care facilities, schools and emergency response centres. At each of our buildings, we prioritize clearing of accessible parking spots, main entrances, main walkways, and fire exits.

**Third response: Accessibility Supports**

- The Yukon Housing Corporation maintains a standing Accessibility Advisory Committee which provides advice on accessibility and other features of new housing projects.
- Time specific programs such as the Home Repair Accessibility grant, coupled with the current Home Repair program, provides practical supports for Yukoners requiring residential home repairs.

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**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- Bill C-81, the *Accessible Canada Act* was introduced in 2018, highlighting the need for more accessible buildings.
- CSA C-81 goes above and beyond the National Building Code in its application. Not all jurisdictions are adopting this standard, BC for example has decided not to. We have not adopted either.

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**Background:**

- Consultants should note that a barrier-free path of travel will therefore be required on all floors served by the elevator or lift.

**Approved by:**

April 7, 2022

**Session Briefing Note**

**Spring 2022**

**Accessibility**

Highways and  
Public Works

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Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works
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Date Approved
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**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Airport Lease Land****Highways and Public  
Works**

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**Recommended response:**

- Yukon's aviation system is essential for connecting our communities, building our economy and linking the Yukon with the rest of the world.
- The Yukon government continues to make strategic investments to keep our aerodromes and airports safe and open for business.
- Our government has made significant investments in aviation over the past few years, including upgrades to equipment and facilities.
- However, we know there is more work to be done in the future to help grow and develop Yukon's aviation system.

**Additional response:**

- One of the most important ways the Yukon government supports the aviation industry is by providing a leasable land base for commercial operators and recreational users at Yukon public airports and aerodromes.
- In April 2021, the *Public Airports Act Regulation* was passed, allowing us to meet all legal, operational and tenant requirements for leasing airport lands.
- Subdivision planning is underway at airports and aerodromes. Once subdivision plans are completed and approved, the Yukon government will be in a position to sign leases with tenants.

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Airport Lease Land****Highways and Public  
Works**

- All new lease parcels will need to be properly designed and subdivided prior to disposition and leasing.

**Third response:**

- Where possible, the Yukon government has facilitated urgent requests that do not require permanent buildings or other permanent infrastructure through short-term licenses.
- We will continue to work with stakeholders on a case-by-case basis to support needs at our airports and aerodromes through the use of short-term licences where necessary.

**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- Current and prospective airport tenants have expressed strong interest in leasing airport land and in using leases as collateral for further business development.

**Approved by:**


January 24, 2022

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public  
Works

Date Approved

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Alaska Highway Safety Projects  
in Whitehorse**Highways and  
Public Works

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**Recommended response:**

- The Yukon government is making a number of safety improvements along the Alaska Highway through Whitehorse.
- These improvements include removing uncontrolled highway accesses and installing pedestrian-controlled traffic signal crossings to help increase public safety and reduce the risk of collisions.
- We have recently installed a protected green arrow light at the Robert Service Way intersection, which will make it safer for vehicles to make left turns.

**Additional response: Work Completed**

- We've already completed a number of projects along the Alaska Highway, including:
  - intersection improvements at the South and North Klondike Highway intersections;
  - improvements to the new Range Road intersection that include traffic lights with pedestrian controlled signals and a paved multipurpose trail;
  - improvements at the Hillcrest intersection including acceleration and deceleration lanes and signal lights;
  - improvements between Hillcrest Drive and Burns Road including the addition of:
    - streetlights;
    - two pedestrian-controlled traffic signal crossings;

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Alaska Highway Safety Projects  
in Whitehorse**Highways and  
Public Works

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- a paved multi-user trail connecting to trails going into downtown; and
  - upgrades to the multi-user trail adjacent to the highway.
- Public engagement for these projects have included open houses, pop-up information booths, an interactive website, expert panel discussions, meetings and presentations.
- The project teams have met with community associations, pedestrian and cyclist groups, First Nation governments, museums, the City of Whitehorse and local area businesses.

**Third Response: Upcoming Work**

- Highways and Public Works is planning to continue important safety upgrades starting at Lodestar Lane to the Whitehorse Weigh Scales this summer.
- This includes enhancing the roadway lighting, upgrading the multi-use trails and improving the access into the Whitehorse Weigh Scales.
- We are continuing to plan for the Robert Service Way intersection to Philmar RV. This work will include the consolidation of uncontrolled highway accesses, and construction of new frontage roads.
- Design options for this portion of the project have not been finalized and are still being evaluated.
- One thing we are considering is the safety benefits of a roundabout versus a standard signalized intersection at Robert Service Way.

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Alaska Highway Safety Projects  
in Whitehorse**Highways and  
Public Works

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- Roundabouts can improve safety by requiring drivers to slow down as they proceed into and through the intersection.
- They also limit the potential points of conflict, reducing collisions, and they can be safer for pedestrians and cyclists to cross.
- Finally, project design work is nearly complete for safety improvements in **Porter Creek**, including the installation of signal lights at three intersections - Wann Road, MacDonald Road and 15th Avenue.
- Funds are allocated in 2022-23 for finalizing the design for this project.
- In the meantime, I have directed the department to look at the feasibility of installing a traffic light at the Alaska Highway and Wann Road intersection to help improve safety in the short term.
- In fall 2020, we met with affected businesses and residents to discuss our plans for this project. The project was also open for public comment on YESAB's project registry site early last year.
- Highways and Public Works is planning to hold an information session this summer with the Porter Creek community, once the final design drawings are completed by the design consultant.

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**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- The Alaska Highway is an important part of our transportation network. The safety improvements through Whitehorse will affect many road users.

## Session Briefing Note

Spring 2022

Alaska Highway Safety Projects  
in WhitehorseHighways and  
Public Works

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**Background:**

- The Yukon government is responsible for safety within the Alaska Highway right-of-way, while the City of Whitehorse has jurisdiction beyond the right-of-way.

**Robert Service Way**

- The project is currently in the design phase. \$250,000 was allocated for this work in the 2021-22 fiscal year.
- Highways and Public Works recently held meetings with local business owners, adjacent property owners and the City of Whitehorse to share conceptual designs.
- The multi-year project is currently being reviewed by the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board (YESAB). Public commenting on the project closed February 21, 2022.
- Based on comments received, the department is currently reviewing design options that would best address public concerns while still upholding highway safety priorities and limiting environmental impacts to McLean Lake Creek.
- The final design plans will be communicated to the public once they are determined.

**Porter Creek**

- Public notification of the proposed intersection modifications and lane configurations occurred in fall 2020.
- At that time, we held meetings with local business owners and adjacent property owners to share conceptual designs.

**Approved by:**Deputy Minister, Highways and Public  
Works

April 4, 2022

Date Approved



Session Briefing Note

Spring 2022

Alaska Highway Safety Projects  
in Whitehorse

Highways and  
Public Works

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**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Auxiliary On-call Employees at  
Highways and Public Works**Highways and  
Public Works**Recommended response:**

- Auxiliary On-Call employees (AOC's) are a critical part of our workforce and are used to ensure continued service delivery for Yukoners.
- They are used to fill short-term vacancies (e.g. unplanned leave, sick leave, vacation, etc.) or fill an immediate need (e.g. increases to service delivery requirements from abnormal weather events).
- AOC's are often hired because they bring experience and skill in the interim and keep the work of the department moving.
- Some AOC's prefer this status as it offers them flexibility to work on a schedule that supports their work/life balance.

**Additional response:**

- As of March 9, 2022, the Department of Highways and Public Works has 933 active employees and 120 of which are AOC.
- It's important to note that AOC's remain on the 'departmental list' for a year - although their actual work hours may ebb and flow.
- During the months AOC's are actively working - they are averaging 45 hours/month.
- The department conducts regular reviews of the number of hours an AOC is working and in cases where they are consistently working close to full-time hours, we explore the option of hiring them as a regular (permanent or term) employee.

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Auxiliary On-call Employees at  
Highways and Public Works**Highways and  
Public Works

- Of the 120 AOC's at HPW over the past 12 months, 12 have been hired as permanent or term employees.
- In the past 12 months, additional AOC's were also required to meet increased demands in certain work areas related to COVID-19 impacts (e.g. increased staff absences due to illness) and protocols (e.g. more custodians for increased cleaning requirements, etc.).

**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- Concerns have been raised about the number and use of Auxiliary On-Call employees.

**Approved by:**

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public  
Works

March 22, 2022

Date Approved

## Session Briefing Note

Spring 2022

### Biomass Projects

Highways and  
Public Works

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#### Recommended response:

- Investing in renewable fuel sources, such as biomass, is key to reducing our greenhouse gas emissions.
- We are excited to be moving forward with two key biomass projects:
  - 1) the installation of a new biomass heating system at Elijah Smith Elementary School in Whitehorse; and
  - 2) the expansion of the biomass heating system at the Whitehorse Corrections Centre.
- These two biomass systems are anticipated to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 500 tonnes each year.
- Additional feasibility studies are also underway to identify future projects.
- This is one of the many steps that the Yukon government is taking to meet the goals of *Our Clean Future*.

#### Additional response:

- In July 2021, we engaged with biomass contractors to discuss our plans for the Elijah Smith School biomass project and to listen to their suggestions and feedback.
- Contracts for construction, operations and maintenance for the biomass system were awarded to Budget Plumbing and Heating in fall 2021. Construction is currently underway and is anticipated to be completed in fall 2022.

## Session Briefing Note

Spring 2022

### Biomass Projects

Highways and  
Public Works

- 
- The Elijah Smith biomass construction contract was awarded for \$2 million.

#### Third response (Whitehorse Corrections Centre):

- The tender for Whitehorse Corrections Centre came in over budget in fall 2021. We plan to re-tender this project later this spring.

---

#### Context—this may be an issue because:

- Biomass energy systems are an important way for the Yukon government to reduce emissions from its buildings.

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#### Background:

- In 2020, Highways and Public Works created the Green Infrastructure Program to oversee the energy conservation and greenhouse gas reduction efforts for Yukon government buildings.
- Projects include energy retrofits to building envelopes, lighting, heating and ventilation equipment, and the integration of renewable energy systems such as biomass and solar.
- Renewable energy systems such as biomass are a significant component of the department's strategy to meet the greenhouse gas reduction targets in *Our Clean Future*.

#### Approved by:



April 25, 2022

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public  
Works

Date Approved

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Brushing and Roadway Safety  
Improvement Program**Highways and  
Public Works

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**Recommended response: Roadway Safety Improvement  
Program**

- The Yukon government has implemented a roadway safety improvement program that is designed to make Yukon's roads safer.
- Through brushing, improved lane markings, removing hazards in the right-of-way, and installing and maintaining more roadside barriers, the government is ensuring that Yukoners have safe roads to travel on throughout the year.
- Since 2019, over \$15 million has been allocated to the program. The department has brushed over 2,100 km along Yukon highways, installed over 9 km of new barriers, and painted over 2,600 km of highway lines.

**Additional response: Request for Qualifications (RFQ)**

- Ensuring that we get value for money - for Yukon taxpayers, is a fundamental principle in government procurement.
- This particular program is no exception.
- One of the ways we do this is by using the various tools available to us in our procurement toolkit.
- This year, we're using a new approach to procuring vegetation control services - using two levels of screening.
- In the first level of screening - we issue what's referred to as a "request for qualifications".

# CONFIDENTIAL

## Session Briefing Note

Spring 2022

### Brushing and Roadway Safety Improvement Program

Highways and  
Public Works

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- This serves as an opportunity for contractors to express interest in being invited to bid on upcoming tenders.
- From a government perspective, it also provides us with the assurances that potential contractors have the capabilities to do the work (e.g. access to necessary equipment, experience, etc.).
- In the second level of screening, qualified contractors may be invited to bid on tenders, based on price or other criteria.
- This model allows us to move forward in the procurement process quicker - by having pre-vetted contractors already on an established list.
- We held an information session on March 24, for those interested in applying on the RFQ. The department also sent letters to Yukon First Nation governments, Yukon First Nation businesses and Development Corporations.
- We received 17 individual responses to the RFQ resulting in companies being qualified for the various segment types of vegetation control work. (Segment types include: mowing, as well as light, medium, and heavy vegetation control clearing work).
- Those companies that were qualified for each of the different segments are in the process of being notified that they have been added to the Qualified Source List.

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Brushing and Roadway Safety  
Improvement Program**Highways and  
Public Works

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- Projects are already being developed that will be offered either by Direct Award (under 50,000), or by invitational or open tenders to the full list of qualified companies.
- In addition, as other companies who are not on the Qualified Source List express their interest in being considered, the department will open up the QSL to enable them the opportunity to be added to the list. Companies who are already on the list will remain and will not need to reapply.

**Third response: Wildlife considerations**

- Wildlife interactions represent a real danger for drivers in the Yukon.
- Frequent brushing allows drivers to better see wildlife crossings and helps prevent collisions.
- Brushing also helps keep signs visible, decreases snow accumulation and drifting, and improves roadway drainage.

**Fourth Response: Engagements and the online public portal**

- In July 2021, Highways and Public Works sent 698 letters to property owners who were nearby upcoming vegetation control work.
- The letters directed owners to an online platform that mapped the locations where vegetation control may be taking place, noted the specifications of planned vegetation control and also explained the benefits of vegetation control.



**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Brushing and Roadway Safety  
Improvement Program**Highways and  
Public Works**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- There has been some public interest in the safety of wildlife and ensuring contractor compliance with brushing.

**Background:****Roadway Safety Improvement**

- In 2018, Yukon's primary highways were assessed for vehicle hazards. This assessment led to the development of a Yukon Roadside Barrier Guideline, which includes a system to identify vehicle hazards across the highway network.
- The Roadway Safety Improvement Program will schedule maintenance using the Highway Classification Framework. This framework classifies Yukon highways based on traffic volumes, type of use and other socioeconomic factors.

**Brushing**

- Vegetation control is completed through contracts and through Memorandums of Understanding with First Nations and Yukon municipalities.
- Each contract contains detailed specifications for vegetation control that specify stem height, clearing widths, steep slopes, riparian zones, inside curves (for sight line distance) and salvageable wood (available for the public).
- Brushing specifications must meet or exceed "*Preventing Wildlife Injuries from Right-of Way Vegetation control.*" These specifications were recommended by the Yukon Department of Environment, Carcross/Tagish First Nation and the Southern Lakes Caribou Steering Committee.

**Approved by:**Prepared for Minister Clarke  
Highways and Public WorksDate prepared: January 10,  
2022Last Updated: April 26,  
2022

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**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Brushing and Roadway Safety  
Improvement Program**Highways and  
Public Works

April 26, 2022

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public  
Works

Date Approved

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Building Ventilation**Highways and  
Public Works

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**Recommended response:**

- The Yukon government continues to ensure that all Yukon government buildings, including schools, are safe during this time.
- Highways and Public Works maintains all government building ventilation systems to the industry standard and performs regular inspections and maintenance.
- Prior to the start of the school year, all school ventilation systems were inspected and had maintenance work completed - including having the filters replaced.
- The government stays up to date on health recommendations and guidelines to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19.

**Recommended response: Air Handling Unit at Elijah Smith School**

- The air handling unit for the north side of the Elijah Smith building has been malfunctioning and building engineers are working to resolve the issue.
- This specific air handling unit impacts offices and a few classrooms in the North Wing.
- We are actively working with a contractor to find a long-term solution, while navigating supply chain issues and the challenges with locating particular ventilation system parts.

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Building Ventilation**Highways and  
Public Works

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- Once the parts are available we will have this repair completed.
- In the meantime HEPA air filters have been placed in all affected offices and classrooms.

**Recommended response: Ventilation for School Dental Program**

- Last year a consultant was hired to conduct a review of all dental program rooms in Yukon schools to ensure appropriate ventilation is in place.
- In that report, two schools were identified for priority upgrades: Grey Mountain Primary School and Carcross School.
  - o Carcross school repairs were completed this year, which included replacing an exhaust fan and remediating insulation in a ceiling.
  - o Grey Mountain Primary requires more substantial changes to ensure appropriate ventilation for the dental program. The space will not be used until the changes are made. A new design is needed and this has been included in our capital planning process. As a result of this program not operating, students will receive referrals to a private clinic and will receive coverage from the Yukon Children's Dental Program.
- All other schools were deemed to have appropriate ventilation for the dental program, with some upgrades identified for future years. These

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Building Ventilation**Highways and  
Public Works

projects will be incorporated into our capital planning process, and will be delivered in collaboration with Department of Health and Social Services, and the Department of Education.

- In addition, COVID-19 sanitation and cleaning standards have been, and will continue to be met at school clinics.
- We will continue to work with the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health to determine appropriate guidelines for the program.

**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- Parents may have concerns about in-person schooling with the presence of COVID-19 in the Yukon.

**Background:**

- Every ventilation system in a Yukon government building, including schools, was designed to the AHSRAE standard of the day. All systems have been maintained to the standard they were designed for.
- In schools, the number of average air changes per hour is four to six, which means the ventilation system typically replaces the entire room's air 4 to 6 times in a 1 hour span.
- Highways and Public Works put out a Standing Offer Agreement for HEPA portable filtration systems that could be ordered by anyone in government. The Department of Education has received 100 HEPA filters through this SOA.
- The ventilation systems of health care facilities are designed to a different standard than normal buildings.

<b>Approved by:</b>
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Prepared for Minister Clarke  
Department of Highways and Public Works

Date prepared: January 6,  
2022  
Last Updated: March 24,  
2022  
Page 3 of 4

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Building Ventilation**Highways and  
Public WorksDeputy Minister, Highways and Public  
Works

March 24, 2022

Date Approved

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note  
2022****Spring****Burwash Landing School**Highways and  
Public Works

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**Recommended Response:**

- The Yukon government is working closely with Kluane First Nation to plan the construction of a new school in Burwash Landing.
  - The school will provide a new learning and community space that meets the needs of residents in the surrounding area.
  - A site for the new school has been selected by the project team. This team includes representatives from Highways and Public Works, the Department of Education and Kluane First Nation.
  - Funding has been allocated to support the planning and construction of the school. We look forward to working together – government to government – on this important project.
- 

**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- Minister Clarke's July 5, 2021 mandate letter: Continue to build new schools across the territory, which reflect modern learning practices, including Burwash Landing and Whistle Bend. This will be led by the Department of Education with support from the Department of Highways and Public Works.
- 

**Background:**

- Kluane First Nation (KFN) has long requested a new K-12 school in Burwash Landing.
  - The Department of Education signed a Memorandum of Understanding with KFN in June 2020, committing to build a school and to establish an Oversight Committee.
-

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note  
2022****Spring****Burwash Landing School**Highways and  
Public Works

- 
- The contract for Owner's Advisor consultant services was awarded in April 2021.
  - The construction tender date and the project completion date will be confirmed subject to additional project planning.
  - Officials have been meeting regularly with Kluane First Nation to discuss the design and construction of the school.
  - Earlier this year the community was consulted on the conceptual design and the best options were moved forward.

**Approved by:**

March 2, 2022

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public  
Works

Date Approved



**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Carcross Aerodrome**Highways and  
Public Works

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**Recommended response:**

- Yukon's aviation system is essential for connecting our communities, building our economy and linking the Yukon with the rest of the world.
- The Yukon government continues to make strategic investments to keep our aerodromes and airports safe and open for business.
- Our government has made significant investments in aviation over the past few years, including upgrades to equipment and facilities.
- However, we know there is more work to be done in the future to help grow and develop Yukon's aviation system.

**Additional response:**

- Our government invests in our airports and aerodromes to ensure infrastructure meets Transport Canada regulations and aerodrome standard requirements.
- The Department of Highways and Public Works installed temporary fencing at the Carcross Aerodrome in 2017, following concerns raised by stakeholders about uncontrolled human and animal access to the runway.
- The Yukon government has spent approximately \$110K on fence rentals from 2017 to March 2022.
- A safety assessment has been completed on the site and we are working toward finding a long-term

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Carcross Aerodrome**Highways and  
Public Works

solution, but until then the temporary fencing will continue to be in place.

**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- The Carcross Aerodrome Society has advocated for a fence around the Carcross Aerodrome and further development of the site.

**Background:**

- The Carcross Aerodrome is a registered aerodrome used by local and itinerant recreational pilots.
- The Carcross Aerodrome Society was established in 2015. It has advocated for a fence around the Carcross Aerodrome.

**Approved by:**


January 31, 2022

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public  
Works

Date Approved

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Central Stores Savings****Highways and Public  
Works**

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**Recommended response:**

- Our government is improving service delivery and providing better value for taxpayer dollars by modernizing the way government does business.
- The Yukon government Central Stores closed on January 31, 2020.
- By closing Central Stores, we eliminated the need for long-term storage of a wide variety of supplies.
- Supply Services Branch remains a key department function and will continue to issue standing offer arrangements for government supplies.

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**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- Questions may be asked about the savings from the closing of Central Stores.

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**Background:**

- The savings for Central Stores fall into three categories - personnel, space and reduced prices for goods in the future:
  - Highways and Public Works is now saving \$335K every year in personnel and delivery costs.
  - The department is also saving approximately \$343K per year in leased warehouse space by storing assets and COVID-19 supplies in the space previously used by Central Stores.
  - Improved procurement processes that are currently in development should save the government approximately \$600K per year in reduced prices.
- Not a single employee lost their job because of this change. All transitioned to new roles within Highways and Public Works.

**Approved by:**

March 3, 2022

**Session Briefing Note**

**Spring 2022**

**Central Stores Savings**

**Highways and Public  
Works**

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works	Date Approved
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**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Child Development Centre**Highways and  
Public Works

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**Recommended response: History**

- We acknowledge the Child Development Centre's important work helping families and young children access early learning and therapeutic services.
- The safety and suitability of government buildings is a priority for the Department of Highways and Public Works.
- In spring 2021, the Child Development Centre experienced extensive leaking from the extreme snowfall over the winter leading to water damage in the building.
- During remediation work last July, the walls and ceilings were opened and mould was discovered. Upon discovering mould the building was immediately closed to staff and the public.

**Additional response: New Space for CDC**

- The Child Development Centre has been relocated to three temporary locations so that their programs can continue. Most of their programming is currently taking place at Copper Ridge Place.
- The Child Development Centre has been informed they will not be able to re-occupy the previous Child Development Centre building.
- While non-government organizations are ultimately responsible for securing space to run their programs, the Government of Yukon is committed to supporting the Child Development Centre as they look for a new long-term space for their program.

**Additional response: Future Work on Previous CDC Building**

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Child Development Centre**Highways and  
Public Works

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- In the previous Child Development Centre building a significant amount of work would be required to remediate hazardous building materials, replace the entire roof and deal with a long list of other deficiencies.
  - An assessment report on the building is nearly complete, and the Yukon government will be in a position to make a decision on whether to renovate or demolish the building in the coming year.
  - The cost estimate for this project has a large range depending on whether the building will be demolished or renovated.
  - If renovated, there will be significant costs for a number of items including roof repairs, interior renovations and building code upgrades. T  
dition to a previous estimate of <sup>75(1)(a)(ii)</sup>  
to remediate hazardous materials
- 

**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- The Child Development Centre provides a wide range of outreach and community-based programs. While many of these programs can still operate, some of their services may be temporarily impacted until a new long term space is found.
- 

**Background:**

- The original building was constructed in 1963, and repurposed for the Child Development Centre program in 1989.
  - A previous <sup>75(1)(a)(ii)</sup> hazardous materials abatement estimate wa report on costs to deal only with asbestos and lead paint in the building.
  - The Child Development Centre is an addition to the Education building, but does not share a ventilation system.
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**Session Briefing Note**  
**Child Development Centre**

**Spring 2022**

Highways and  
Public Works

**Approved by:**



March 30, 2022

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public  
Works

Date Approved

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Contract Management**Highways and  
Public Works

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**Recommended response:**

- The Yukon government strives to create tender and contract documents that clearly outline the requirements and deliverables for contractors.
- When a contractor bids on a tender, their bid will include certain commitments.
- Commitments include pricing and delivery of the project scope, but can also include other commitments such as Yukon First Nation participation.
- Our government expects that contractors fulfill all commitments they make in the tendering process during contract performance.

**Additional response:**

- During the tender period, contractors have the ability to ask for clarification of expectations in the tender documents.
- Once the tender closes, a post-tender review meeting is often held and the contractor who is eligible for award confirms that they will meet the commitments in their tender.
- After the contract is awarded, the Yukon government's role during contract performance is to actively manage contracts to ensure that all deliverables and commitments are being met, whether that be the schedule, the price or Yukon First Nation commitments.



# CONFIDENTIAL

## Session Briefing Note

Spring 2022

### Contract Management

Highways and  
Public Works

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- Contract management requires continuous communication between the government and the contractor.
- If there is poor performance, there are both informal and formal mechanisms for engaging with the contractor. It is important to note that these mechanisms are also available to the contractor if they feel they are not being treated appropriately.
- Poor or inadequate performance can trigger performance holdbacks during the contract, and will impact a contractor's vendor performance review score for the project, which can affect their success on future tenders.

#### Third response:

- Informal contract management starts with clear, regular communication with the contractor at the branch level.
- When issues cannot be resolved through these informal conversations, the dispute resolution processes outlined in the contract documents are triggered. Depending on the type of contract, this can include mediation or arbitration.
- If the Yukon government and the contractor cannot resolve the performance issues legal action may be required.

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#### Context—this may be an issue because:

- It is important for the Yukon government to ensure contract commitments are met.

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#### Background

Prepared for Minister Clarke  
Department of Highways and Public Works

Date prepared: January 12,  
2022  
Last Updated: March 2, 2022  
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**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Contract Management**Highways and  
Public Works

- With the approval of the Yukon First Nation Procurement Policy, the Yukon government asks contractors to make commitments around Yukon First Nation participation that form part of their contractual responsibilities.
- Through the bid value reduction process, there is an incentive for contractors to make commitments in the tendering process around Yukon First Nation participation, as these commitments can impact the bid rankings and change award outcomes.
- Yukon First Nation participation commitments are contract deliverables in government contracts, and are being managed as any other deliverable would be.

**Approved by:**


March 2, 2022

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public  
Works

Date Approved

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Contractor Engagement on the  
Old Crow Project**Highways and  
Public Works

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**Recommended response:**

- As you know, conflicts of interest are handled by the Conflict of Interest Commissioner.
- As part of our government's commitment to openness and transparency, the Yukon government passed the *Lobbyists Registration Act* that sets out clear rules for how these activities are governed.
- It is the responsibility of lobbyists to register under the Act, to understand the rules, and act in accordance with the law.

**Additional response: Letter**

- The design-builder wrote a letter to a select number of Cabinet Ministers in which the former Minister was copied asking for a meeting on this project.
- My Minister colleagues and I did not meet with the design-builder or the former Minister, and instead directed them to work with the Department of Highways and Public Works.
- Our understanding is that the former Minister is now working with the design-builder in the role of Director of Strategic Operations.
- Once the design-builder was directed to the operational level, my understanding is that the former Minister, along with the design-build team, met with Highways and Public Works staff on a number of occasions.
- These type of meetings are a part of routine project administration.

## Session Briefing Note

Spring 2022

### Contractor Engagement on the Old Crow Project

Highways and  
Public Works

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#### Third response: Legal Advice

- Previously I spoke in the house saying that I was not aware of any legal advice sought on this matter.
  - This remains the case.
  - For the department, seeking legal advice is an important part of contract management. As you know, legal advice is privileged.
- 

#### Context—this may be an issue because:

- The public may be interested in the lobbying process.
- 

#### Background:

- Further information on lobbying activities can be found by contracting the Conflict of Interest Commissioner who serves as the Registrar under the *Lobbyists Registration Act*.
- The *Lobbyists Registration Act* came into effect on October 15, 2020, making registry mandatory for those who meet the criteria set out in the Act.
- The Yukon Lobbyist Registry contains information for the public about who is lobbying the Government of Yukon and what issues they bring forward. The purpose is to make lobbying in Yukon more transparent for the public.
- Registration is mandatory for all lobbyists as identified in the *Lobbyist Registration Act*.
- The Conflict of Interest Commissioner serves as the registrar in order to oversee and monitor the lobbyist registry.

Approved by:
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Prepared for Minister Clarke  
Department of Highways and Public Works

Date prepared: March 29,  
2022

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2022

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Session Briefing Note

Spring 2022

Contractor Engagement on the  
Old Crow Project

Highways and  
Public Works



March 29, 2022

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public  
Works

Date Approved

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Contractors Proof of  
Vaccination**Highways and  
Public Works

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**Recommended response:**

- The Yukon government is committed to ensuring a safe working environment for employees and contractors.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has affected us all and our government has taken clear measures to protect the health of Yukoners.
- In an effort to support public health recommendations from the acting Chief Medical Officer of Health, all contractors who access high-risk Yukon government workplaces must be vaccinated.
- On April 4, the vaccine mandate changed. However, the mandate is still in effect for contractors working in high-risk settings in the Yukon.

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**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- There has been media coverage regarding mandatory vaccines for Yukon government employees.
- 

**Background:**

- The Government of Canada announced in August 2021 that it would require all federal public servants and employees in federally-regulated industries to be vaccinated against COVID-19. This also applies to Government of Yukon contractors who work in federally-regulated sectors, such as air transportation.
- On November 30, 2021, the Government of Yukon implemented new public health measures that required all contractors accessing government workplaces to have received one dose of the vaccine by November 30, 2021, and two doses by January 30, 2022.

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Contractors Proof of  
Vaccination**Highways and  
Public Works

- Contractors have been asked to submit a confirmation that each person attending a Government of Yukon **high-risk** workplace or worksite is either partially vaccinated, fully vaccinated or has an exemption. The form is available on Yukon.ca.
- **High-risk settings include:**
  - o long-term care homes;
  - o residential substance use programs;
  - o hospitals;
  - o shelters;
  - o residential programs for children and adults where staff provide care;
  - o correctional centres;
  - o Yukon government-operated community health centres; and
  - o Yukon government-operated public health clinics, including the referred care clinic.
- All information about a contractor's vaccination status for the vaccine requirement **has been** collected in accordance with the provisions of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and the *Health Information Privacy and Management Act*.

**Approved by:**


April 25, 2022

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public  
Works

Date Approved

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Dawson City Airport**Highways and  
Public Works

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**Recommended response:**

- Yukon's aviation system is essential for connecting our communities, building our economy and linking the Yukon with the rest of the world.
- The Yukon government continues to make strategic investments to keep our aerodromes and airports safe and open for business.
- Our government has made significant investments in aviation over the past few years, including upgrades to equipment and facilities.
- However, we know there is more work to be done in the future to help grow and develop Yukon's aviation system.

**Recommended response: Improvements to the Dawson Airport**

- Over the last number of years, the Department of Highways and Public Works has made several improvements to the Dawson City Airport.
- In 2019, the department paved the runway, built a second apron and built a new maintenance facility at the airport.
- In 2020 and 2021, the department:
  - upgraded the helicopter parking area;
  - installed visual aids that provide pilots with guidance information when landing; and
  - developed additional operational areas to support air carrier operations.
- The Canadian Border Services Agency building is being moved to an alternate location at the airport. This change will better support trans-



**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Dawson City Airport**Highways and  
Public Works

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border air traffic and provide additional apron space.

**Additional response: scheduled service to Dawson**

- Currently, Transport Canada rules do not allow large aircraft (such as a Boeing 737-500) to conduct scheduled service at the Dawson City Airport.
- Larger aircrafts can operate as a charter service, such as Holland America.
- We continue to work with Air North and Transport Canada regarding scheduled air service for this important airport.

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**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- The Dawson City airport is the second busiest airport in the territory and Highways and Public Works has made a number of significant upgrades in the last few years.

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**Background:**

- In 2014, in support of Holland America, Air North began seasonal charter operations between Fairbanks, Alaska and Dawson City. These flights were suspended during the 2020-2021 seasons due to COVID-19.
- The department regularly engages with Air North and is currently awaiting confirmation of the status of the Holland America flights for the 2022 season.
- Currently, under Transport Canada rules, only aircraft like the ATR 42-300 or smaller are permitted to offer scheduled service at the airport. Aircraft such as the Boeing 737-500 are only able to operate at the airport for charter service under Transport Canada.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2022

Dawson City Airport

Highways and  
Public Works

Approved by:



March 2, 2022

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public  
Works

Date Approved

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note  
Spring 2022****Dawson City Ice Bridge**Highways and  
Public Works

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**Recommended response:**

- The safety of Dawson City residents is the Yukon government's top priority when considering the timing and construction of the ice bridge.
  - Ice bridge construction is dependent on a number of factors including environmental conditions.
  - The ice bridge is closed on Wednesday April 20 at noon.
  - Unauthorized crossings are not monitored or maintained and are extremely risky.
  - The Yukon government does not condone or support any unauthorized crossings.
- 

**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- The ice bridge is an important transportation route for West Dawson citizens in the winter months.
- 

**Background:**

- The ice bridge opened to heavy traffic on January 8.
  - Ice bridge construction cannot occur until water and ice conditions are cold and stable enough to proceed.
  - The City of Dawson was without an official ice bridge in winter 2016-17 and winter 2017-18. This was due to a range of factors such as river hydrology, ice conditions, air and water temperatures.
  - An ice bridge has been in place for the 2020, 2021 and 2022 winters.
-

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note  
Spring 2022****Dawson City Ice Bridge**Highways and  
Public Works

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- Although there are no national standards for ice bridge construction, in 2011 the Transportation Association of Canada released guidelines for the construction and operation of winter roads. The Yukon government participated in developing these guidelines.

**Approved by:**

April 22, 2022

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public  
Works

Date Approved

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Dawson City Museum (Old  
Territorial Administration  
Building)**Highways and  
Public Works**Recommended response:**

- The Yukon government is proud to support the revitalization of the Old Territorial Administration Building in Dawson City, a designated National Historic Site of Canada.
- This project will improve the energy performance of the building and will assist in extending the life of this important asset.
- The Dawson City Museum Society has received federal funding to upgrade its exhibits and Highways and Public Works and the Department of Tourism and Culture are working collaboratively with the society to plan the project and expand exhibit space to the second floor.

**Additional response:**

- The project is happening in phases to minimize disruptions to the museum's operations.
- The first phase of work is complete. This included flooring and structural work that allowed the Dawson City Museum to install new display cabinetry.
- The tender for the next phase of work closed on April 14, 2022 and is under review.

**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- A recent package of work was cancelled as the bids were over the project's budget.

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Dawson City Museum (Old  
Territorial Administration  
Building)**Highways and  
Public Works**Background:**

- The Old Territorial Administration Building is a historically significant property both for its architecture and because it was the territory's administrative building from 1901 to 1952.
- The building currently houses the Dawson City Museum, Dawson City Court and Environment Yukon Offices.
- The government purchased the property in 1976, and undertook a major renovation including some exterior work in the 1980s.
- There is a co-management agreement in place between Highways and Public Works and Tourism and Culture to preserve heritage properties such as this one.
- Projects scheduled for this building include:
  - a roof upgrade;
  - structural enhancements to the second floor;
  - retrofits to enhance the building's energy performance; and
  - upgrades to the building's fire protection systems.
- In the 2020-2021 fiscal year, the department spent \$495,000 on design work and some aspects of building rehabilitation.

**Approved by:**

April 26, 2022

Prepared for Minister Clarke  
Department of Highways and Public WorksDate prepared: January 6,  
2022  
Last Updated: April 26,  
2022

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**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Dawson City Museum (Old  
Territorial Administration  
Building)**Highways and  
Public WorksDeputy Minister, Highways and Public  
Works

Date Approved

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Dawson City Yukon River  
Crossing – Climate Impacts**Highways and  
Public Works

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**Recommended response (Climate Impacts):**

- Highways and Public Works is responsible for the day-to-day safety and well-being of Yukoners and the sustained operation of Yukon's transportation system.
- Climate change is impacting Yukon's transportation infrastructure in many ways. Shifting permafrost is affecting our highways, record snowfalls are creating more frequent avalanches, and changing temperatures are affecting the feasibility of winter roads and ice bridges.
- The climate impacts on the Dawson City Yukon River crossing are substantial. The Yukon River saw record flows this past summer, and warmer more unpredictable environmental conditions makes the construction of the ice bridge increasingly uncertain.
- At the same time, Yukoners are looking for reliable ways to access the services they need, including emergency services.

**Additional response (Reliability):**

- Currently, Yukoners rely on the George Black Ferry and the ice bridge to cross the Yukon River in Dawson. The George Black Ferry typically operates between May and October, and then we normally start ice bridge construction work in mid-December. This is dependent on environmental conditions.
- This means twice a year there is a gap in service affecting residents of West Dawson, including the ability to access emergency services.



**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Dawson City Yukon River  
Crossing – Climate Impacts**Highways and  
Public Works

- 
- In addition, in recent years, there was enough variation in the freeze-up that we were unable to construct an ice bridge or an alternative route was needed. This resulted in resident's crossing over the river at unsanctioned crossings that were not determined to be safe.

**Third response (Looking into the Future):**

- In addition to how climate impacts are affecting the reliability of the crossing, the construction of the ice bridge and maintenance of the George Black Ferry is a significant cost each year:
  - the construction cost of the ice bridge has increased over the last two years;
  - the George Black Ferry average annual cost, including the repairs and maintenance of the landing approach, is approximately \$1.6 million per year; and
  - the ferry itself is also over 50 years old and recent inspections indicate that it will need to be replaced in the next 15 years.
- Given the costs, and the uncertainty caused by climate change, Highways and Public Works is exploring options on what a long-term solution to the Yukon River crossing in Dawson City could look like.
- The department will be gathering public input from affected businesses, stakeholders and residents this summer to help inform next steps.
- A What We Heard Report from these meetings will be published following this engagement.

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Dawson City Yukon River  
Crossing – Climate Impacts**Highways and  
Public Works

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**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- Options to the Yukon River crossing in Dawson are being considered.
- Residents of West Dawson and companies with properties accessed from the Top of the World Highway rely on the ice bridge in the winter months.

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**Background:**

- Ice bridge construction in Dawson City is dependent on a number of factors including river hydrology, ice conditions and air and water temperatures.
- The ice bridge has been operated since the 1960's by the Yukon government.
- In winters of 2013-14, 2016-17 and 2017-18 there was an open water lead in the middle of the river which impacted the construction of the ice bridge.
- In the winter of 2013-14, an alternate route for the bridge was necessary because the ice conditions did not allow it to be built at the usual location.
- The City of Dawson was without an official ice bridge in winter 2016-17 and winter 2017-18. This was due to a range of factors such as river hydrology, ice conditions, air and water temperatures.
- We have used a consultant to validate alternative route options in recent years, and to monitor the ice bridge to ensure that it is safe for users.

**Approved by:**Deputy Minister, Highways and Public  
Works

April 26, 2022

Date Approved

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2022

Dawson City Yukon River  
Crossing - Climate Impacts

Highways and  
Public Works

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**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Dempster Fibre Line**Highways and  
Public Works

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**Recommended response:**

- Work has started on the Dempster Fibre Line – an 800-kilometre fibre optic line along the Dempster Highway from Dawson City, Yukon, to Inuvik, Northwest Territories.
- The project will benefit communities in the Yukon and Northwest Territories by providing a backup line in the event of a service disruption.
- Construction of the fibre line began in summer 2021, and is scheduled to be completed in 2024. The new line will connect to the existing Mackenzie Valley Fibre Link in Inuvik.

**Additional response:**

- ROHL Global Networks, in partnership with Dagoo Services, was awarded the \$67 million construction contract in May 2021.
- The work is seasonal and crews will resume installation work this spring.
- Stantec and Tetrattech are subcontracted to mitigate the impacts of this project on the environment, particularly, permafrost.

**Third response:**

- First Nation participation was a large component of this value-driven negotiated tendering process.
- The Government of Yukon is actively engaging with three Yukon First Nations and five Indigenous groups in the Northwest Territories on the project.

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Dempster Fibre Line**Highways and  
Public Works

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- Approximately 25 per cent of the contract value is being performed by Yukon and Northwest Territories First Nations.

**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- This is a major infrastructure investment that is critical for Yukon's connectivity.
- 

**Background:****General**

- Construction of the project will be complete in 2024. It is likely that residual warranty work and clean up activities will be required, which could take an additional year. For this reason, a 2025 timeline was submitted to the regulatory boards.
- Regulatory permits for the project have been issued subsequent to approval by the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board in the Northwest Territories, and recommendation by the Yukon Socio-Economic Assessment Board in the Yukon.
- Scientists and highway engineers from Yukon University, and the governments of the Yukon and Northwest Territories have participated in several design reviews.

**Budget**

- This year, we have more than \$25 million budgeted for construction of the Dempster Fibre Line. Northwestel is contributing \$15 million as an upfront payment on a 20-year lease with exclusive rights to operate the line.

**Approved by:**

January 31, 2022

**Session Briefing Note**

**Spring 2022**

**Dempster Fibre Line**

Highways and  
Public Works

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Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works
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Date Approved
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**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Dempster Highway**Highways and  
Public Works

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**Recommended response:**

- The Yukon government is making a number of investments to ensure Canada's first all-weather road to cross the Arctic Circle remains safe and open for business.
- The Yukon government is also engaging with our counterparts in the Northwest Territories to look at ways to collaborate on improvements to the Dempster Highway.

**Additional response:**

- The Yukon government is focusing investments on the southern section of the Dempster Highway up to the northern boundary of Tombstone Territorial Park.
- This section of highway receives moderate traffic volumes (about 80 vehicles a day) compared to the northern part of the highway, which receives less traffic (about 50 vehicles a day).

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**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- The Dempster Highway is an important part of Yukon's transportation system.

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**Background:**

- The Dempster Highway is a 740-km gravel road that connects the north Klondike Highway with Fort McPherson, Inuvik and the Mackenzie Delta, passing through both Yukon and the Northwest Territories. 465 km of the highway is in Yukon.
- The route roughly follows the traditional dog sled route from Dawson City to Fort McPherson.

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Dempster Highway**Highways and  
Public Works

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- The Government of Northwest Territories operates ferries at the Peel and Mackenzie rivers, with ice bridges used in the winter.
  - 
  - The highway is supported by three grader stations located at Ogilvie, Klondike and Eagle Plains.
  - While traffic volumes for the 300-plus km of the highway north of Tombstone are not significant, Highways and Public Works ensures this section of the highway is maintained to safe standard.

**Approved by:**

January 31, 2022

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public  
Works

Date Approved



**Session Briefing Note**

**Spring 2022**

**Digital Highway Signs**

Highways and  
Public Works

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**Recommended response:**

- Digital message signs are posted along the highways to advise travelers about road hazards, closures and construction.
- Currently, there are 35 digital message signs in use across the Yukon.
- Department staff have developed operational guidelines for the Yukon to standardize and prioritize the messages displayed on the signs as it relates to general public service and travel safety.
- Our guidelines are based on Transportation Association of Canada's Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Canada, Sixth Edition (2021) that provides best practices for use of digital highway signs.
- The operational guidelines also help staff to determine when low-priority messages, such as public service announcements should be displayed when there are no adverse conditions to report.
- In October 2021, we updated the Yukon 511 system so that any time a digital highway sign displays a message, it is also displayed on Yukon 511. This provides Yukoners with the most up-to-date and accurate road condition information.

**Additional Response:**

- The digital message signs are part of Yukon's Intelligent Transportation system that includes other devices along the highway that count traffic, capture vehicle speed and collect road temperature data.

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Digital Highway Signs**Highways and  
Public Works

- 
- These devices also capture images that Yukoners can view on Yukon 511 to see current road conditions.
  - Highways and Public Works uses this information to inform highway planning and design to improve safety for all road users.
  - A Privacy Impact Assessment was conducted prior to its use and no personal information is collected or provided to law enforcement.
  - Investments in Yukon's Intelligent Transportation System, including digital highway signs, is supported by the federal government's National Trade Corridors Fund, with the federal government contributing \$6.9 million and Yukon contributing \$2.4 million between now and 2028.
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**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- Travelers may want to know why the digital highway signs are sometimes blank without messaging.
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**Background – Yukon's Intelligent Transportation Systems:**

- Yukon's Intelligent Transportation System helps the department by collecting, synthesizing and disseminating data to inform strategic investments in transportation planning.
  - The department launched Yukon's new 511 website in October 2021 that provides up-to-date road information and digital highway sign messages and includes new functions such as travel planning, a mobile app with a hand-free mode, and customizable real-time notifications.
  - Speed radar boards have been deployed along primary highways in Yukon's communities to provide visual cues for highway speed limit changes to help improve safety in those communities.
-

**Session Briefing Note**

**Spring 2022**

**Digital Highway Signs**

Highways and  
Public Works

- 
- Road Weather Information Systems located throughout the territory provide real-time information of meteorological and road conditions to help inform maintenance response and Yukon's 511 traveller information system for safe trip planning.

**Approved by:**



April 12, 2022

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public  
Works

Date Approved

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Dust Collector Upgrades**Highways and  
Public Works

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**Recommended response:**

- Highways and Public Works is upgrading some dust collector ventilation systems in some Yukon schools this year.
- Schools receiving upgrades include:
  - Vanier Catholic Secondary School, which is currently undergoing upgrades to its dust collector ventilation system. Work is expected to be completed this spring;
  - Porter Creek Secondary School will receive upgrades during summer break this year; and
  - F.H Collins Secondary School upgrades were completed in November 2021.

**Additional Response:**

- Vanier Catholic and Porter Creek Secondary Schools currently have temporary portable dust collector units which have allowed the woodshop programs to continue.

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**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- The public is interested in upgrades at schools.

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**Background:**

- Contractor availability and supply chain issues are not expected to impact dust collector project timelines.

**Approved by:**

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works

March 7, 2022

Date Approved

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Electric Fleet Vehicles**Highways and  
Public Works

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**Recommended response:**

- The Yukon government is committed to electrifying its vehicle fleet to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- The Department of Highways and Public Works is leading by example by adding zero-emission vehicles to the fleet, reducing emissions by offering car-sharing services when COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, and promoting sustainable and suitable vehicle options that will meet requirements while embracing new vehicle technology.
- One of the targets of *Our Clean Future*, is that 50 per cent of the passenger cars purchased for the Yukon government's fleet will be zero-emission vehicles.
- But we are doing better than this - for this next fiscal year we are aiming for 100 per cent of light-duty passenger cars to be electric, dependent on market conditions and operational requirements.
- The department will also be tendering for electric trucks, vans, and SUVs to replace gasoline vehicles wherever appropriate. This goes well beyond the target set in *Our Clean Future*.
- These tenders are showing climate leadership by signaling the government's intended direction for emission reductions and clean transportation options.

**Additional response:**

- The Yukon government is showing leadership in its procurement of electric vehicles by signaling to

**Session Briefing Note**  
**Electric Fleet Vehicles****Spring 2022**  
Highways and  
Public Works

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the market that we are serious about electrifying our fleet.

- Highways and Public Works continues to meet with local dealerships to build relationships and understand market conditions.
- We are leading the change and helping to boost market demand for cleaner transportation options by putting climate change at the centre of our transportation planning.
- In early 2021, the Yukon government purchased two zero-emission passenger cars from local dealerships. The cars were delivered in April 2021.
- In late 2021, 12 plug-in hybrid SUVs were ordered.

**Third Response:**

- The Yukon government has committed to making it possible to travel by electric vehicle to all road-accessible Yukon communities by 2027. Planning is underway to develop the network of charging stations across the territory.
- Highways and Public Works is working with Energy Mines and Resources to add charging stations to government buildings and parking lots to support the general uptake of electric vehicles by the public.
- Highways and Public Works is also installing charging stations for electric vehicles in the government fleet.

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**Context—this may be an issue because:**

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Electric Fleet Vehicles**Highways and  
Public Works

- 
- This is a commitment in the 'Our Clean Future' Yukon government climate change strategy
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**Background:**

- Two Chevy Bolts are available for government use from Fleet services.
- In 2016, the Government of Yukon purchased its first zero-emission vehicle as a pilot project: a Chevrolet Spark compact passenger car that is currently used by the Energy Solutions Centre.
- Zero-emissions vehicles encompass both battery electric vehicles and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles.
- Zero-emissions vehicle procurement will use the federal rebate standards set by Natural Resources Canada to determine vehicle eligibility.
- Local dealerships can currently supply both battery electric vehicles and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles in the compact, mid-size car and mid-size SUV categories. HPW is staying in touch with local dealerships about supply and demand.
- Federal rebates will be applied to Yukon government purchases through the procurement process.

**Approved by:**

March 2, 2022

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public  
Works

Date Approved

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Electric Vehicle Charging  
Stations**Highways and  
Public Works

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**Recommended response:**

- One of the ways that we can reduce our emissions and meet the goals of *Our Clean Future* is by switching to electric vehicles.
- In the Yukon, road transportation accounts for 64 per cent of our territory's greenhouse gas emissions.
- The Yukon government has committed to making all road accessible communities reachable by electric vehicle by 2027.
- To do this, a series of electric charging stations will be built along our highway network. All electric charging station sites will be designed and constructed to ensure the safety of the traveling public.
- To date, the Yukon government has installed 12 Level 3 fast charging stations available for public use.
- Highways and Public Works is currently working with an engineering consultant to determine a network of optimal charging station locations along Yukon's highways.

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**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- The initiative to electrify Yukon's highway network a commitment in *Our Clean Future*.

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**Background:**

- Making all road accessible communities reachable by electric vehicle by 2027 is a commitment under *Our Clean Future*.
- Highways and Public Works will be responsible for modifying existing highway pullouts to support the electric charging infrastructure.

**Approved by:**\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works

March 8, 2022

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Approved



**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Federal Aviation COVID-19  
Support**Highways and  
Public Works

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**Recommended response:**

- Yukon's aviation system is essential for connecting our communities, building our economy and linking the Yukon with the rest of the world.
- The Yukon government continues to make strategic investments to keep our aerodromes and airports safe and open for business.
- Our government has made significant investments in aviation over the past few years, including upgrades to equipment and facilities.
- However, we know there is more work to be done in the future to help grow and develop Yukon's aviation system.

**Additional Response:**

- Since the pandemic began, the Yukon government has distributed nearly \$12 million to support air carriers that provide critical and essential services.
- This funding supports the aviation industry which has been among the hardest hit by COVID-19. Since the beginning of the pandemic, air passenger traffic has declined dramatically, and airlines have faced staff layoffs.
- The Yukon government administered this funding, throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, to make sure that essential services and MEDEVAC operations continued.

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Federal Aviation COVID-19  
Support**Highways and  
Public Works

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- As an additional support for local industry, airport aviation fees were waived from March 1, 2020 to December 31, 2021.
- Throughout this time we have been talking with the aviation industry to understand their needs and provide support where we can.
- As of February 28, 2022 the Whitehorse International Airport is permitted to receive international flights. We continue to work with our federal and territorial partners to support travel to the Erik Nielsen Whitehorse International Airport.

**Third response: Infrastructure investments**

- Beginning this summer with the parallel runway upgrades, the Yukon government is continuing to improve infrastructure at the Whitehorse Airport with significant work including reconstruction of the main runway, being planned over the next five years.

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**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- This support is important to the Yukon aviation industry.
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**Background:**

- To date \$11,773,830.00 of aviation relief funding has been allocated to Yukon aviation operators.
- We have received an additional \$1.94 million relief funding from Canada to support aviation business losses between January and March 31, 2022.

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Federal Aviation COVID-19  
Support**Highways and  
Public Works**Approved by:**

April 25, 2022

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public  
Works

Date Approved

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note**  
**Five-Year Capital Plan****Spring 2022**  
Highways and  
Public Works**Recommended response:**

- The Five-Year Capital Plan for 2022-23 builds on the Yukon government's commitment to communicate capital spending intentions to Yukoners, municipalities, the private sector and First Nation governments.
- It provides greater certainty and promotes a strategic approach to the forecasting and timing of procurement.
- The Five-Year Capital Plan has evolved as priorities, circumstances and needs have changed.
- The Yukon government will continue to provide Yukoners with updated information on the government's planned capital investments over the next five years.

**Additional response:**

- The Yukon government will continue to advertise seasonal tenders earlier so that vendors are better able to prepare and plan for these projects, and so that the government is able to leverage the best times of the year for construction.
- As capital plans change and mature, the Yukon government will work to meet both project and vendor needs. For example, departments may spread out major projects, such as bridge projects, rather than tender them all at the same time.
- The Five-year Capital Plan supports the implementation of the First Nations Procurement

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note  
Five-Year Capital Plan****Spring 2022**  
Highways and  
Public Works

Policy through information sharing on capital spending and through direct engagement with Yukon First Nations.

**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- The 2022-23 Five-Year Capital Plan lays out Yukon government's long-term capital investment strategy.

**Background:**

- 2022-23 marks the fifth year that a detailed Five-Year Capital Plan has been tabled in the Legislative Assembly.
- For the fourth year, Highways and Public Works led the update of the Five-Year Capital Plan. The department has worked closely with the Department of Finance and all other departments to develop the plan.
- By combining more detailed and comprehensive five-year capital plans with tendering forecasts, government is working to meet the commitment made to Yukoners to have major, seasonally-dependent construction contracts tendered at the right time.

**Approved by:**


Deputy Minister, Highways and Public  
Works

January 24, 2022

Date Approved

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Yukon Resource Gateway Program  
- Carmacks Bypass**Highways and  
Public Works

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**Recommended response:**

- In the spring of 2019, a Project Agreement for the Carmacks Bypass component was signed with Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation.
- The project includes construction of a new road and bridge which will allow industrial vehicles to bypass the community of Carmacks, creating an enhanced and safer flow of traffic for residents.
- This project will also improve access to mining activities while enabling the Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation to benefit from contracting, education and training associated with the project.
- This project is a key component under the Yukon Resource Gateway Program, and is the first project to be awarded under the program.

**Additional Response:**

- The Carmacks Bypass project has been a collaborative effort between the Yukon government and Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation.
- On November 3, 2021, Pelly Construction was awarded the \$29.6 million contract to construct the new road and bridge.
- Work has begun on the project, with major construction set to begin this spring.
- Right-of-way clearing began in 2020 and the project is anticipated to be complete in 2024.

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**Context—this may be an issue because:**

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Yukon Resource Gateway Program  
- Carmacks Bypass**Highways and  
Public Works

- The Yukon Resource Gateway Program includes several high-profile projects with multiple stakeholders and First Nation involvement.

**Background:**

- The right-of-way clearing contract was awarded to Cobalt Construction.
- Recommendation by YESAB on the application for the geotechnical assessment component of the Carmacks Bypass project was received in January 2019 and is now complete.
- The geotechnical assessment results supported an application for the full project, which was submitted to YESAB in May 2020 and the Decision Document was completed in December 2020.

**First Nation Involvement**

- A project working group between Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation and the Yukon government meets monthly. They have held three meetings thus far.
- Regular communication is happening between the Major Programs Unit and the First Nation in regards to project updates, training and employment opportunities, and any other questions or concerns that arise.

**Approved by:**


March 2, 2022

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public  
Works

Date Approved

## Session Briefing Note

Spring 2022

Yukon Resource Gateway Program  
Freegold Road Phase IIHighways and  
Public Works**Recommended response:**

- In October 2020, a Project Agreement with Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation for the Freegold Road Phase II component was signed.
- The Freegold Road Phase II component includes replacement of three bridges, two of which are in an area where the Traditional Territories of Selkirk First Nation and Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation overlap.

**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- A Project Agreement with Selkirk First Nation is still required for two of the three bridge replacements identified in the Freegold Road Phase II Project Agreement.

**Background:**

- The department of Energy, Mines and Resources is working on a Project Agreement with Selkirk First Nation.

**Freegold Road Phase II Project Schedule**

<i>Project Details and Activities</i>	<i>Start Date and Estimated Timelines</i>
Freegold Road Phase II Project Agreement in collaboration with Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation	Ongoing
Project Agreement negotiation with Selkirk First Nation	To be determined

**Approved by:**

January 24, 2022



Session Briefing Note

Spring 2022

Yukon Resource Gateway Program  
Freegold Road Phase II

Highways and  
Public Works

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Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works
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Date Approved
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**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Yukon Resource Gateway Program  
– General**Highways and  
Public Works**Recommended response:**

- The Yukon Resource Gateway Program is valued at \$467 million and includes infrastructure upgrades for up to 650 kilometers of existing roads in areas with high mineral potential and active mining in the Yukon.
- Improving infrastructure to Yukon's most mineral-rich areas will set us on course for a more prosperous future.
- The Yukon Resource Gateway Program has a number of infrastructure projects that are going through various stages of implementation, planning, design, assessment and construction

**Additional response: First Nation Involvement**

- The Yukon government is working in collaboration with Yukon First Nations to seek input and finalize Project Agreements for components of the Yukon Resource Gateway Program within their Traditional Territories.
- Six Project Agreements have been signed for seven components with Yukon First Nations to date.
- The program will provide opportunities to Yukon First Nations through short and long-term employment options, training and benefits agreements.

**Third response: Increased Flexibility**

- The Yukon government has worked hard to increase the flexibility of the Gateway funding program with the Government of Canada. The funding program now includes additional flexibility to focus on

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Yukon Resource Gateway Program  
– General**Highways and  
Public Works

projects that First Nations and communities have requested.

- This flexibility allows us to include additional road components including Silver Trail, North Canol, and sections of the Robert Campbell Highway.
- The Yukon government was successful in negotiating a Contribution Agreement with Government of Canada that resulted in the Yukon Resource Gateway Program's completion date being extended from 2025 to March 2031.

**Fourth response: Industry component**

- Our agreement with Canada includes an industry component for funding.
- Industry has indicated an interest in accessing the funding; however, no formal agreements are in place at this time.

**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- The Yukon Resource Gateway Program includes several high-profile projects with multiple stakeholders and First Nation involvement.

**Background:**

- The Yukon Resource Gateway Program proposal is valued at \$467 million with a federal government investment of up to \$247 million, a Yukon investment of up to \$112 million and an industry investment of up to \$108 million over the life span of the program.
  - Federal government support has been confirmed through the Contribution Agreement with Government of Canada.
  - The Yukon government will also contribute an additional estimated \$4.8 million for ineligible costs

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Yukon Resource Gateway Program  
– General**Highways and  
Public Works

over the life of the program, such as salaries and benefits for Yukon government employees.

- The Yukon Resource Gateway Program includes industry partners as part of the investment of the program. Current industry components of the program include the Goldfields Road and Casino Road with the potential for additional components to be considered.

**Approved by:**

March 3, 2022

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public  
Works

Date Approved

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Yukon Resource Gateway Program  
– Nahanni Range Road Phase 1**Highways and  
Public Works**Recommended response:**

- In January 2020, a Project Agreement with Liard First Nation was approved for the first phase of the Nahanni Range Road component.
- This proposed project includes two bridge replacements and one bridge rehabilitation. The estimated capital construction cost is <sup>75(1)(a)(ii)</sup>.
- Clearing of the right-of-way began in 2020, with two direct-award contracts to First Kaska Limited.
- The Yukon government and the Liard First Nation entered into an additional agreement to provide heavy equipment operator training for Liard First Nation citizens.
- This training was completed in November 2021 and successfully certified eight Liard First Nation citizens. The training objective is to help increase capacity for the Liard First Nation to participate in road construction projects in the future.
- Environmental baseline information is being collected in collaboration with the Liard First Nation.

**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- The Yukon Resource Gateway Program includes several high-profile projects with multiple stakeholders.

**Background:**

- Funding has been provided to Liard First Nation through a Transfer Payment Agreement to provide capacity to implement

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Yukon Resource Gateway Program  
- Nahanni Range Road Phase 1**Highways and  
Public Works

the project agreement as well as providing funds for a skills assessment inventory and scholarship funding.

**Nahanni Range Road Phase 1 Project Schedule**

<b>Project Details and Activities</b>	<b>Start Date and Estimated Timelines</b>
Nahanni Range Road Phase 1 Project Agreement Implementation in collaboration with Liard First Nation	Ongoing
Construction (right-of-way clearing)	October 2020
YESAB and other regulatory submissions - KM 143 and Upper Frances River	Spring 2022
Construction of bridge replacement and rehabilitation	2023

**Approved by:**


March 2, 2022

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public  
Works

Date Approved

## Session Briefing Note

Spring 2022

Yukon Resource Gateway Program  
- North Canol Phase 1Highways and  
Public Works**Recommended response:**

- In April 2020, a Project Agreement was signed with the Ross River Dena Council for the North Canol component of the Yukon Resource Gateway Program.
- This project will include the rehabilitation and replacement of several bridges along the North Canol road and has an capital construction cost of 75(1)(a)(ii) .

**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- The Yukon Resource Gateway Program includes several high-profile projects with multiple stakeholders.

**Background:**

North Canol Phase 1 Project Schedule

<i><b>Project Details and Activities</b></i>	<i><b>Start Date and Estimated Timelines</b></i>
North Canol Phase 1 Project Agreement Implementation in collaboration with Ross River Dena Council	Ongoing
YESAB submission	To be determined in collaboration with Ross River Dena Council
Procurement	To be determined in collaboration with Ross River Dena Council
Construction	To be determined in collaboration with Ross River Dena Council

**Approved by:**

January 31, 2022

**Session Briefing Note**

**Spring 2022**

**Yukon Resource Gateway Program  
- North Canol Phase 1**

Highways and  
Public Works

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works	Date Approved
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## Session Briefing Note

Spring 2022

Yukon Resource Gateway Program  
- Robert Campbell HighwayHighways and  
Public Works

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**Recommended response: km 114 to km 171**

- In June 2020, a Project Agreement was signed with the Liard First Nation for this section of the Robert Campbell Highway.
- This project, which runs from km 114 to km 171, includes road reconstruction and sight line improvements. It has a capital construction cost of 75(1)(a)(ii) .
- Environmental baseline information will be collected in collaboration with Liard First Nation this spring.

**Recommended response: km 354.9 to km 414.4 (Ross River to Faro)**

- In April 2020, a Project Agreement for this component of the Robert Campbell Highway was signed with the Ross River Dena Council.
- This road rehabilitation project runs from km 354.9 to km 414.4 and has a capital construction cost of 75(1)(a)(ii) .
- Right-of-way clearing contracts have been awarded for this component of the Robert Campbell Highway. This was a direct award contract to a Ross River Dena Council citizen-owned company.
- The Yukon government will continue to work with Ross River Dena Council to implement the Project Agreement.
- A section of the project (km 363.6 to km 367.5) has been assessed by the Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Board which will allow upgrades to proceed.

## Session Briefing Note

Spring 2022

Yukon Resource Gateway Program  
- Robert Campbell HighwayHighways and  
Public Works**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- The Yukon Resource Gateway Program includes several high-profile projects with multiple stakeholders.

**Background:****Robert Campbell Highway km 114 to km 171 Project Schedule**

Project Details and Activities	Start Date and Estimated Timelines
Robert Campbell Highway km 114 to km 171 Project Agreement Implementation in collaboration with Liard First Nation	Ongoing
Design	2021
YESAA Submission	Fall 2022
Procurement	2022
Construction of Robert Campbell Highway km 114 to km 171	2023

**Robert Campbell Highway km 354.9 to km 414.4 Project Schedule**

Project Details and Activities	Start Date and Estimated Timelines
Robert Campbell Highway km 354.9 to km 414.4 Project Agreement Implementation in collaboration with Ross River Dena Council	Ongoing
Design (km 363.6 to km 367.5)	Spring 2020
YESAB submission (km 363.6 to km 367.5)	Fall 2020
Construction (right-of-way clearing)	Fall 2020
Procurement	2022
Construction (km 363.6 to km 367.5)	2023

**Approved by:**


February 2, 2022

Prepared for Minister Clarke  
Highways and Public WorksDate prepared: January 11,  
2022Last Updated: February 2,  
2022

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**Session Briefing Note**

**Spring 2022**

**Yukon Resource Gateway Program  
- Robert Campbell Highway**

Highways and  
Public Works

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works	Date Approved
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## Session Briefing Note

Spring 2022

Yukon Resource Gateway Program  
- Silver TrailHighways and  
Public Works

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**Recommended response:**

- A Project Agreement for the Silver Trail component of the Yukon Resource Gateway Program was signed with the First Nation of Na-cho Nyäk Dun in February 2021.
- The Silver Trail project includes rehabilitation of the Mayo River bridge, road reconstruction and spot repairs from km 0 to km 110 between Mayo and Keno City.
- Construction of the Silver Trail component is not anticipated to begin until 2026/2027.

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**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- The Yukon Resource Gateway Program includes several high-profile projects with multiple stakeholders.

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**Background:****Silver Trail Project Schedule**

Project Details and Activities	Start Date and Estimated Timelines
Silver Trail Project Agreement Implementation in collaboration with First Nation of Na-cho Nyäk Dun	Ongoing
Design, planning and assessment	2024-25
Construction of Silver Trail	2026-27

**Approved by:**Deputy Minister, Highways and Public  
Works

January 24, 2022

Date Approved

Prepared for Minister Clarke  
Highways and Public WorksDate prepared: January 11,  
2022Last Updated: January 24,  
2022

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Session Briefing Note

Spring 2022

Yukon Resource Gateway Program  
- Silver Trail

Highways and  
Public Works

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**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****General Messaging –  
Procurement**Highways and  
Public Works

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**Recommended response:**

- Our government is committed to the fair, open and transparent procurement of goods and services while balancing the interests of Yukon businesses, ensuring best value-for-money and adhering to trade agreement obligations.
- Government procurement is a significant contributor to the local economy and getting value-for-money is more than simply considering the price paid.
- We recognize the strategic role and importance of our spending.

**Additional Response: Yukon Bids & Tenders:**

- We are making it easier for businesses to work with the Yukon government through our e-procurement system.
- Government replaced the old tender management system with a new, more efficient online platform called Yukon bids&tenders in August 2020.
- This system allows for online bid submissions - a modern solution that helps businesses.
- This function has been and remains an important asset during COVID-19.
- Since January 2021, all bids have been submitted through Yukon bids&tenders.

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**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- Government procurement is a significant driver of the Yukon economy.

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****General Messaging –  
Procurement**Highways and  
Public Works**Background**

- In 2018, the Procurement Business Committee was established to provide input to government on all aspects of procurement from an industry perspective. Membership includes the Yukon Contractor's Association, the Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce, the Yukon First Nations Chamber of Commerce, the Yukon Chamber of Commerce, and Yukon First Nations development corporations.
- In 2021, our government was the recipient of the Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Award – a prestigious award from the National Procurement Institute in the United States that recognizes a commitment to procurement excellence.
- The award is given to organizations that can demonstrate excellence in areas like ethics, continuous improvement, organizational structure, education and training.
- The Yukon government is also on this year's Indigenomics 'Ten to Watch List' for the Yukon First Nations Procurement Policy.
- The annual list recognizes leadership in furthering reconciliation, increasing inclusion and designing business relationships to support the growth of the Indigenous economy.

**Approved by:**

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public  
Works

January 31, 2022

Date Approved

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****General Messaging – Information  
Technology**Highways and  
Public Works

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**Recommended response:**

- Highways and Public Works is making improvements to digital infrastructure in order to make it easier for:
  - the public and businesses to access government services online; and,
  - government employees to do their work in serving the public.
- We work with other departments to provide a number of services such as the proof of vaccination credential and verifier app, the contract registry, Yukon-511 road condition reports, camping permits, cannabis Yukon, business entity searches and so much more. We are regularly expanding our digital offerings to Yukoners.
- The department is also continually improving the way government functions. We have introduced the ability for 1500 employees to work from anywhere, creating opportunities for teams to re-think where and how they work, while also introducing more modern tools for collaboration and communication.
- We are focused on reducing barriers to government services, improving the efficiency of government operations and being nimble enough to respond to the challenges that arise.

**Additional response: IT Security**

- Keeping government-held information secure is a key objective.
- In recent years, the Yukon government has seen an increase in cyber-attacks, which are increasingly happening around the world to both governments and companies alike.
- We take threats seriously and in an effort to counter these threats, Highways and Public Works is:
  - continuously evolving our security threat and detection solutions to repel attacks;



**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****General Messaging – Information Technology**Highways and  
Public Works

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- improving the government's resiliency by taking new approaches to the ways in which we protect information;
  - retaining a digital security contractor to monitor our IT infrastructure 24 hours a day, seven days a week; and
  - conducting security threat risk assessments on systems and regularly patching servers.
- We are active members of the Canadian Centre for Cyber Security. This means we receive all security alerts, provide feedback and action accordingly.
  - We are also active members of the Federal, Provincial, Territorial Committee on Cyber Security, where government security leads consult to share threats, advice, and best practices.
  - The department reviewed the list of threats identified by the Canadian Centre for Cyber Security and the US Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency concerning Russian cyber threat activity.
  - We confirmed that the systems identified on the list that are in use by the Yukon government have been patched against the vulnerabilities identified.

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**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- Information technology is an increasingly important part of how government functions. Citizens are expecting their government to adapt similar digital strategies to the private sector, including making more government services available online, and innovating internally.

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**Background: Specific Projects**

Some other projects to mention include:

- **Open Information Portal:** In 2019, we launched the open data portal. In spring 2021, we added the Open Information portal. These online tools make more government information available to be freely accessed, used and shared by anyone, anywhere.

## Session Briefing Note

Spring 2022

General Messaging – Information  
TechnologyHighways and  
Public Works

- **New Low Earth Orbit satellite services:** We are actively working with new satellite offerings to improve access to resources for Old Crow government services as well as highways camps.
- **eProcurement:** We introduced digital procurement to improve the way we manage procurement internally, to create a better way for proponents to be informed and to bid, and to reflect that in a start-to-end digital process.
- **Mobile Radio Network:** In November 2020, we launched a four-year, \$4 million project to update the mobile radio network to improve overall performance and operability. We also partnered with the RCMP to make some improvements to our Yukon-wide Mobile Radio system to improve coverage and safety for both first responders and our highway maintenance staff.
- Last year we spent \$15 million on information technology projects.

Approved by:



March 7, 2022

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works

Date Approved

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****General Messaging – Roads and Bridges**Highways and  
Public Works**Recommended response:**

- Yukon's road system is essential for connecting our communities and building our economy.
- The Yukon government is making strategic investments to keep these vital links safe and open for business.
- For the 2022-23 fiscal year, we have more than \$45.9 million budgeted for highways and bridges.

**Additional response:**

- Over the past couple of years, Highways and Public Works has undertaken several upgrade projects to improve safety along the Alaska Highway, the territory's busiest transportation route.
- All bridges, large culverts, and paved sections are assessed, evaluated and rated annually or bi-annually to prioritize any improvement and investment decisions.

**Third response: Quick facts****Roads**

- During the winter months, regional highway crews are scheduled to work seven days a week, and Whitehorse has 24/7 coverage.
- Highways are cleared on a priority basis, with the school bus routes and the sections with the highest traffic volumes being cleared first. All other roads and highways are cleared and sanded as soon as possible thereafter.
- Our highway system consists of approximately 4,800 kilometres of maintained roads surfaced with:
  - 337 kilometres of asphalt pavement;
  - 2,032 kilometres of bituminous surface treatment (BST) or chip seal;
  - 2,452 kilometres of gravel; and
  - 7 kilometres of bridge and ferry crossings.

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****General Messaging – Roads and  
Bridges**Highways and  
Public Works

- Our transportation network is underlain by discontinuous permafrost which, when disturbed, causes deformation to the highway. This can range from cracking to complete failures requiring reconstruction.
- On average, we resurface 130 kilometres of BST and 10 kilometres of asphalt every year, and clear 250 kilometres of highway right-of-way vegetation to improve driver visibility and road safety.

**Bridges**

- The Government of Yukon maintains 134 bridges. On our maintained road network there are currently 256 large structural culverts and over 5,000 smaller drainage culverts.
- We prioritize bridge repairs based on a number of different factors, with safety being the most important. In addition, cost, traffic volumes, impact to communities and impact to industry are also considered.
- Many of Yukon's bridges were built in the 1950s and 1960s and are at an age where many will need work to keep them in service.

**Approved by:**

March 7, 2022

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works

Date Approved

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****General Messaging - Aviation**Highways and  
Public Works

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**Recommended response:**

- Yukon's aviation system is essential for connecting our communities, building our economy and linking the Yukon with the rest of the world.
- The Yukon government continues to make strategic investments to keep our aerodromes and airports safe and open for business.
- Our government has made significant investments in aviation over the past few years, including upgrades to equipment and facilities.
- However, we know there is more work to be done in the future to help grow and develop Yukon's aviation system.

**Additional response: Whitehorse specific**

- Beginning this summer with parallel runway upgrades, the Yukon government is continuing to improve infrastructure at the Whitehorse Airport with significant work including reconstruction of the main runway, being planned over the next five years.
- Erik Nielsen Whitehorse International Airport has undergone a number of significant upgrades, including the three-year \$8.5 million replacement and upgrade of the baggage screening and conveyance system which was completed in April 2021.
- Other improvements completed in 2021 included the north apron resurfacing as well as upgrades to comply with new Canadian Transportation Agency requirements for universal accessibility.

**Third response: Flight Path**

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****General Messaging - Aviation**Highways and  
Public Works

- 
- In 2021, the Yukon government released "Flight Path" a 10 year investment strategy report that was developed with stakeholder input. Highways and Public Works is using the report to guide investment and priorities for our aviation system.

**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- Our local aviation industry includes a number of stakeholders who are interested in our aviation investments and maintenance standards.
- 

**Background:**

- The new *Public Airports Act* came into force on July 17, 2018. The regulations came into force on April 1, 2021.
- HPW manages and maintains twenty-three registered aerodromes and five certified airports. There are also some historic sites that are not maintained by the government as well as registered water aerodromes that are managed by others (e.g. Schwatka Lake aerodrome is managed by the City of Whitehorse)
- In 2020-21, we spent \$14 million on capital projects. In 2021-22, we are forecasting to spend about \$22 million on capital projects.
- We prioritize operations, maintenance and capital spending based on a number of different factors, with safety being the most important. In addition, regulatory requirements, costs, traffic volumes, impact to communities and impact to industry are also considered.
- Many of Yukon's aerodromes and airports were built in the 1950s and 1960s and require ongoing maintenance and upgrades.
- During the winter months, we have on-site daily maintenance coverage at our Dawson, Mayo, Old Crow, Watson Lake and Whitehorse airports.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2022

General Messaging - Aviation

Highways and  
Public Works

- 
- Aircraft movement surfaces are cleared on a priority basis, with the highest priority given to runways. All other airside and groundside surfaces are cleared as soon as possible after runways are cleared.

Approved by:



January 31, 2022

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public  
Works

Date Approved

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****George Black Ferry**Highways and  
Public Works

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**Recommended response:**

- The safety and well-being of Yukoners and visitors is a top priority for the Yukon government.
- The George Black Ferry typically operates between May and late October. The opening of the season for the ferry is based on water levels, which must be high enough so that the ferry can be safely launched. Last season, the George Black Ferry was launched on May 18.

**Additional response:**

- COVID-19 mitigations were put in place in 2020, following measures and guidance issued by Transport Canada. For ferry travel:
  - passengers were asked to remain in their vehicles;
  - walk-on passengers were asked to ensure physical distancing; and
  - seats, hand holds and rails were sanitized after each sailing.

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**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- Dawson residents, mining companies and visitors depend on the George Black Ferry to get across the Yukon River. The public is always interested in knowing when ferry operations start and end.

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**Background**

- The George Black Ferry was launched on May 18, 2021 for the season.



**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****George Black Ferry**Highways and  
Public Works

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- The ferry is over 50 years old and was transferred to the Government of Yukon by the federal government.
  - The average travel time is approximately ten minutes from one side to the other.
  - The ferry can support about 143 thousand pounds, measures 83 feet long and 17 feet wide.
  - The average annual ferry cost, including the repairs and maintenance of the landing approach, is about \$1.6 million per year.

**Approved by:**

January 24, 2022

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public  
Works

Date Approved

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Hidden Valley School      Highways and Public  
Works**

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**Recommended response:**

- Providing Yukon students with safe, comfortable spaces to learn is a priority for the Yukon government.
- Enrolment at Hidden Valley School is near full capacity.
- To address the need for more space, Highways and Public Works assisted Education with the procurement for the supply and delivery of a new school portable.
- The modular classroom setup was completed in February and received occupancy from the City of Whitehorse in March.

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**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- Enrolment at Hidden Valley Elementary School continues to be high.

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**Background:**

- Site construction and commissioning of the new portable was tendered as a Regional Economic Development trade exception project.

**Approved by:**


March 22, 2022

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public  
Works

Date Approved

**Session Briefing Note  
2022**

**Spring**

**Highway Winter Maintenance**

Highways and  
Public Works

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**Recommended response:**

- Ensuring safe, well-maintained highways is of utmost importance to the Department of Highways and Public Works.
- Throughout the winter, maintenance crews work hard to keep Yukon's roads safe by snowplowing, sanding and ice blading.
- The increased regularity of freeze-thaw cycles through the winter has created more frequent icy road conditions.
- Every day Highways and Public Works checks on the condition of Yukon's roads, and maintenance activities are undertaken accordingly.

**Additional response:**

- Highways and Public Works updates Yukon 511 on an ongoing basis as conditions dictate. Yukoners are encouraged to check the website before heading out on the road.
- We are also using digital highway signs to help keep the travelling public informed of road closures and advisories.
- During the winter driving season we ask that people travel with caution, drive to the road conditions and watch for crews and equipment working.

**Third response:**

**Session Briefing Note  
2022****Spring****Highway Winter Maintenance**Highways and  
Public Works

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- Highways and Public Works has invested in a network of Road Weather Information Systems which allow highway maintenance camps to see road conditions. This allows for updates to road conditions sooner, and provides more accurate and timely road condition reporting to Yukoners.
  - An upgraded website of Yukon 511 and new mobile app was recently launched making it easier to navigate than previous versions and includes information not previously available.
  - For example, the public is now able to see camera images helping them make a more informed decision about travelling.
- 

**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- Winter road conditions create increased safety risks for the traveling public.
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**Background:**

- During the winter season, the Whitehorse grader station runs 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
  - The other highway maintenance camps are staffed between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m., seven days a week.
  - Highways and Public Works blended 50,000 cubic meters of sanding material in preparation for the 2021-22 winter.
  - Highways and Public Works has additional sand resources available should they be needed.
  - Highways and Public Works purchased new equipment in 2020-21. These new purchases replaced aging equipment through the Roads Airports Equipment Revolving Fund.
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Prepared for Minister Clarke  
Highways and Public WorksDate prepared: January 11,  
2022Last Updated: January 24,  
2022

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Session Briefing Note  
2022

Spring

Highway Winter Maintenance

Highways and  
Public Works

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Approved by:



January 24, 2022

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public  
Works

Date Approved

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Impact of Fuel Fluctuation  
Prices**Highways and  
Public Works**Recommended response:**

- The recent rise in fuel prices, combined with inflation, is impacting all of us, and the Yukon government is not immune to these escalating costs.
- However, we are committed to ensuring that our procurement practices are fair and consistent in the face of unexpected impacts.
- Government contracts use standardized language, which include clauses for issuing Change Orders. This is the primary mechanism for dealing with unforeseen circumstances which require contract amendments.
- Any request for a change to a contract will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

**Additional response:**

- Any change to a contract will be determined on its merits, and additional reporting and information may be needed to ensure fiscal responsibility.
- Some larger contracts can include contingencies which can be used for a variety of unforeseen issues.
- Other contracts with annual renewals may have built-in annual price increases based on third party references such as the Consumer Price Index. This is a common practice for contracts for goods and services in more volatile markets.

**Context—this may be an issue because:**

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Impact of Fuel Fluctuation  
Prices**Highways and  
Public Works

- 
- Recent global events have caused a significant rise in fuel costs, which is likely to impact some businesses that work for government on fixed-price contracts.

**Background:**

- Similar issues were presented at the outset of COVID-19, and when steel tariffs were put in place and because of the issues involved in the supply chain challenges. A case-by-case approach was taken for contracts already in place.

**Approved by:**

March 15, 2022

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public  
Works

Date Approved

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Information Technology Strategy**Highways and  
Public Works

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**Recommended response:**

- Highways and Public Works is creating an Information Technology Strategy for the Yukon government.
- A core component of this strategy is improving online service delivery for Yukoners.
- The strategy is focused on creating digital tools to move government forward, ensuring that information is secured and protected, and that we have the flexibility and resiliency to meet the needs of a more digital government.

**Additional response:**

- The strategy will provide a roadmap that will ensure the digital services Yukoners use are modern, secure and aligned to provide a one-government approach to meeting citizen needs.
- It will help guide investments in the government's digital infrastructure and establish standards, goals, and measures for technology development in the Yukon government.
- The strategy is expected to be released later this year.

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**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- This is a mandate item for Minister Clarke: Create an Information Technology Strategy for Yukon Government, that is focused on integration, collaboration and leveraging existing platforms.

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**Background**

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Prepared for Minister Clarke  
Department of Highways and Public WorksDate prepared: January 5,  
2022Last Updated: January 31,  
2022

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**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Information Technology Strategy**Highways and  
Public Works

- 
- This strategy is listed in the July 5, 2021 mandate letter.
  - Highways and Public Works has been working on the strategy since July 2021.
  - The MyYukon initiative will fit directly into the strategy as the purpose of this project is to make it easier for citizens to access an array of government services online through a single access point. This will reduce multiple service platforms and logins for citizens.

**Approved by:**

January 31, 2022

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public  
Works

Date Approved

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Macaulay Lodge**Highways and  
Public Works

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**Recommended response:**

- Highways and Public Works completed a building condition assessment and feasibility study report on Macaulay Lodge in 2020.
- The report compared repurposing Macaulay Lodge as housing, mixed use space, or demolishing and building a new facility.
- Based on the report, repurposing Macaulay Lodge was not economical. The building is over 50 years old and would require extensive renovations, energy and building code upgrades.
- We are moving forward with the demolition of Macaulay Lodge due to concerns around public health and safety, the ongoing costs of maintaining the building and the value of the land for potential housing development.

**Additional response:**

- When demolishing a building that contains asbestos, contractors are required to have an approved work plan in place and to dispose of asbestos safely and properly.
- Macaulay Lodge will have a qualified Hazardous Build Material abatement contractor removing and disposing of the hazardous building materials in accordance with the local Authority Having Jurisdiction.
- The work plan to remove the asbestos includes containment, disposal and safety measures for the project.

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Macaulay Lodge**Highways and  
Public Works

- The work plan also calls for the contractor to conduct air monitoring tests.
- The perimeter of a potential work site is fenced with steel construction fencing.

**Third response:**

- A contract for the demolition of the building has been awarded to a Yukon First Nations business, United North Construction Group. Work is expected to be completed by the end of this summer.
- This is a great example of a Yukon First Nations business using the tools in the Yukon First Nations Procurement Policy. The successful candidate included bid value reductions for being a Yukon First Nations business and hiring Yukon First Nations labour.

**Fourth response:**

- We have begun work with the Yukon Housing Corporation to plan for future housing development on this site.

**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- The public is concerned that the asbestos found in older buildings around the territory is a health risk.
- Affordable housing is a prominent public issue. The Yukon government issued a news release on November 12, 2021 announcing the demolition.

**Background:**

- Before any asbestos removal or mitigation project, a contractor must meet with the Yukon Worker's Compensation

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Macaulay Lodge**Highways and  
Public Works

Health and Safety Board's (WCB) Occupational Health and Safety staff, who reviews and approves the work plan.

- The contractor must be certified and present certification credentials to Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) prior to any asbestos removal.
- Macaulay Lodge opened in Riverdale in 1969 and was the only long-term care home in Whitehorse for many years.
- All residents were moved out of the building in January 2019. Health and Social Services moved all Macaulay Lodge residents to Whistle Bend Place, or to another long-term care residence of their choice.

**Approved by:**


Deputy Minister, Highways and Public  
Works

March 17, 2022

Date Approved

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Mayo Airport**Highways and  
Public Works

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**Recommended response:**

- Yukon's aviation system is essential for connecting our communities, building our economy and linking the Yukon with the rest of the world.
- The Yukon government continues to make strategic investments to keep our aerodromes and airports safe and open for business.
- Our government has made significant investments in aviation over the past few years, including upgrades to equipment and facilities.
- However, we know there is more work to be done in the future to help grow and develop Yukon's aviation system.

**Recommended response: improvements to the Mayo Airport**

- Our government has made a number of important investments at the Mayo Airport including runway reconstruction, lighting upgrades, and purchasing new maintenance equipment.
- This will allow Mayo Airport to be better equipped to deal with increased travel and meet modern airport standards.
- Infrastructure investments at Mayo Airport continued in 2021 with the initial phases of installing a heated equipment storage facility. This project is expected to be complete this spring.
- We will continue with infrastructure upgrades at the Mayo Airport.

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Mayo Airport**Highways and  
Public Works**Additional response: Scheduled service**

- Air North provided scheduled service to and from Mayo until the pandemic reduced the demand for air travel in the spring of 2020.
- Air North currently provides charter service to and from Mayo.

**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- Highways and Public works has made a number of important investments in the Mayo Airport over the past few years.

**Background**

- A \$2.7 million runway lighting upgrade project was completed in August 2021.
- On November 1, 2019, Mayo Airport was certified by Transport Canada and became the fifth certified airport in the territory.
- Airport Certification requires onsite maintenance staff to make sure that the airport remains operational year round.
- The previous runway lighting system at Mayo Airport was installed in 1981 and needed to be replaced because it did not meet current standards.
- There was a spike in activity at Mayo from 2017 to 2019. Aircraft movements increased 14 per cent from 2017 to 2018, and another 35 per cent from 2018 to 2019. Scheduled flights had increased from zero per week in 2016 to about eight per week in 2020 until the pandemic reduced demand for air travel.

**Approved by:**

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Mayo Airport**Highways and  
Public WorksDeputy Minister, Highways and Public  
Works

January 31, 2022

Date Approved

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022*****Motor Vehicles Act Rewrite***Highways and  
Public Works**Recommended response:**

- Highways and Public Works is rewriting the *Motor Vehicles Act* because the existing Act was written in the late 1970's and a new Act is necessary to improve safety for all road users on Yukon highways.
- The new, modernized Act will address longstanding safety and administrative issues and fill gaps that have arisen in the time since the existing Act was proclaimed.
- There are many outstanding issues with the existing Act and Regulations. Updates are required to:
  - improve road user and vehicle safety,
  - accommodate advances in technology,
  - adopt best practices, and
  - ensure consistency with other jurisdictions across Canada.
- Work on both the new legislation and its accompanying regulations is ongoing. We are aiming to table the full new bill and regulations in the spring of 2024.
- I have directed the department to do everything they can to expedite this timeline, and we want to ensure we get it right and that the new legislation meets the current and future needs of Yukoners.

**Context—this may be an issue because:**



**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022*****Motor Vehicles Act Rewrite***Highways and  
Public Works

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- The rewrite of the *Motor Vehicles Act* is a mandate letter item.

**Background:****General**

- Yukon's *Motor Vehicles Act* has not been significantly updated since it was first written in the late 1970's. Rewriting the Act is necessary to improve safety for all road users on Yukon highways.
- This large, complex piece of legislation touches on a wide range of issues important to Yukoners.
- Government is working with stakeholders, municipalities and First Nations to ensure their interests are taken into consideration.

**Timeline**

- Public engagement took place in 2019, and more than 2,800 responses were received.
- Highways and Public Works has continued to engage with targeted stakeholders on specific issues to ensure the new Act will meet the needs of Yukoners.
- The current timeline is for the Act and Regulations to be tabled at the same time in spring 2024.

**Approved by:**

January 31, 2022

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022*****Motor Vehicles Act Rewrite***Highways and  
Public WorksDeputy Minister, Highways and Public  
Works

Date Approved

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****MyYukon (Digital Identity)**Highways and  
Public Works

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**Recommended response**

- We are advancing our ability to deliver a wide range of highly secure government services online by developing a digital identity platform.
- The service is currently under development, and once complete Yukoners will be able to use the platform to prove who they are online, receive government services and carry out government transactions with trust and confidence.
- The platform will provide the same function online as in person. To start using the platform, citizens will need to identify themselves using a piece of government identification.
- A trusted digital identity is the electronic equivalent of identity documents you already use to prove your identity, such as your driver's license or general identification card.
- The platform will allow Yukoners and businesses to access government services online using one highly secure log-in, similar to online banking.

**Additional response:**

- As a key design requirement, the service does not store or collect information, or build a profile of the citizen's activities.
- We are taking all the necessary steps to ensure the protection of Yukoners personal information. An extensive privacy impact assessment is part of the project.

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****MyYukon (Digital Identity)**Highways and  
Public Works

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- Highways and Public Works explicitly listed this type of service in its new *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* to ensure the highest degree of transparency and considerations for privacy are built into this service.
  - Highways and Public Works continues to engage with the Information and Privacy Commissioner as we develop this new service.
- 

**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- Some Yukoners may be worried about their personal information being misused or hacked. They may also be concerned that their access to in-person services will be replaced with an online alternative.
- 

**Background:**

- In the past, governments have issued paper or plastic cards or certificates for citizens to prove who they are.
  - Every province and territory in Canada is working on digital identity services for their citizens. The Yukon is an active contributor to the Pan-Canadian Trust Framework, a set of standards to ensure interoperability of digital identities across Canada.
  - The Yukon government completed a public tender related to digital identity technology vendors on April 24, 2020.
  - The Yukon government has invested approximately \$300,000 toward a secure government account portal for accessing services online. Ongoing licensing subscription fees are estimated to be approximately \$100,000 per year.
  - Digital identity will be authorized through a forthcoming regulation under the new *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* before the service is launched.
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**Session Briefing Note**  
**MyYukon (Digital Identity)**

**Spring 2022**  
Highways and  
Public Works

Approved by:



Deputy Minister, Highways and Public  
Works

April 11, 2022

Date Approved

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Nisutlin Bay Bridge**Highways and  
Public Works

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**Recommended response:**

- The Nisutlin Bay Bridge is a critical link along the Alaska Highway and is an important landmark for Teslin.
- In spring 2019, the Yukon government and the Teslin Tlingit Council signed a project charter for the bridge replacement.
- Through the project charter, we are working together to build a safe reliable structure that can accommodate an increase in traffic while also improving access for pedestrians and cyclists.
- This project will provide a significant positive economic outcome for the territory, local businesses and the community of Teslin.
- A tender was posted on October 13, 2021 for two pre-qualified contractors and closed on February 3, 2022. Proposal evaluation and additional steps are in progress. This may take some extra time and effort, given the complexity of the project.
- To allow us this time, we have extended the irrevocability period for an additional 30 calendar days, until May 4, 2022.

**Additional response: Public Engagement**

- In early 2020, we engaged with residents and business owners of Teslin, the Teslin Tlingit Council and the Village of Teslin to discuss potential options for the bridge.

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Nisutlin Bay Bridge**Highways and  
Public Works

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- In January 2021, we hosted an open house in Teslin to present the design of the bridge to the community.
- In August 2021, during Teslin Tlingit Council's Annual General Assembly, Highways and Public Works had an information booth for citizens to learn more about the project.
- In October 2021, another open house was held in Teslin to provide a project update and introduce the community to the two contractors so they could learn of potential employment opportunities.
- Highways and Public Works continues to engage Teslin Tlingit Council, the Village of Teslin, the public and specific stakeholders on this project as it moves forward.

**Third response:**

- Bid prices have come in higher than anticipated due to current global circumstances and the high premium on steel and other materials.
- We are exploring options to secure additional funding needed to award this contract.
- Awarding this contract is a high priority for us. However, we must also do our due diligence to evaluate whether we are making the right decision on behalf of Yukon taxpayers before we proceed with this award.

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**Context—this may be an issue because:**

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Nisutlin Bay Bridge**Highways and  
Public Works

- The Nisutlin Bay Bridge is a landmark feature in Teslin and a key part of the Alaska Highway transportation infrastructure.

**Background:**

- The project has been approved for funding under the Building Canada Fund: Provincial-Territorial Infrastructure Component – Small Communities Fund.
- Transfer Payment Agreements were signed with the Teslin Tlingit Council that addressed project planning and implementation support and Environmental and Socio-economic Baseline Studies.
- The bridge will be replaced by constructing a new bridge beside the existing bridge.
- A Qualified Source List (QSL) was established on January 19, 2021, with two contractors Graham Infrastructure LP and Peter Kiewit Sons ULC.

**Approved by:**


March 21, 2022

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public  
Works

Date Approved



**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note  
Spring 2022****North Canol Bridges**Highways and  
Public Works

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**Recommended response:**

- The Yukon government is committed to keeping transportation routes safe throughout the Yukon.
- Prior to opening the road each spring, Highways and Public Works expedites bridge inspections along the North Canol Road.
- Necessary repairs are completed as soon as possible following the inspections.
- To ensure the safety of the travelling public and to maintain the integrity of the structures, the department has applied bridge weight restrictions on North Canol bridges since 2016.

**Additional response:**

- The Yukon government prioritizes bridge repairs based on a number of different factors, including safety, cost, traffic volumes and impacts to industry.
- Over the coming years, depending on inspection findings, bridge replacements along the North Canol Road and the South Canol Road may be required.

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**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- Weight restrictions are important measures for ensuring safety of infrastructure.
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**Background:**

- The bridge load rating on the North Canol Road remains 48 tonnes with speed restrictions of 30 km/hr. The bridge load
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Prepared for Minister Clarke  
Highways and Public WorksDate prepared: January 11,  
2022Last Updated: January 24,  
2022

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**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note  
Spring 2022****North Canol Bridges**Highways and  
Public Works

rating on the South Canol Road remains 41 tonnes with speed restrictions of 30 km/hr.

- There has been increased traffic in the area as a result of exploration over the past few years.

Approved by:



January 24, 2022

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public  
Works

Date Approved

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****North Klondike Highway Upgrades**Highways and  
Public Works

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**Recommended response:**

- The North Klondike Highway is a vital link for industry and a well-travelled route for Yukoners and tourists from around the world.
- Through the federal government's National Trade Corridors Fund, the Department of Highways and Public Works is upgrading critical sections of the North Klondike Highway over a 10-year period.
- These upgrades will increase safety, improve driving conditions and better connect the Yukon's resources to markets.
- The road upgrades will be constructed to a higher standard and increase the resilience of the highway to the impacts of climate change.
- For example, the project is employing specific strategies for erosion control and is installing oversized culverts to manage the increasing variability in precipitation and runoff that Yukon is experiencing.
- The project will support 800 jobs over the construction period.

**Additional response: Stewart to Dawson City**

- This upgrade will reconstruct 63.5 kilometers of highway between the communities of Stewart Crossing and Dawson City.
- Moose Creek Bridge will be rehabilitated as a part of this project.

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****North Klondike Highway Upgrades**Highways and  
Public Works**Additional response: Carmacks to Stewart Crossing**

- This upgrade will reconstruct 145.5 kilometers of highway between the communities of Carmacks and Stewart Crossing.
- McCabe Creek Bridge will be rehabilitated and the Crooked Creek Bridge will be replaced as a part of this project.

**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- The North Klondike Highway is an essential transportation corridor.

**Background**

- In 2019, the governments of Yukon and Canada announced a total of \$157 million in funding over ten years to upgrade critical sections of the North Klondike Highway.
- In 2021, a further \$180 million in funding over seven years was announced to upgrade the North Klondike Highway between Carmacks and Stewart Crossing.
- The total project cost is \$337 million. The National Trade Corridors Fund will contribute \$253 million and the Yukon government will contribute \$84 million.
- The National Trade Corridors Fund project will reconstruct a total of 209 kilometers of the North Klondike Highway in section from north of Carmacks to the Dempster Highway intersection.
- The proposed work will occur in the Traditional Territories of: Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation, Selkirk First Nation, First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in. All of these First Nations have signed Final Agreements.

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****North Klondike Highway Upgrades**Highways and  
Public Works**Approved by:**

January 31, 2022

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public  
Works

Date Approved

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Northwestel Community Internet  
Upgrades**Highways and  
Public Works

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**Recommended response:**

- Northwestel is improving internet connectivity for Yukon's communities through its 'Every Community' project. This project provides new infrastructure that will increase broadband speeds for Yukoners.
- This project was funded by the CRTC and includes specific communities across the Yukon. Yukoners living in these communities will see improved speeds and pay the same rates as people who live in Whitehorse.
- The communities and subdivisions included in this project were the ones deemed eligible by CRTC criteria.
- For more remote areas that are not part of this project, new satellite options such as Starlink and OneWeb should be available in the future.

**Additional response: Project timelines**

- Northwestel's timelines for the upgrades are:
  - 2020-21 - Whitehorse and Carcross (complete);
  - 2021-22 - Dawson City, Watson Lake and Teslin (complete);
  - 2022 - Haines Junction, Champagne, Destruction Bay, Burwash Landing, and Beaver Creek;
  - 2023 - Mayo, Stewart Crossing, Pelly Crossing, Carmacks, Faro, Ross River, outlying areas of Whitehorse, Judas Creek/Marsh Lake, Tagish, and outlying areas of Carcross;
  - 2023 - Old Crow's satellite bandwidth and local infrastructure will be upgraded in two phases.

## Session Briefing Note

Spring 2022

Northwestel Community Internet  
UpgradesHighways and  
Public Works

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The first phase will offer up to 15 megabits per second download speeds and a 200 gigabytes data allowance, while the second phase will see speeds increase to 50 megabits per second with unlimited data.

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**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- The public has expressed a keen interest in improving broadband rates and speeds; this has been especially important during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 

**Background:**

- The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission approved Northwestel's two Yukon-based applications to the broadband fund on August 12, 2020; the CRTC fund will contribute \$41.5 million of the \$54 million project, with Northwestel investing the remainder of the funds.
- Through this project, Northwestel will upgrade the technology that connects homes in the territory from DSL to fibre. Northwestel will offer the same rates in communities as it currently offers in Whitehorse. This will decrease rates by an average of 18 per cent for rural Yukoners.
- Northwestel has introduced an unlimited usage option to Whitehorse area customers, this will also be made available to other Yukon communities as its Every Community project unfolds
- A change to Northwestel's original funding application is being put forward by Northwestel to include the subdivisions of Canyon Creek, Mendenhall, and Takhini which were not eligible at the time of the original application.

**Approved by:**

March 2, 2022

**Session Briefing Note**

**Spring 2022**

**Northwestel Community Internet  
Upgrades**

Highways and  
Public Works

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Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works	Date Approved
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**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Old Crow Health and Wellness  
Centre and 10-Plex**Highways and  
Public Works

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**Recommended response:**

- The Yukon government is making investments across the territory to build healthy and vibrant communities.
- We are excited to be working with Vuntut Gwitchin Government on a new health and wellness centre and 10-plex housing unit in Old Crow.
- The design-build contract for the project was awarded to Ketza TSL Construction in March 2021 for \$44.8 million.
- Design work took place last spring and preliminary construction work started last summer.

**Additional Response:**

- A winter road was constructed this winter from Eagle Plains to Old Crow to help ship materials for a number of projects in the community.
- This project will replace the aging health centre in Old Crow, increase the number of affordable housing units and create jobs for the community.
- The department expects to complete the 10-plex in late 2022, and the health and wellness centre in 2023.

**Additional Response: Change Orders**

- One change order has been issued to date - this was on the prepayment of materials that enabled the full use of the winter road.
- No change has been made to the overall 44.8 million design-build budget.

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Old Crow Health and Wellness  
Centre and 10-Plex**Highways and  
Public Works

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- As with any project, unanticipated events may occur that result in a change order.
  - All change orders are subject to departmental oversight and due process is followed.
- 

**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- The health and wellness centre and 10-plex housing unit is an important project for the community of Old Crow.
- 

**Background:**

- Highways and Public Works is responsible for the procurement and management of the health and wellness centre and the 10-plex housing unit.
  - A combined procurement was used for the two facilities in order to simplify construction resource demands and decrease the cost of both projects by realizing the benefits of economies of scale and shared resources.
  - Stantec Architecture and Engineering completed the conceptual design, and will stay engaged during the final design and construction of both facilities.
  - Ketza TSL was awarded the Design-Build Contract.
  - The design-build procurement was value-driven. Value-driven procurements look beyond the price to make sure the project brings as much value as possible to the community and the territory. In this case, the winning proponent received points for the schedule, training plans, subcontracting plans, northern experience, and First Nations participation.
  - A land lease was signed last spring with the Vuntut Gwitchin Government.
  - A total of 67 truckloads transported material to Old Crow. Of this:
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**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Old Crow Health and Wellness  
Centre and 10-Plex**Highways and  
Public Works

- o 45 loads shipped construction material and equipment for the Health and Wellness Centre and 10-Plex housing project;
  - o 15 loads were for the Vuntut Gwitchin Government and citizens, including construction material for their new Elders' complex;
  - o 5 loads were for Government of Yukon departments and other parties; and
  - o 2 loads were for equipment used to assist trucks travelling on the road.
  - o These numbers were provided by Mercer Contracting Limited, who coordinated road logistics on behalf of the Yukon government.
- Further shipping for this project will incorporate air transport and a second winter road planned for early 2023.

**Approved by:**

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public  
Works

March 29, 2022

Date Approved

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Old Crow Winter Road**Highways and  
Public Works

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**Recommended response:**

- Across the territory, the Yukon government is making investments to build healthy and vibrant communities.
- The Yukon government worked in collaboration with Vuntut Gwitchin Government, to organize the construction of a winter road to Old Crow.
- Construction of the winter road started on January 5, 2022, and was opened to authorized traffic on February 24, 2022.
- The winter road closed on March 25, 2022, after supporting 67 truckloads to the community.
- The road facilitated the movement of materials into the community to support infrastructure projects in the coming years.
- The project is funded through a two year Transfer Payment Agreement with the Vuntut Gwitchin Government with the goal of constructing one winter road this year, and another next year.
- We hired a logistics company, Mercer Contracting Limited, to oversee road shipping for this project.

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**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- The road construction timeline was dependent on weather and environmental conditions. The public may be interested in the amount of shipments to the community.

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**Background:**

- The use of the road to ship materials and construction supplies will assist with the construction of the 10-plex

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Old Crow Winter Road**Highways and  
Public Works

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and Health and Wellness Centre project and the Elders Centre (being built by the Vuntut Gwitchin Government).

- A total of 67 truckloads transported material to Old Crow. Of this:
  - o 45 loads shipped construction material and equipment for the Health and Wellness Centre and 10-Plex housing project;
  - o 15 loads were for the Vuntut Gwitchin Government and citizens, including construction material for their new Elders' complex;
  - o 5 loads were for Government of Yukon departments and other parties; and
  - o 2 loads were for equipment used to assist trucks travelling on the road.
  - o These numbers were provided by Mercer Contracting Limited, who coordinated road logistics on behalf of the Yukon government.
- Further shipping for this project will incorporate air transport and a second winter road planned for early 2023.
- Winter roads have been built in the past for various purposes. Previously, the Yukon government provided funds to the Vuntut Gwitchin Government for the management and construction of a winter road in 2013-2014.
- Building a winter road requires specific conditions. The ground needs to be fully frozen and snowpack must accumulate before the road is constructed. This means that construction occurs in the later winter months and the road is only viable for a limited amount of time.
- Weather conditions are a critical factor in determining if a winter road can be constructed and the length of time the road will be open.

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**Approved by:**

Prepared for Minister Clarke  
Highways and Public Works

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2022

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Session Briefing Note

Spring 2022

Old Crow Winter Road

Highways and  
Public Works



March 29, 2022

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public  
Works

Date Approved

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Our Clean Future – Accelerated  
Actions**Highways and  
Public Works

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**Recommended Response:**

- Highways and Public Works is working hard to meet the goals outlined in *Our Clean Future*.
- The department is undertaking several action items that will improve energy efficiency, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and strengthen our resilience to the ongoing impacts of climate change. Some of the actions include:
  - energy retrofit projects and renewable energy projects in government buildings;
  - adding electric vehicles to the current fleet;
  - planning for climate impacts on infrastructure through climate risk assessments and permafrost monitoring;
  - updating procurement processes to better support sustainable and local businesses; and
  - modernizing the government fleet of heavy equipment.

**Additional Response: (Green Investment and Planning)**

- In 2020, Highways and Public Works created the Green Infrastructure Program, a multi-year capital investment program that aims to reduce carbon emissions from Yukon government buildings and assets.
- 51 energy assessments were completed last fall. This work will result in many energy retrofit projects over the next several years to improve building envelopes and systems.

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Our Clean Future – Accelerated  
Actions**Highways and  
Public Works

- Two large feasibility studies are underway to evaluate biomass, solar, geothermal, and other renewable energy options at over 50 sites across the territory. These assessments will result in a number of renewable energy construction projects over the next several years.
- The department has completed feasibility studies and has identified four diesel-powered sites to transition to renewable electricity. Projects will be initiated at these sites starting with a YESAB assessment.
- We are also developing a green transportation fleet strategy this year.

**Additional Response: (Key Accomplishments)**

- We have exceeded the commitments for incorporating electric vehicles into our fleet. In late 2021, 12 plug-in hybrid SUVs were ordered.
- In addition, fuel efficiency criteria are incorporated in fleet purchasing decisions.
- We have updated our project selection and prioritization process for building retrofits and new construction projects. Now, a five pillar framework, which includes greenhouse gas emissions and energy efficiency, is used for decision making for capital projects.
- Climate Change adaptation pilot projects are underway. For example, thermosyphons have been installed at Dry Creek along the Alaska Highway. These could stabilize permafrost thaw by running cool air beneath the surface of the road.



**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Our Clean Future – Accelerated  
Actions**Highways and  
Public Works

- Climate Risk Assessments are conducted on an ongoing basis for major building and road infrastructure projects.

**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- Climate action is a high profile topic that is a priority for governments and businesses across the country.

**Background:****General**

- The majority of a building's greenhouse gas emissions come from the combustion of heating fuels such as diesel or propane.
- Heating oil, in particular, has the highest environmental impact compared to other heating fuels. Highways and Public Works is reducing heating oil consumption with cleaner fuels such as propane and renewable energies such as biomass.
- The Yukon government and the Government of Canada have worked together through the Northern Transportation Adaptation Initiative to invest in climate change adaptation projects in Yukon.

**Approved by:**


March 2, 2022

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public  
Works

Date Approved

## Session Briefing Note

Spring 2022

## Public Address (PA) Systems

Highways and  
Public Works

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**Recommended response:**

- Highways and Public Works is working on a number of public address system upgrades in Yukon schools. These projects will also include upgrades to phone systems.
- Schools that are scheduled to receive PA and phone system upgrades include:
  - Khàtinas.àxh (Kaw keen ah sa) Community School in Teslin;
  - Del Van Gorder School in Faro;
  - St. Elias Community School in Haines Junction;
  - École Émilie Tremblay in Whitehorse; and
  - Hidden Valley Elementary School in Whitehorse.
- Most of these schools are scheduled to receive PA and phone system upgrades during the upcoming summer break this year.

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**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- The public is interested in upgrades at schools.

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**Background:**

- The PA and phone system upgrade projects are scheduled to be completed in summer 2022.
- Limited contractor availability and supply chain issues may impact project timelines.
- Construction tenders for the Khàtinas.àxh Community School and Del Van Gorder school have been published.

**Approved by:**

March 7, 2022

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works

Date Approved

## Session Briefing Note Spring 2022

### Pelly Barge

Highways and  
Public Works

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#### Recommended response:

- The Pelly Barge is important to the community of Ross River, to visitors who want to experience this unique region of Yukon, and to industry that works along the North Canol Road.
- To ensure the safe operation of this infrastructure, the Department of Highways and Public Works is introducing new vehicle weight limits on the Pelly Barge.
- Naval engineering reports, which have been confirmed by Transport Canada this year, note that the maximum Gross Vehicle Weight for the Pelly Barge should not exceed 25,400 kg.
- Anything above this weight may pose risks to the safe operation of the barge.
- The department understands the new weight restriction may impact stakeholders and we are working to ensure all users are aware of the change.
- Once the barge is in the water and prior to starting seasonal operations, Highways and Public Works will conduct further inspections to ensure the safety of barge operations.

#### Additional Response:

- Due to changing river conditions and new regulatory requirements from the federal government, the Department of Highways and Public Works is currently exploring long-term options for upgrades to this crossing.

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#### Context—this may be an issue because:

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Prepared for Minister Clarke  
Highways and Public Works

Date prepared: January 11,  
2022

Last Updated: March 11,  
2022

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## Session Briefing Note Spring 2022

### Pelly Barge

### Highways and Public Works

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- Outfitters, mining companies and the public depend on the Pelly Barge for vehicle access to the North Canol Road.

#### Background:

- The Pelly Barge typically operates between early June and early October.
- Risks associated with exceeding the maximum gross vehicle weight of 25,400 kg include:
  - o increased risks of capsizing, sinking,
  - o increased risk of cable, pulley or tower failure, or overloading of drive system;
  - o regulatory risk and possible fines and/or shut down of operation by Transport Canada;
  - o potential structural issues in the barge deck and ramp;
  - o reduced freeboard, potential for water on the barge deck and possibility of down flooding in the hull if manholes or vents are not closed watertight;
  - o increased draft and potential for grounding; and
  - o increased trim angle at bow or stern when loading and offloading.
- Changing river conditions in recent years have posed challenges in the operation of the Pelly Barge.
- In 2013, the permanent ramps for the Pelly Barge were washed out during a high water level event.
- Since then, Highways and Public Works has had to add gravel material to the river to create temporary ramps to prevent the barge from running aground.
- Changes to the *Fisheries Act* in 2019 have resulted in greater restrictions on the deposit of sediment to the water. Department of Fisheries and Oceans has indicated that it is unlikely to continue to authorize current operational practices.

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### Spring 2022

**Pelly Barge**

Highways and  
Public Works

- The current Fisheries Act Authorization expires in November 2022, necessitating a new solution for the river crossing to be in place for the 2023 operating season.

**Approved by:**



March 14, 2022

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public  
Works

Date Approved

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note  
2022****Spring****Posting Tender Bid Prices**Highways and  
Public Works

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**Recommended response:**

- The Yukon government posts construction tender bid prices as quickly as possible.
- Once a tender closes, the department reviews the bids for compliance, confirms that the project can proceed within the budget, and then posts the bids. This usually takes between four to five days.
- When there is a delay, it is often because bids come in over budget and it is necessary to determine if additional project funding would still represent value for money.
- We are committed to transparency and we post bid prices publicly online on bids&tenders.

**Additional response: Compliance, Retendering and Cancellation**

- Highways and Public Works ensures consistency and integrity of the procurement process by reviewing all public tenders for compliance before sharing bid prices. This protects supplier pricing and ensures effective competition.
- All bids and proposals are now electronic. The prices are posted once we have done our due diligence.
- If a tender is canceled and the bid prices have not been posted, the Yukon government can re-tender as needed.

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note  
2022****Spring****Posting Tender Bid Prices**Highways and  
Public Works

- If a tender must be cancelled and the bid prices have already been posted, the government cannot re-tender the same project with the same scope right away. Doing so would undermine competition as bidders would know what low price to beat in the re-tender.
- Highways and Public Works connects regularly with the Yukon Contractors Association and last year we shared information about the timelines for posting prices.

**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- This practice was adopted approximately two years ago.

**Background**

- Since April 1, 2019, bid prices have to go through a compliance review and be verified before they can be posted on Yukon bids&tenders. In situations where all bid responses are non-compliant or the project was cancelled, bid prices will not be posted at all.

**Approved by:**

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public  
Works

January 31, 2022

Date Approved

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Privacy Breaches**Highways and  
Public Works

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**Recommended response:**

- Protecting Yukoners personal information is important to the Yukon government.
- The new *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* contains provisions that government must consider including: what personal information may be collected, how it is managed, who has access to it and how privacy breaches must be reported.
- We've created privacy training, a breach reporting process, and use privacy impact assessments to foster an understanding and awareness of personal information and its protection in the public service.
- We've also created a corporate privacy advice and oversight resource within the Department of Highways and Public Works, and we have ensured that each department has a designated privacy officer to provide additional help for their department.

**Additional response:**

- In recent years, we have seen an increase in cyber-attacks, which are happening around the world to both governments and companies alike.
- All privacy breaches with a risk of significant harm must be reported by the department to the Corporate Privacy Office in the Department of Highways and Public Works.
- Privacy breaches with a risk of significant harm are also reported to the Information and Privacy Commissioner.



**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Privacy Breaches**Highways and  
Public Works

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- For privacy breaches of this nature, we notify those individuals who may have been subject to a privacy breach so that they are aware and can take action to mitigate any potential impacts of the breach.
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**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- Privacy is important to Yukoners and to the Yukon government.
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**Background:**

- Significant harm includes bodily harm, humiliation, damage to reputation or relationships, loss of employment, business or professional opportunities, financial loss, identity theft, negative effects on their credit record, and damage to or loss of property.

**Approved by:**Deputy Minister, Highways and Public  
Works

April 25, 2022

Date Approved

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Procurement Dispute Resolution  
Process**Highways and  
Public Works

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**Recommended response:**

- The Yukon government focuses on fairness and competition when procuring goods and services. We have a dedicated team of professionals to make certain that procurement procedures follow due process, which ensures fairness for all bidders.
- Occasionally, situations arise where a supplier does not believe a procurement process is proceeding in accordance with the tender documents or the procurement policy.
- In those situations, we recommend suppliers follow both the informal and formal dispute resolution processes that are available to them.

**Additional response:**

- Procurement disputes can often be resolved through an informal process with the department project manager. As a first step in the informal process, suppliers are urged to reach out to the department responsible for the procurement.
- If an issue is still unresolved, suppliers can continue with the informal process by moving up the chain of command with their issue ending at the Deputy Minister's office if required.
- Finally, suppliers can use the formal process and submit their complaints to the Bid Challenge Committee. If the complaint is found to be valid, compensation may be recommended.

**Third response:**

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Procurement Dispute Resolution  
Process**Highways and  
Public Works

- If the supplier is still not satisfied, they may choose to pursue legal avenues to resolve their issue.
- Once legal remedies are pursued, it changes the ability of the government to engage with a supplier on their issue.
- Resolving supplier issues before they become a legal matter is always the goal for the Yukon government.

**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- It is important that suppliers in dispute with the Yukon government over procurements understand the remedies available to them.

**Background**

- The procurement policy requires departments to offer supplier debriefs to share information about the process and how a supplier scored in the tender evaluation.
- The Bid Challenge Committee is an independent group of business representatives that review and sometimes call hearings about challenges.

**Approved by:**

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public  
Works

January 31, 2022

Date Approved

Prepared for Minister Clarke  
Department of Highways and Public WorksDate prepared: January 10,  
2022Last Updated: January 31,  
2022

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**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Proof of Vaccination Credential  
and Verifier App****Highways and Public  
Works****Recommended response (Proof of Vaccination Credential):**

- Last fall, Health and Social Services and Highways and Public Works partnered to deploy a digital Proof of Vaccination Credential for Yukon residents. The service launched on September 7, 2021.
- The Yukon's Proof of Vaccination Credential is currently the authoritative document for Yukoners to provide proof when required. In total, over 30,000 Yukoners have received their credential.
- Of the 30,000 credentials issued, 94 per cent were delivered to Yukoners through an easy-to-use, self-serve web application.
- Yukon's Proof of Vaccination Credential contains the minimal amount of information required to confirm an individual's COVID-19 vaccination status, and is based entirely on the requirements for international travel determined by the federal government.
- It includes information about their vaccination, such as the type and date of dose, and basic personal identifiers, such as their name and date of birth. It does not contain any other personal information, such as their health care number.
- By delivering this service online we were able to save hundreds of hours of employee effort, thus allowing the Department of Health and Social Services to focus on the delivery of Health services including the response to COVID-19 itself.

**Recommended response (Verifier App):**

Prepared for Minister Clarke  
Department of Highways and Public Works

Date prepared: January 10,  
2022  
Last Updated: March 2, 2022  
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# CONFIDENTIAL

## Session Briefing Note

Spring 2022

### Proof of Vaccination Credential and Verifier App

Highways and Public  
Works

- On November 24, 2021, Highways and Public Works launched the Yukon Vaccination Verifier app.
- The app provides businesses, organizations and event organizers with a quick, efficient, scanning method to verify proof of vaccination status.
- The app is able to read QR codes from electronic devices or paper-based copies, while ensuring privacy is protected.
- Yukon's app will read all Proof of Vaccination Credentials that meet the federal standard.
- The Yukon Vaccination Verifier app has been downloaded over 3000 times.

#### **Additional response (Travel):**

- Yukon's credential has been designed to integrate with the federal ArriveCAN app so that it can be used for international travel.
- It is also compatible with iPhone Apple Wallet and many other provincial verifier apps.
- Yukon's credential is an acceptable form of proof in every province and territory in Canada, although travelers are advised to confirm the rules of any specific destination before they travel.

#### **Context—this may be an issue because:**

- This is a rapidly evolving situation with high interest from the public. The public want confidence they can travel within Canada and internationally using Yukon's Proof of Vaccination Credential.

#### **Background (PVC)**

Prepared for Minister Clarke  
Department of Highways and Public Works

Date prepared: January 10,  
2022  
Last Updated: March 2, 2022  
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**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Proof of Vaccination Credential  
and Verifier App****Highways and Public  
Works**

- The situation regarding the required and acceptable Proof of Vaccination Credential is rapidly evolving and current rules could change at any time.
- A Privacy Impact Assessment was submitted to the Information and Privacy Commissioner for the Proof of Vaccination Credential and the Yukon Vaccination Verifier app.
  - As part of their review, the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner identified emailing the Proof of Vaccination Credentials as not being a secure means of transmission.
  - As of November 15, 2021, the Yukon government no longer provides the option to email yourself your Proof of Vaccination Credential.
  - Options include downloading it directly to your device or requesting it be mailed to you through the post office.
- Highways and Public Works will make updates to the Proof of Vaccination Credential and the Verifier App, that will enhance features and integrate additional federal requirements as they arise (e.g. potential booster shot requirements or when vaccines are out of date).

**Verifier App**

- After the initial download, the app does not require internet access to function and works on both Android and iOS devices.
- An information session was held on the app with businesses on November 12, 2021 to demonstrate how the app functions.

**Approved by:**


March 2, 2022

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Proof of Vaccination Credential  
and Verifier App**Highways and Public  
WorksDeputy Minister, Highways and Public  
Works

Date Approved

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note  
2022****Spring****Regional Economic Development  
Exceptions**Highways and  
Public Works**Recommended response:**

- The Yukon government is helping boost economic development across the territory through the use of trade agreement exceptions.
- The exceptions allow us to restrict procurement competitions exclusively to qualified Yukon businesses ten times per year in order to keep government dollars in the territory and support local businesses.
- Over the past five years, manufacturing, construction and consulting contracts have been awarded for work in communities across the Yukon.
- Since 2018, Yukon businesses have competed for and secured 46 Yukon-exclusive government contracts worth \$22.5 million.

**Additional response: This year's projects**

- For the 2021-22 fiscal year, trade agreement exceptions were used to award seven projects to Yukon businesses, totaling \$3.8 million.
- The criteria for selecting Regional Economic Development Exceptions includes how much of the money spent on the project will create economic opportunities in the Yukon and whether the project supports the territory's industries and suppliers.
- This year's projects include tenders for a bridge replacement and upgrade, pre-fabricated modular



**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note  
2022****Spring****Regional Economic Development  
Exceptions**Highways and  
Public Works

building placement and connections, HVAC upgrades, oil/water separator and sump pump modifications, road construction, heating, boiler, and fuel tank replacements, utility installations and paving.

**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- Regional economic development exceptions are important tools to support Yukon's economy.

**Background:**

- The following seven contracts were awarded for the 2021-22 fiscal year:
  - The Access Road Bridge Replacement (number 4) at the Ketzia River Mine. Awarded to Boreal Engineering Ltd.
  - HVAC system and Paint Booth Ventilation System replacement at the Parks Building in Whitehorse. Awarded to Hvactech Systems Inc.
  - Surface Works and Underground Utilities for the Logan Residential Lots in Whitehorse. Awarded to Castle Rock Enterprises Ltd.
  - Fuel tank replacement and boilers at the Field Operations Building in Whitehorse. Awarded to Budget Plumbing and Heating.
  - Tanana Road Construction in Burwash Landing. Awarded to Uplands Mining.
  - Hidden Valley School Prefabricated Modular Building Placement and Connections, in Whitehorse. Awarded to Southpaw Construction.
  - Green Street Paving project in the Whistle Bend Subdivision of Whitehorse. Awarded to Castle Rock Enterprises Ltd.

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note  
2022****Spring****Regional Economic Development  
Exceptions**Highways and  
Public Works

- Despite our best efforts, we did not award all ten regional economic development exceptions for the last fiscal year. For example, one project was cancelled after tender closing due to the bids all being over \$1 million and one project was cancelled due to technical constraints. Other possible projects had changes to either their budget or schedule that disqualified them from being used.
- At the close of a project, suppliers are now required to report on the total dollar value expended on Yukon labour and materials to quantify the direct positive impact these projects have on Yukoners.
- To date, 12 projects have submitted reporting on their completed contracts, with eight projects using 100 per cent Yukon labour and Yukon materials. The reporting from the 12 projects shows that approximately \$1,060,000 was spent on Yukon employee labour.

**Approved by:**


 Deputy Minister, Highways and Public  
Works

April 20, 2022

Date Approved

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Robert Service School**Highways and  
Public Works

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**Recommended response:**

- Providing Yukon students with safe, comfortable spaces to learn is a priority for the Yukon government.
- When tests found mould in the modular classrooms at Robert Service School in July 2019, they were closed immediately.
- Demolition of the modular classrooms took place in June 2021.
- Construction of a new four classroom modular building was awarded to Wildstone Construction in September 2021.
- The project is now well underway with completion scheduled for June 2022.

**Additional response:**

- Highways and Public Works worked alongside the school community to finalize the modular structure design.
- 

**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- The modular classrooms were demolished this past summer. There may be questions on how they are being replaced.
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**Background:**

- A team led by Kobayashi and Zedda of Whitehorse was selected as the project consultant.
-

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Robert Service School**Highways and  
Public Works

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- The overall project budget is \$6.4 million for design and construction. These funds are 100 per cent recoverable through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program.
  - In January 2021, development and demolition permits were received from the City of Dawson for the building site.
  - Two conceptual designs were submitted for review to the school in February 2021, and presented to school council shortly after.
  - Highways and Public Works was able to incorporate feedback on the designs into the final structure design.

**Approved by:**\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Minister, Highways and  
Public Works

January 31, 2022

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Approved

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note  
2022****Spring****Ross River School**Highways and  
Public Works

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**Recommended response:**

- The health and safety of students across the territory is a top priority for the Yukon government.
- Tilt sensors in various areas of the building are being remotely monitored, and several repairs and replacements have been planned to ensure the building continues to be viable and safe for occupancy.
- The Ross River School continues to be inspected quarterly by a multi-disciplinary team that includes an architect, a structural engineer, a geotechnical engineer and a surveyor.
- The latest building condition inspection report, received on March 18, confirmed the school remains safe for occupancy. The next inspection will occur in May.
- Work will continue on the existing school to keep it safe and to help prevent structural movement.
- A Request for Proposals to upgrade the school's mechanical room is currently live on Yukon bids&tenders. This project is expected to be awarded in June.
- The department is planning to tender for a re-leveling project for the school in May. This project will install an adjustable system to allow for intermittent re-leveling work as necessary to

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note  
2022****Spring****Ross River School**Highways and  
Public Works

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mitigate the effects of further permafrost deterioration.

**Additional response:**

- In the 2021-2022 fiscal year, we spent approximately \$700,000 on:
  - installing water troughs directing water runoff away from the school foundation;
  - design work for upcoming projects; and
  - on-going monitoring and inspections.

**Third response:**

- The school is built on changing permafrost, as is a lot of the community.
- There are ongoing discussions with the community of Ross River and the Ross River Dena Council with respect to a possible new site for a school at some point in the future.
- In the interim, there are quarterly inspections to monitor for any structural issues.

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**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- The Ross River School has been undergoing quarterly inspections to monitor for any structural issues.

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**Background:**

- The building and permafrost conditions at the school have resulted in many structural assessments and repairs over the years.

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note  
2022****Spring****Ross River School**Highways and  
Public Works**Approved by:**

April 25, 2022

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public  
Works

Date Approved

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Seismic and Schools**Highways and  
Public Works  
and Education

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**Recommended response:**

- Safety at our schools is a top priority and we work to proactively to address safety issues whenever possible.
- Schools are regularly inspected to ensure that they are safe.
- If structural issues are identified, precautionary and mitigation work is prioritized based on a risk assessment.
- Given the evolution in seismic research, the Government of Yukon conducted studies on all Yukon schools to identify potential seismic risks and likelihood of seismic events.
- As a result of these studies, Government of Yukon has undertaken mitigation measures.
- To date, we have addressed some structural issues (e.g. roof, floors, walls, etc.) and many non-structural issues (e.g. duct work, furniture, shelving, etc.).
- Yukon's last major seismic event was in 2017 and the mitigations we put in place were effective during that event.

**Additional response:**

- Every school was built with permits and inspected to ensure they met all relevant codes at the time of construction.



**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Seismic and Schools**Highways and  
Public Works  
and Education

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- The seismic upgrades go beyond the basic code requirements, and are intended to bring the buildings into line with modern seismic standards.
  - The Departments of Highways and Public Works and Education are reviewing Yukon school facilities and planning for the future of those facilities.
  - Seismic issues are one of the many factors considered in school design.
- 

**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- The public is interested in seismic mitigation in Yukon schools.
- 

**Background:**

- Yukon's 27 schools were built to the building code of the day and new code requirements contain more stringent structural requirements.
- The type and severity of seismic issues varies from building to building and can be categorized into:
  - structural components - roof, floors, walls, foundations; or
  - non-structural components - suspended ceilings, water piping, ductwork and furniture and shelving units.

**Approved by:**

March 21, 2022

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public  
Works

Date Approved

**Approved by:**Prepared for Minister Clarke  
Department of Highways and Public Works  
Minister McLean  
Department of EducationDate prepared: March 17,  
2022  
Last Updated: March 21,  
2022

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2022

Seismic and Schools

Highways and  
Public Works  
and Education

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Nicole Morgan	March 21, 2022
Deputy Minister, Education	Date Approved

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Selkirk Elementary School**Highways and  
Public Works**Recommended response: Parking Lot**

- The Yukon government is committed to providing safe learning environments for all students.
- Over the last few years the Department of Highways and Public Works has upgraded three school parking lots at Holy Family, Golden Horn and Christ the King.
- We are planning to upgrade the parking lot at Selkirk Elementary School to improve safety for staff and students. Design work for the new parking lot and drop-off area is ongoing.
- The design will allow for future electric vehicle charging stations at all parking stalls. The design is also considering expanded bike parking stalls for active transportation users.

**Additional response: School Portables**

- Selkirk Elementary School now has two new modular classrooms.
- The first new modular classroom was received in summer 2020. It is currently being used as a Grade 7 classroom.
- Construction on the second modular classroom was completed October 12, 2021, and is being used as a Grade 6 and 7 classroom.
- A small school addition is planned for summer 2022 to accommodate program needs.

**Context—this may be an issue because:**

Prepared for Minister Clarke  
Highways and Public Works

Date prepared: January 6,  
2022  
Last Updated: January 31,  
2022  
Page 1 of 2

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Selkirk Elementary School**Highways and  
Public Works

- The users of the school are interested in the upgrades occurring as soon as possible.

**Background: Parking Lot + Storm Sewer**

- As part of the overall plan for the Riverdale Education Campus, Selkirk Elementary School's staff parking will be relocated behind the school.
- Until the new parking lot is designed and constructed, Selkirk staff parking will remain at the front of the school along with visitor parking, as well as the school bus and parent drop off areas.
- As the proposed parking lot is within the City of Whitehorse's aquifer protection zone, and existing stormwater infrastructure in the area is at capacity, the City required a new stormwater line be built to carry run-off from the proposed parking lot offsite.
- The Department of Community Services started construction on the new stormwater line last summer with anticipated completion in the fall of 2022. The federal government will fund \$3.2 million through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program, and Highways and Public Works will contribute approximately \$1.2 million toward the project.
- Detailed design of the parking lot is underway. Construction is planned for summer 2023.

**Approved by:**

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public  
Works

January 31, 2022

Date Approved

Prepared for Minister Clarke  
Highways and Public WorksDate prepared: January 6,  
2022Last Updated: January 31,  
2022

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**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note  
2022****Spring****Shakwak Project**Highways and  
Public Works

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**Recommended response:**

- On November 15, 2021 the U.S. government passed the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act*.
- This Act authorizes funding for the reconstruction of segments of the Alaska Highway from the Alaska border at Beaver Creek to Haines Junction, and the Haines Road from Haines Junction to Haines, Alaska - the stretch we know locally as Shakwak.
- Importantly, the Act is limited in process details and does not commit any specific dollar amount to the reconstruction project.
- We are working closely with the federal government, the Alaskan government and our contacts in the U.S. federal system to understand what steps need to be taken to secure the funding for this section of highway.
- We worked with the Alaska Department of Transportation and submitted a joint-application for a RAISE grant.
- The RAISE grant is a U.S. merit-based discretionary funding program for infrastructure.
- The RAISE application proposes highway reconstruction at priority sections of the Alaska Highway impacted by permafrost between Beaver Creek and Destruction Bay.
- We will continue working with the Alaska Department of Transportation to pursue other funding

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note  
2022****Spring****Shakwak Project**Highways and  
Public Works

opportunities, including applications to other U.S. discretionary grants for infrastructure projects.

**Additional response:**

- This section of highway is essential for connecting mainland Alaska to Alaska's southeast. It is also critical for connecting Yukon communities, North American supply chains, and continental security.

**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- The U.S. recently passed a major bipartisan infrastructure funding bill. This bill specifically mentions the Alaska Highway in Yukon.
- Some of the appropriations under the Infrastructure Act for Alaska were announced in January 2022. Funding for Shakwak was not one of the projects.

**Background:**

- Thawing permafrost causes severe distortions of the road surface and significant cracking along the road shoulders, creating safety issues for highway users.
- Highway maintenance costs in permafrost areas can be up to six times higher than in non-permafrost areas.
- Yukon and Alaska have jointly submitted applications for funding to the BUILD discretionary grant (similar to RAISE) in years 2018, 2019 and 2020; however, none of the applications were accepted.
- The specific mention in the U.S. *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* of the Alaska Highway in Yukon is expected to strengthen the merit of the RAISE grant application, compared to the BUILD applications.

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note  
2022****Spring****Shakwak Project**Highways and  
Public Works

- In 2020-21 we completed the installation of thermosyphons at Dry Creek, km 1841 of the Alaska Highway, near Beaver Creek. The thermosyphons will help to cool the underlying permafrost foundation and stabilize the highway. The thermosyphons project is partially being funded by Transport Canada under Northern Transportation Adaptation Initiative (NTAI).
- Inspections carried out in July 2020 confirmed significant distortions as a result of permafrost degradations in the northern segments of the Alaska Highway.
- In the fall of 2020 and 2021, we reverted several sections along the highway to gravel. This was done as a mitigation strategy due to the significant movement from changing permafrost.
- The Shakwak agreement is a Canada - U.S. cost-sharing arrangement that was depleted of funding in 2015.
- The goal of the Shakwak agreement was to upgrade the 520 kilometres stretch of highway comprising parts of the North Alaska Highway and the Haines Road to a modern, all-weather, two-lane highway.

**Approved by:**


April 25, 2022

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public  
Works

Date Approved

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Sharing Construction Cost  
Estimates**Highways and  
Public Works**Recommended response:**

- The Yukon government is committed to balancing the interests of Yukon taxpayers with those of Yukon businesses through the fair, open and transparent procurement of goods and services.
- Government releases information regarding the cost ranges of planned projects in the Five Year Capital Plan and in the government's budget documents before tendering specific projects.
- Sometimes project budget information is shared in a Request for Qualifications or a Request for Proposals to help define the scope of work and help the proponents understand the scale and depth of the project.
- The Yukon government ensures value for money and transparency by using open tendering and bidding processes.

**Additional response: Sharing bid amounts and cost estimates**

- The Yukon government shares information about planned projects and their budgets; however, we do not share construction cost estimates.
- Estimates make assumptions at a specific point in time and when the government tenders a project the market gives feedback with bids influenced by a number of factors such as labour, materials, and methods.
- After bids are received and checked for compliance, the government publicly posts the bid amounts -



**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Sharing Construction Cost  
Estimates**Highways and  
Public Works

unless the tender is cancelled. The government also posts the contract award amount and the dollar amounts of change orders.

**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- Government procurement is a significant contributor to the local economy.
- Government must guard the interests of both Yukon taxpayers and businesses.

**Background**

- The Yukon government has not shared departmental estimates for contract costs with the public in the past.
- Estimates may vary from the final cost for several reasons:
  - There are significant variables that the construction contractor or the design-build contractor has the flexibility to take into account when bidding.
  - Estimates are based on general market conditions, but many variables can change. Larger economic conditions can easily affect the labour market and supply of materials.
  - Estimate accuracy can be affected by the number of competitive bids. The majority of cost estimates are based on the assumption that there will be a minimum of three competitive bids. If we receive one or two bids, the estimate is less accurate.
- Estimates are not always prepared on the same basis, for example estimates on a design-build project are prepared using a different methodology than a design-bid-build.

<b>Approved by:</b>
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Prepared for Minister Clarke  
Department of Highways and Public Works

Date prepared: January 10,  
2022  
Last Updated: January 31,  
2022  
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**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Sharing Construction Cost  
Estimates**Highways and  
Public WorksDeputy Minister, Highways and Public  
Works

January 31, 2022

Date Approved

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Solar Projects**Highways and  
Public Works

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**Recommended response:**

- Investing in renewable energy sources, such as solar, is key to reducing our greenhouse gas emissions.
- Construction on two projects at Klondike and Ogilvie, will be tendered for this summer.
- These two solar array systems will offset approximately 110,000 litres of diesel fuel each year, which is a reduction of 280 tonnes of greenhouse gases.
- This is one of the many steps that the Yukon government is taking to meet the goals of *Our Clean Future*.

**Additional response:**

- In addition to Klondike and Ogilvie, we are moving forward with solar energy projects at Tuchitua, and Blanchard, which will be tendered at a later date.
- YESAB has reviewed and recommended to proceed with all four solar energy projects.
- These solar array systems, once installed at the four sites will offset approximately 200,000 litres of diesel fuel each year, which is a reduction of 530 tonnes of greenhouse gases.

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**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- Renewable energy systems such as solar are an important way for the Yukon government to reduce emissions from its buildings.

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Solar Projects**Highways and  
Public Works

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**Background**

- In 2021, a feasibility study was performed to look at the value of installing solar arrays at diesel powered grader stations.
- In 2020, Highways and Public Works created the Green Infrastructure Program to oversee the energy conservation and greenhouse gas reduction efforts for Yukon government buildings, a response to Our Clean Future.

**Approved by:**

March 21, 2022

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public  
Works

Date Approved

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Spring Weight Restrictions**Highways and  
Public Works

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**Recommended response:**

- Every spring when the weather transitions from below to above freezing, Highways and Public Works imposes weight restrictions (sometimes referred to as "road bans") to preserve the integrity of road surfaces.
- Delayed implementation of the weight restrictions can result in millions of dollars of damage to the road network.
- Approximately 35 road temperature instruments (thermistor cables) are strategically located throughout the network and are monitored on an ongoing basis during spring.
- Weight restrictions are triggered when temperatures reach zero degrees Celsius in the top 300mm of the road embankment. At this temperature, road structures become wet and vulnerable to degradation from heavily loaded vehicles.
- Weight restrictions are imposed based on the ground temperature of a specific road.

**Additional Response**

- Weight restrictions are then applied for the entire segment of highway.
- The department bases the decision for the entire segment from the warmest thermistors as one soft section in the segment may be impacted by loading damage.

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Spring Weight Restrictions**Highways and  
Public Works

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- This was the case with regard to the recent weight restriction placed on the Carmacks to Dawson segment of the North Klondike Highway.
  - The thaw happened in Carmacks on April 8. The highway around Dawson did not thaw until April 24.
- 

**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- Trucking companies and contractors are the most impacted by these restrictions as it can limit their load size and may result in increased costs to move goods and equipment over the short term.
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**Background:**

- 75 per cent weight restrictions means loads must be less than 75 per cent of the legal load limit as permitted on a particular segment of the highway. 75 per cent weight restrictions are placed on roads that have sub-standard embankment structures (without proper thicknesses of the sub-base and base course aggregates) and therefore are more vulnerable to degradation during the spring thaw. These restrictions apply on:
    - Klondike Highway (Carmacks to Dawson);
    - Campbell Highway (Tuchitua to Faro);
    - Dempster Highway;
    - Tagish Road;
    - Top of the World Highway;
    - Nahanni Range Road;
    - Silver Trail; and
    - all secondary roads.
  - 100 per cent weight restrictions means loads must be equal or less than 100 per cent of the legal load limit as permitted on a particular segment of the highway. 100 per cent weight restrictions are placed on roads that have standard embankment structures (with proper thicknesses of
-

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Spring 2022

## Spring Weight Restrictions

Highways and  
Public Works

the sub-base and base course aggregates) and therefore are less vulnerable to degradation during the spring thaw. 100 per cent weight restrictions apply on the following road segments:

- all of the Alaska Highway;
  - Klondike Highway (US border to Carmacks);
  - Campbell Highway (Watson Lake to Tutchitua) and Faro Cut-off to Carmacks;
  - Atlin Road; and
  - Haines Road.
- Weight restrictions are lifted from 75 per cent to 100 per cent legal loads when the road embankment is thawed within the top 1.0m of the road embankment.
  - Overweight loads are permitted on a case-by-case basis and allow more than 100 per cent of the legal load. Overweight loads are considered and permitted only after the road embankment is thawed below 1.4m depth.

**Approved by:**Deputy Minister, Highways and Public  
Works

April 25, 2022

Date Approved

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Supervised Consumption Site**Highways and  
Public Works

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**Recommended response:**

- The Yukon government is committed to providing safe, and respectful spaces that support harm reduction and help decrease the prevalence of opioid-related overdoses and deaths.
- This past year Highways and Public Works renovated Birch Lodge to become the first supervised consumption site in the Yukon. The facility now provides a supportive space for drug consumption in the presence of trained health professionals.
- Renovations continue to improve the site space layout and to make building code and safety improvements.

**Additional response:**

- The first phase of construction was completed within budget last year which allowed the supervised consumption site to open in the fall of 2021.
- The current renovations include a new HVAC ventilation system for the inhalation room. The system will be upgraded and separated from the rest of the building.
- A contract has been awarded for the HVAC work and the department expects the work to be complete this spring.
- The final set of upgrades include improvements to the office space. This phase of work has now been awarded.



**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Supervised Consumption Site**Highways and  
Public Works

- Highways and Public Works is coordinating with the contractor and facility operational staff to minimize disruptions during construction.

**Third response:**

- The supervised consumption site has a windowed office and observation desk for staff, a waiting area for clients, and a space for clients following consumption. The bathroom is equipped with a stop-motion sensor to alert staff in case of an emergency.
- Two information sessions on this project for downtown residents took place last August.

**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- This fulfills a government commitment.

**Background**

- Blood Ties Four Directions is the operator of the supervised consumption facility.
- Supervised consumption sites do not provide substances for people to use.

**Approved by:**

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public  
Works

March 2, 2022

Date Approved

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Takhini River Road and Gully Road**Highways and  
Public Works

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**Recommended response:**

- Highways and Public Works makes every effort to keep all maintained roads safe and in good condition.
- Takhini River Road is inspected by Highways and Public Works every few days in the winter and spring.
- The department ensures the road surface of Takhini River Road is graded at least twice a year and more frequently as required.
- During the spring, the Takhini River Road is muddy and soft for a number of weeks until the snow melts, and once it dries up it will be graded.

**Additional response:**

- The department is currently working on a design to divert water away from the road where it is causing erosion.
- Highways and Public Works is planning to improve drainage and erosion issues on the Takhini River Road at Gully Road this summer.
- The department is conducting preliminary design work on the Takhini River Road looking at reconstruction alternatives to improve safety and drainage.
- Pending assessment, construction will be rolled out over several years.
- Additional work on Takhini River Road will include the installation of culvert markers and steam

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Takhini River Road and Gully Road**Highways and  
Public Works

pipes, cleaning and correcting existing culverts, deepening ditches, and correcting soft spots in the road.

- In the meantime, we will continue to monitor and provide maintenance to these roads as required.

**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- Due to the silt in the area, there are on-going, significant erosion issues along this road every year.

**Background:**

- The Takhini River Road was built prior to the 1940s and development has increased over the years.
- The Yukon government invested \$172,000 in 2021-22 fiscal year in repairs and maintenance of the Takhini River Road to improve the drainage and driving surface of the road.
- In spring 2021, the large runoff caused significant erosion to the Takhini River Road and the Gully Road.
- From July 29 to September 22, 2021, the Takhini River Road received 52 hours of surface grading and 20 hours of dust control. Maintenance crews filled potholes and completed surface grading before the ground began to freeze.
- The Yukon government uses a road classification system that considers traffic volumes and socio-economic factors when determining maintenance schedules and planning upgrades.

**Approved by:**


Deputy Minister, Highways and Public  
Works

April 5, 2022

Date Approved

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Tender and Award for the  
Supply of Pavement Marking  
Materials**Highways and  
Public Works**Recommended response:**

- The Yukon government is committed to the fair, open and transparent procurement of goods and services while balancing the interests of Yukon businesses, ensuring best value-for-money and adhering to trade agreement obligations.
- We recently completed a Standing Offer Arrangement for the supply of traffic paint, glass beads and solvent for the purpose of pavement marking.
- As of March 23, Standing Offer Arrangements are in place with three vendors:
  - Bolder Solutions Yukon;
  - Roadway Traffic Products; and
  - Ennis Paint Canada ULC.

**Additional response:**

- This year we implemented changes to the procurement process to better support industry.
- These changes included:
  - increasing the preparation time for vendors;
  - providing earlier tendering notice so that companies have more time to prepare between the time the tender closes and the first delivery deadline; and
  - increased communication (for estimates, call-up times, and general correspondence with bidders).
- The department ensures that any decisions, updates, or information relevant to the execution of a

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Tender and Award for the  
Supply of Pavement Marking  
Materials**Highways and  
Public Works

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contract is formally communicated to all vendors with a Standing Offer Arrangement in place in a timely manner.

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**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- Bidders have expressed concern with the post-tender process.
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**Background:**

- No questions were submitted and no alternative materials were proposed during the tender period.
- The “Call-up” contracting method within the tender document states how the high-ranked bidders will be offered an opportunity to enter into a contract.
- Line painting improves highway safety by:
  - reducing head-on and off-road collisions;
  - establishing lane delineation between vehicles;
  - improving driver safety during poor weather or nighttime driving; and
  - improving traffic flow within communities.
- There are currently 2224 kilometres of Yukon highways that are painted with yellow centerlines and 1384 kilometres of these highways also contain white edge lines.

**Approved by:**

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Deputy Minister, Highways and Public  
Works

April 4, 2022

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Date Approved

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Third Party Heavy Equipment  
Rental  
Standing Offer Arrangements**Highways and  
Public Works**Recommended response:**

- Highways and Public Works posted a tender for new Standing Offer Arrangements on November 18, 2021.
- As a result of constructive feedback and suggestions from bidders for improvement to the tender and its timing, Highways and Public Works decided to cancel the tender on November 30, 2021.
- The department worked with industry after the tender cancellation and revised the tender to include industry's suggested improvements and posted it on February 23rd.
- The way rates are calculated and paid should result in improvements for companies this coming year.
- The revised tender gave bidders over a month to respond and closed on March 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Some companies had non-compliant bids. The non-compliance was because they didn't fill out their submissions completely.
- The last SOA before this one was tendered in March 2020, just before we transitioned to full electronic systems.
- Knowing that there would be a change for bidders this time, the department was very proactive in reaching out and reminding contractors that they need to use Yukon bids&tenders.
- The department reached out by emailing and mailing letters twice to every contractor with an SOA for Third Party Heavy Equipment Rental.

# CONFIDENTIAL

## Session Briefing Note

Spring 2022

### Third Party Heavy Equipment Rental

Highways and  
Public Works

### Standing Offer Arrangements

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- Those letters were emailed and mailed in November 2021 and again in January 2022. The letters explained that paper copies would no longer be accepted and that Yukon bids&tenders is the system for processing tenders.
- The letters explained how to register for Yukon bids&tenders and included contact information and an offer of help.
- The department hosted 2 information sessions in March during the tender period to allow potential bidders to ask questions about the tender.
- HPW offered one-on-one assistance to bidders to help them submit online. Some bidders accepted that offer and were compliant.
- Early on closing day, HPW could see that some submissions had been started but not completed, so HPW emailed each individual bidder with incomplete submissions to remind them to complete their submission.
- HPW and Yukon government want as many complaint bids and as many SOAs as possible. The change from paper to full electronic submissions started in 2020 and HPW has had very few issues with the transition because of its proactive approach.
- The non-compliant bidders can still do work for Yukon government with their equipment. Having an SOA is not a pre-requisite for getting contracts.

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Third Party Heavy Equipment  
Rental**Highways and  
Public Works**Standing Offer Arrangements**

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**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- The Standing Offer Arrangements for Third Party Heavy Equipment rental are of interest to many Yukon contractors, the tender closed on March 28 and some bidders have non-compliant bids.

**Approved by:**


March 22, 2022

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public  
Works

Date Approved



**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Timing of Tendering and  
Forecasting**Highways and  
Public Works

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**Recommended response:**

- The Yukon government plans and issues tenders as early as possible to help vendors prepare for upcoming work.
- This includes forecasting and tendering projects earlier so that businesses can take full advantage of Yukon's short, intense building season.
- It also includes staggering closing dates to make it easier for contractors to bid on a number of tenders and to encourage price stability.
- Public procurements are vital to local businesses, and the Yukon government remains committed to the continuous improvement of our procurement processes.

**Additional response:**

- When planning and tendering projects, we are giving contractors the best opportunities to perform the work at the right time.
- The right time to tender is well in advance of the time when physical work needs to start.
- This timing allows contractors to plan their season, place orders and hire staff.
- We have many, many examples of tenders that were posted early enough that contractors could prepare for the work.
- Some of the examples are:

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Timing of Tendering and  
Forecasting**Highways and  
Public Works

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- o we tendered the Justice Centre Atrium skylight project last October, knowing that work would begin this spring, as it has;
  - o we tendered the Macaulay Lodge demolition in December and work is now underway;
  - o we tendered for work on the McCabe Creek bridge in early February and a contract is already in place for this summer;
  - o we tendered for road reconstruction on the North Klondike Highway in December and have a contract in place so it can start;
  - o we also tendered early for landscaping on the Casca Boulevard in Whistle Bend;
  - o we tendered for the parallel runway work in December so that we would be ready for work to start this spring;
  - o we tendered a Request for Standing Offers in February for Aircraft Charter services for the summer firefighting season; and
  - o we tendered for supply and delivery of calcium chloride for the summer in December.
  - o There are many more examples.
- We will also tender this year for projects that are breaking ground in 2023 – early indeed!
  - Our government has taken up the challenge of tendering at times that make sense for contractors.
  - We have made great improvements over the past years and businesses have indicated to department staff

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Timing of Tendering and  
Forecasting**Highways and  
Public Works

that they are happy with the timing of our tendering.

**Additional response: Forecasting**

- Government gives businesses advance notice of upcoming projects by posting our planned procurements to the Yukon bids&tenders website, and by sharing information through our Five Year Capital Plan.
- When planning the timing of our tenders we recognize that not all projects are seasonally dependent. We take into account factors such as project type and location, market availability and the ability of industry to meet government demand within the planned project schedules.
- We intentionally stagger closing dates of public tenders to make it easier for contractors to bid on more than one tender, and to encourage prices to remain stable.

**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- The Yukon government is interested in making the most of Yukon's short building season.

**Background:**

- Tender forecasts are posted as 'Notice of Planned Procurements' within the Yukon bids&tenders eProcurement platform.

<b>Approved by:</b>
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**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Timing of Tendering and  
Forecasting**Highways and  
Public Works

April 26, 2022

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public  
Works

Date Approved

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Traffic Lights at  
Alaska Highway and Robert  
Service Way**Highways and  
Public Works**Recommended response:**

- The Yukon government is making a number of safety improvements along the Alaska Highway through Whitehorse.
- One of these improvements is installing traffic lights to increase public safety and reduce the risk of collisions.
- We recently installed a protected green arrow light at the Robert Service Way intersection, to make it safer for vehicles to make left turns. It is intended to stop oncoming traffic while the arrow light is on, enabling drivers make safer left turns.

**Additional response:**

- The traffic light was activated on March 29, 2022, and we quickly became aware of technical issues that were causing traffic delays and corrected the issue.
- We recently made further modifications. The left turn signal and signage was adjusted to help make it more clear to drivers. We will continue to monitor to see if further improvements are needed.
- The new light addresses immediate safety concerns as we consider all options to make this intersection the safest it can be.

**Third response:**

- The current posted speed limit is 80 kilometer per hour, however our analysis has indicated that many vehicles are entering this intersection at 100

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Traffic Lights at  
Alaska Highway and Robert  
Service Way**Highways and  
Public Works

kilometer per hour. For this reason the "protected left" turn option was chosen in order to maximize safety.

- We are currently looking at options to optimize the timing and phasing of the signals to better respond to peak traffic demands.

**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- The public may be interested in the amount of time it takes to cross at the new traffic light.

**Background:**

- The lights were locally installed by Arcrite Northern Ltd., and Fortran Traffic Systems did the commissioning of the lights.

**Approved by:**


Deputy Minister, Highways and Public  
Works

April 25, 2022

Date Approved

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Vaccination against COVID-19 at  
Erik Nielsen Whitehorse  
International Airport**Highways and  
Public Works**Recommended response:**

- Health and safety is a priority at all Yukon airports.
- On October 30, 2021, Transport Canada implemented new rules for the federally regulated transportation sector. These rules impact passengers and workers at the Erik Nielsen Whitehorse International Airport.

**Airport Workers**

- To meet Transport Canada requirements, the Yukon government implemented an airport-wide COVID-19 vaccine policy on October 30, 2021. The new policy applies to government staff, commercial aviation companies and workers accessing the Whitehorse airport.
- Transport Canada has specific criteria for exemptions to the vaccination requirement.
- To meet the new Transport Canada requirements, government staff working on the Whitehorse Airport property began to provide proof of vaccination on November 15, 2021.

**Air Travelers**

- Transport Canada now requires air travelers over the age of 12 years and four months to show proof of being fully vaccinated to travel. Travelers leaving from the Erik Nielsen Whitehorse International Airport must meet this requirement.

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022**

**Vaccination against COVID-19 at  
Erik Nielsen Whitehorse  
International Airport**

Highways and  
Public Works

**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- This COVID-19 Vaccination Policy for Erik Nielsen Whitehorse International Airport is required by Transport Canada.

**Background**

- Transport Canada issued Interim Order 43 on October 29, 2021, and this Interim Order was brought in to force on October 30, 2021.
- Transport Canada's Interim Order required the Yukon government, as an airport operator, to have a COVID-19 Vaccination policy in place by October 30, 2021.

**Approved by:**


Deputy Minister, Highways and Public  
Works

January 31, 2022

Date Approved



**CONFIDENTIAL**

**Session Briefing Note**

**Spring 2022**

**Vaccination against COVID-19 at  
Erik Nielsen Whitehorse  
International Airport**

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Highways and  
Public Works

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Vendor Performance Review  
Program**Highways and  
Public Works**Recommended response:**

- The Vendor Performance Review Program came into effect in October 2021. This new program will evaluate and score vendors on their performance throughout a government contract.
- Through this new program, we will incentivize good performance from vendors, encourage project managers and vendors to work together and provide feedback to vendors on how to improve.
- Once suppliers have had time to build their scores, high performers will receive more points during tender evaluations, which will increase their chances to secure government contracts.

**Additional response:**

- When a vendor receives their scores, they can either accept, reject or not respond. If a vendor accepts the score, it is applied to the vendors overall ranking. If there is no response within 15 calendar days, the score automatically applies.
- If a vendor rejects their score, the project manager will work with the vendor to come to an agreement. If no agreement can be reached after 15 calendar days, there is an appeal process.
- When scores are appealed, the Procurement Support Centre will review and submit a recommendation to the Deputy Minister of Highways and Public Works for a final decision on the appeal.

**Third Response:**

# CONFIDENTIAL

## Session Briefing Note

Spring 2022

### Vendor Performance Review Program

Highways and  
Public Works

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- In fall 2022, scores will begin to be permanently retained.
  - At that time a corrective measures process will be added for future contracts.
  - Corrective measures are conditions or limitations placed on a vendor's ability to contract with the Yukon government in the future, on the basis of the Yukon government's assessment of the vendor's past performance.
- 

#### Context—this may be an issue because:

- Suppliers are interested in being rewarded for good performance.
- 

#### Background:

- Scores will be stored in the eProcurement platform, Yukon bids&tenders, which means suppliers will have one location for bidding and being able to review their vendor performance scores.
  - The Yukon government will phase program implementation to ensure that project managers and vendors are familiar with the program before it affects the actual bidding process:
    - Phase 1 (October 2021): the Yukon government launched the new program for vendors by capturing scores, but will remove the scores from the vendor's record after the first year of collection.
    - Phase 2 (October 2022): the Yukon government will retain scores for one year. This will give vendors one year to develop their overall average score.
    - Phase 3 (October 2023): the Yukon government will use the vendor's average scores from the last year and apply them during the procurement process. Vendors
-

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Vendor Performance Review  
Program**Highways and  
Public Works

will continue to receive scores, which will adjust their average score on an ongoing basis.

- One of the criteria that a vendor can be scored on is the fulfillment of their tendering commitments to Yukon First Nation participation.
- Based on the tender type, there are up to seven key performance indicators that are assessed for each contract, which creates an average performance score. The key performance indicators are:
  - Cost Control
  - Health and Safety
  - Quality Assurance
  - Schedule and Time Control
  - Staff and Administration
  - Yukon First Nation Participation
  - Functionality and Training (for goods contracts)

**Approved by:**


April 7, 2022

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public  
Works

Date Approved

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Water Delivery in Old Crow**Highways and  
Public Works

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**Recommended response:**

- The Yukon government is working to ensure adequate levels of water and sewage services are maintained in Old Crow.
- Our preference is to hire local residents and develop their skills whenever possible as this improves resilience and capacity within a community.
- We will continue to work with all stakeholders to ensure that local citizens have access to positions, including covering the cost of training and proper licensing for successful community candidates.
- We are working with the Department of Community Services to explore better and more effective ways to manage the water and sewer services in Old Crow.
- We are committed to working with the First Nation to find solutions that will benefit the community in the long term.

**Additional response:**

- Community Services remotely monitors the water treatment plant in Old Crow, while Highways and Public Works staff deliver water and sewer services on a daily basis.
- Highways and Public Works currently has staff from Dawson City completing rotations in Old Crow. Vuntut Gwitchin Government employees also assist and provide relief when necessary. This ensures

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Water Delivery in Old Crow**Highways and  
Public Works

adequate levels of water and sewer services are maintained in the community.

**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- Members of the Opposition have asked questions about the frequency and consistency of water delivery in Old Crow on July 15, 2021 and on January 4, 2022.

**Background**

- Community Services oversees the operation of the water plant and lagoon in Old Crow. Highways and Public Works staff operate the water and sewer trucks.
- Water delivery is provided to the residents of Old Crow three times per week. Most water tanks in homes are very small, ranging from 1,000 to 2,000 litres (250-500 gallons).
- The Yukon government advertised for a water and sewer services position in Old Crow, however no applications were received.
- Highways and Public Works and Community Services continue to work with the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation on potential long term solutions with regard to finding, training and retaining staff or contractors willing to do this work.

**Approved by:**


Deputy Minister, Highways and Public  
Works

January 24, 2022

Date Approved

Prepared for Minister Clarke  
Department of Highways and Public Works

Date prepared: January 11,  
2022

Last Updated: January 24,  
2022

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**CONFIDENTIAL**

**Session Briefing Note**

**Spring 2022**

**Water Delivery in Old Crow**

Highways and  
Public Works

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**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Watson Lake – Crosswalks and Lighting**Highways and  
Public Works

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**Recommended response:**

- The Yukon government has done extensive assessment, planning and consultation work along the Alaska Highway and has prioritized segments of the highway for improvements to safety.
- The Department of Highways and Public Works has met with Liard First Nation, the Town of Watson Lake, and the RCMP with respect to their priorities around road infrastructure in and around Watson Lake.
- In January 2022, updated roadside signage was installed at three existing crosswalk locations in the community making it safer for pedestrians to cross.
- Later this year, pavement markings, updated overhead lighting and signage will be added to these crosswalks, helping to provide advanced notice of the crossings for motorists.
- In addition to these upgrades, the department has started a project to add new street lighting along the Robert Campbell Highway between kilometer 1 at Ravenhill Drive and kilometer 4 at Two and One-Half Mile Village. Portions of this work will be completed in partnership with the Town of Watson Lake and Liard First Nation.

**Additional response:**

- Highways and Public Works officials will be returning to the town this spring to further discuss plans with stakeholders.



**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Watson Lake – Crosswalks and Lighting**Highways and  
Public Works

- The department has engaged ATCO to develop designs and implementation plans for the new street lighting along the Robert Campbell Highway.

**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- Improving the crosswalks in Watson Lake has been a topic of discussion in the Legislative Assembly.

**Background:**

- The Yukon government met with the Town of Watson Lake in November 2021.
- The Department of Highways and Public Works conducted a preliminary assessment on the Alaska Highway crosswalks during summer 2021. Based on engineering standards, pedestrian-activated lights at the existing crosswalks are not warranted.
- Decisions to improve pedestrian safety features are based on a number of factors including the criteria outlined in the Yukon Street lighting Guidelines. Factors include traffic volume, operational factors, roadway design, and collision history.

**Approved by:**


March 2, 2022

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public  
Works

Date Approved

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Watson Lake Airport**Highways and  
Public Works

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**Recommended response:**

- Yukon's aviation system is essential for connecting our communities, building our economy and linking the Yukon with the rest of the world.
- The Yukon government continues to make strategic investments to keep our aerodromes and airports safe and open for business.
- Our government has made significant investments in aviation over the past few years, including upgrades to equipment and facilities.
- However, we know there is more work to be done in the future to help grow and develop Yukon's aviation system.

**Additional response:**

- During the 2021-22 fiscal year our government invested \$4 million at the Watson Lake Airport to resurface the runway and portions of the taxiway. The next phase of the project includes lighting upgrades.
- We worked closely with departments and agencies providing essential services to ensure the continued availability of emergency services throughout the construction period.
- These investments are being made to maintain the critical aviation infrastructure in Watson Lake.

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**Context—this may be an issue because:**

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**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Watson Lake Airport**Highways and  
Public Works

- Stakeholders and the public actively engage in projects the Yukon government undertakes to maintain, operate, and improve services at the Watson Lake Airport.
- Watson Lake Airport is a critical piece of the Yukon aviation system and is an alternate airport for passenger flights flying to the Erik Nielsen Whitehorse International Airport.

**Background**

- Watson Lake was originally slated for critical improvements starting in 2022. This project was advanced by a year in order to support Whitehorse Airport reconstruction projects. It also supports the Whitehorse Airport by providing redundancy and backup should it be needed.
- We prioritize operations, maintenance and capital spending based on a number of different factors, with safety being the most important. In addition, regulatory requirements, costs, traffic volumes, impact to communities and impact to industry are also considered.

**Approved by:**

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public  
Works

January 31, 2022

Date Approved

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Weigh Scale Reporting Exemption  
Permit Redesign**Highways and  
Public Works**Recommended response:**

- Carrier Compliance Officers carry out vehicle checks to ensure compliance with the *Highways Act*, as well as the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance and National Safety Code requirements.
- These officers carry out inspections related to vehicle weight and cargo securement.
- They also confirm that pre-trip inspections and log books are completed, and ensure vehicles are mechanically sound.
- Monitoring commercial vehicles on Yukon's highways is important for the safety of the travelling public and the integrity of Yukon's highway infrastructure.
- Highways and Public Works administers Yukon's Carrier Compliance program, which is responsible for ensuring commercial vehicles are following Yukon's laws and standards, as well as national standards.

**Additional response (current situation – permit redesign):**

- In the past, local companies would have to apply for a weigh scale exemption permit to avoid having to report to the scales every time they drove by.
- Changes in reporting requirements are currently under consideration due to the significant numbers of overweight, insecure cargo, and other safety violations that have been found during enforcement operations in 2021-2022.

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Weigh Scale Reporting Exemption  
Permit Redesign**Highways and  
Public Works

- Enforcement efforts also identified concerning levels of non-compliance by carriers who hold weigh scale exemption permits.
- From this it is clear that the current approach to weigh scale reporting is not working in the best interests of Yukoners. In 2021 alone over 190 commercial vehicle convictions were filed against local carriers, each of which represents both an infrastructure and public safety risk.
- To address these issues, Carrier Compliance has recently proposed a policy to modify the requirements for weigh scale reporting exemption permits.
- The department met with industry earlier this year on January 7 and on January 19; approximately 50 participants were in attendance.
- Highways and Public Works continues to be engaged in dialogue with industry.
- The working group is now established. The first meeting was held on March 22, 2022.
- At this time, industry is subject to the same rules and policies that have applied for over a decade; nothing has changed.
- Local weigh scale exemption permits are currently provided to commercial carriers operating within 20 kilometers of the scales, which allows them to legally bypass the weigh scales.

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Weigh Scale Reporting Exemption  
Permit Redesign**Highways and  
Public Works

- The Yukon continues to be the only jurisdiction in Canada that offers local weigh scale exemption permits.

**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- Changes to the Weigh Scale Exemption Permits will affect various commercial carriers traveling through Yukon.

**Background:**

- The current Weigh Scale Reporting Exemption Permits allow local traffic to “bypass” a weigh scale along the highway or by using city roads (i.e.: Hamilton Blvd).
- In recent years there has been an increase in applications for these permits.
- Weigh Scale Reporting Exemptions Permits were last reviewed in 2002.
- The *Highways Act* requires any commercial vehicle above 4500kg to report to the weigh scales.
- Carrier Compliance vehicle checks protect the traveling public by ensuring commercial vehicles and drivers operating on highways are safe, their loads secure, and that commercial vehicles are operating within road tolerances which ensures that unnecessary damage to road infrastructure is minimized.

**Approved by:**


March 25, 2022

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public  
Works

Date Approved

Prepared for Minister Clarke  
Highways and Public WorksDate prepared: January 11,  
2022Last Updated: March 25,  
2022

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**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Whistle Bend Elementary School**Highways and  
Public Works

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**Recommended response:**

- Building a new school for the community of Whistle Bend is a high priority for the Yukon government.
- Highways and Public Works has worked with the Department of Education and the Project Advisory Committee throughout the project to ensure the school design incorporates important community elements.
- Snow has been cleared from the site and ground work has begun.
- Construction completion of the school is expected in winter of 2023-24. Once construction is complete, the Department of Education will begin to prepare the school to welcome students and teachers.

**Additional response: Work Progress**

- Ground work underway at the moment consists of bulk excavation.
- This is being done under the authority of the current development permit.
- Discussions are also underway between the contractor, City of Whitehorse and the Yukon government in relation to the next development permit.
- The Yukon government is working with the contractor and the City of Whitehorse to determine

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Whistle Bend Elementary School**Highways and  
Public Works

what additional information is required to obtain this permit.

**Additional response: Cost Increase**

- Over the past couple of years, we've all seen increases to the cost of living across the board.
- We've also seen cost escalations on major infrastructure projects.
- These increases have been mainly in building construction projects and have been driven by price increases in lumber, wood products, steel and labour.
- If we look at supply chain impacts alone - factories have been closed down or understaffed, production has slowed down considerably and couple that with the associated transportation issues - and we're looking at a backlog in supplies which won't be solved in the short-term.
- National inflation data is showing that we're in a new era of rising costs and anyone can attest to the fact that the value of a dollar now is not what it once was.
- Statistics Canada tells us that we've witnessed the highest rate of inflation since 1991.
- National inflationary pressures are rooted in commodity markets - in steel, energy, cement, wood - and in labour markets.
- All of which have taken a toll on our economy and our projects.



**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Whistle Bend Elementary School**Highways and  
Public Works

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- The Whistle Bend School project is no exception to these challenges and impacts.
  - The design-build tender closed at a time **of near-peak prices** for lumber and steel, which are **key materials** for the project.
  - Generally speaking, steel prices are assumed to have peaked as production capacity returns post-pandemic and more supply enters the market; however, the demand for it remains high and access may further impact project delivery.
  - Most recently, the war on Ukraine and sanctions on Russia have put further strain on this commodity.
  - To say it's simple and limited to a Yukon context, would be grossly underestimating a multifaceted global phenomena.
  - COVID-19, global insecurity in energy markets, supply chain disruptions, rising costs of agricultural inputs, the list goes on.
  - It is not a list we control, but one we need to respond to.

**Additional response: Active transportation**

- We're investing more in active transportation by widening the sidewalk to safely accommodate cyclist traffic in front of the school.
- Trails behind the school will be integrated into the Whistle Bend trail system to allow for students to safely commute to school.

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Whistle Bend Elementary School**Highways and  
Public Works

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- We will also include pedestrian traffic lights at Olive May Way and Casca Boulevard to make it safer for pedestrians and cyclists.
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**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- This will be the first school in the Whistle Bend community.
- 

**Background:**

- The design-build contract was awarded to Ketzia Construction Corporation for \$42.8 million.
  - 74(1)(a)
  - Discussion on the development permit is ongoing between the contractor and City of Whitehorse.
  - The contract cost reflects increased cost for building materials like lumber and steel.
  - The design-build contract was a value-driven procurement. Value driven procurements look beyond the price to make sure the project brings as much value as possible to the community and the territory. In this case, the winning bidder earned points for their schedule, training plans, subcontracting plans, northern experience, and First Nations participation.
  - A contract for Owner's Advisor services was awarded to Colliers Project Leaders in January 2020.
  - A Project Advisory Committee was established in summer 2019, as a commitment made by Education to the Whistle Bend Community Association. Members include: Ta'an Kwäch'än Council, Kwanlin Dün First Nation, City of Whitehorse and the departments of Community Services, Education and Highways and Public Works.
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Session Briefing Note

Spring 2022

Whistle Bend Elementary School

Highways and  
Public Works

Approved by:



April 21, 2022

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public  
Works

Date Approved

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Whitehorse Airport Airside  
Improvements**Highways and  
Public Works

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**Recommended response:**

- Yukon's aviation system is essential for connecting our communities, building our economy and linking the Yukon with the rest of the world.
- The Yukon government continues to make strategic investments to keep our aerodromes and airports safe and open for business.
- Our government has made significant investments in aviation over the past few years, including upgrades to equipment and facilities.
- However, we know there is more work to be done in the future to help grow and develop Yukon's aviation system.

**Additional response:**

- A number of improvements to the airside of Erik Nielsen Whitehorse International Airport are needed to replace aging infrastructure and keep the airport up to standard.
- This work will ensure the airport can support current and future jet service and will also build the airport's capacity to support forecasted increases in the tourism and resource development industries.
- The improvements include replacing the main runway, upgrading the parallel runway, developing airport land for commercial uses and expanding the apron panel area.

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Whitehorse Airport Airside  
Improvements**Highways and  
Public Works

- To be more specific, we expect to complete the upgrade of the parallel runway and finish the resurfacing work on select taxiways this year.
- We are also planning to start the reconstruction of the apron concrete panels as well as the relocation of Taxiway G this spring.
- The relocation of Taxiway G will allow for the development of water and sewer services to Chipmunk Place, bringing these services to existing lease lots.

**Additional Response: Maintenance Facility**

- Planning work is underway for the replacement of the airport maintenance facility, which is critical to the operation of the airport.
- The new facility is being considered in a different location than the existing facility to maximize land available for the private sector at the airport.
- Once the new facility is completed, the existing maintenance building, along with the carpentry shed and old sand shed will be demolished.

**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- There are numerous airside projects happening at the Whitehorse Airport over the coming years.

**Background:**

- A major patching program was undertaken in 2017 for the main runway, which was primarily aimed at reducing potential foreign object debris.

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Whitehorse Airport Airside  
Improvements**Highways and  
Public Works

- A Hot-In-Place asphalt recycling rehabilitation was completed in 2018, which was estimated to extend runway life by an additional five years. This allowed time for the options analysis and planning of a more robust surface treatment, including subsurface, drainage, and lighting.

**Improvements Underway**

- A two-year program to resurface selected taxiways and apron taxilane areas began last summer and is scheduled to be completed in 2022.
- A construction tender has been awarded for reconstruction of the apron concrete panels and is scheduled to start this spring.
- The construction tender for the relocation of Taxiway G has been awarded and work is planned to start this spring.
- The construction tender to upgrade the parallel runway has been awarded to Terus Construction Ltd and Skookum Asphalt for approximately \$21 million. Construction is scheduled to begin this spring with completion expected in the fall.
- Planning for the reconstruction of the main runway is currently underway.

**Approved by:**

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public  
Works

March 14, 2022

Date Approved

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Whitehorse Airport Food  
Services**Highways and  
Public Works

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**Recommended response:**

- Yukon's aviation system is essential for connecting our communities, building our economy and linking the Yukon with the rest of the world.
- The Yukon government continues to make strategic investments to keep our aerodromes and airports safe and open for business.
- Our government has made significant investments in aviation over the past few years, including upgrades to equipment and facilities.
- However, we know there is more work to be done in the future to help grow and develop Yukon's aviation system.

**Additional response:**

- Negotiations to procure food services at Whitehorse Airport were put on hold during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- With the removal of the State of Emergency on March 18, 2022, the department has reached out to the highest-ranked proponent for the Negotiated Request for Proposals for Food Services to inquire if they are interested in resuming negotiations.

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**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- Airport users may ask about food service providers in the airport.

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**Background:**

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Whitehorse Airport Food  
Services**Highways and  
Public Works

- Active negotiations for the primary food services agreement were paused in March 2020 due to pandemic-related impacts on the highest ranked proponent, passenger traffic and a decrease in airport terminal use in general.
- In August 2021, discussions resumed with the first ranked vendor to confirm their interest in proceeding with the food services agreement, but were again placed on hold in October 2021 when the restaurant space was repurposed as a COVID testing facility to satisfy Transport Canada regulatory requirements.

**Approved by:**

March 21, 2022

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public  
Works

Date Approved



**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Whitehorse Grader Station -  
Relocation**Highways and  
Public Works**Recommended response:**

- The grader station located in the Marwell area of Whitehorse is in poor condition and is no longer meeting the needs of the department.
- The current grader station sits on riverfront land that may be more suitable for other types of development or usage.
- In 2021, Highways and Public Works completed initial planning for a replacement grader station that will now be considered for inclusion in the five-year capital plan.
- There are several possible sites for the new grader station. A final decision on the location will be part of the next phase of planning.
- Under the Kwanlin Dün First Nations Final Agreement, Kwanlin Dün First Nation has first right of refusal for the existing site.
- The Yukon government will work with the Kwanlin Dün First Nation as this project moves forward.

**Additional response:**

- The Whitehorse Grader Station is approximately 60 years old and the current buildings have high energy use and maintenance costs.
- Replacing the station is the most economical option. New, more efficient buildings would help contribute to the Yukon government's *Our Clean Future* greenhouse gas emission reduction targets.

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Whitehorse Grader Station -  
Relocation**Highways and  
Public Works**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- This project is mentioned in the 2021 Speech from the Throne. Minister Clarke's July 5, 2021 mandate letter includes: "begin the process of relocating the Grader Station in the Marwell area, working with the Kwanlin Dün First Nation."

**Approved by:**


March 2, 2022

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public  
Works

Date Approved

**CONFIDENTIAL**

**Session Briefing Note**

**Spring 2022**

**Whitehorse Grader Station -  
Relocation**

Highways and  
Public Works

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**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Yukon 511**Highways and  
Public Works

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**Recommended response:**

- This past fall, the Department of Highways and Public Works upgraded the Yukon 511 website and launched a new mobile app. The upgrades make it easier for users to navigate the system and also provide more information to motorists.
- The website offers a more user-friendly experience, including a Google Maps integrated interface and the ability to create a personal user profile.
- Users are also able to view roadside cameras to see first-hand what the road conditions are like in many areas of the Yukon before heading to their destination.
- The new Yukon 511 mobile app features a hands-free mode that uses voice recognition and provides important road condition notifications straight to your device. The app also features a drive-mode alert that provides an audio alert of any delays on the road ahead of you.
- The Yukon 511 mobile app can be downloaded for free from the Apple Store or Google Play Store.

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**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- The improved Yukon 511 system is an example of how the government is making online services easier to access for Yukoners. These upgrades have the potential to save lives and prevent accidents and inconveniences.

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Public Works

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**Background**

- We have 15 Road Weather Information Systems. These stations provide real-time information of meteorological and road conditions, which informs maintenance response and Yukon's 511 traveler information system for safe trip planning.

**Approved by:**

January 24, 2022

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public  
Works

Date Approved

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Yukon First Nations Procurement Policy**Highways and  
Public Works**Recommended response:**

- The Yukon First Nations Procurement Policy will strengthen outcomes for Yukon First Nations people and businesses by providing opportunities to be active partners in the economy.
- Through this policy, the Yukon government commits to:
  - providing Yukon First Nations businesses with increased opportunities to participate in Yukon's economy;
  - ensuring procurement processes are done in accordance with the Yukon First Nations Final Agreements; and
  - advancing reconciliation, renewing the relationships with Yukon First Nations and respecting treaty and Aboriginal rights.

**Engagement:**

- The Yukon government listened to the public and took a phased approach to the implementation of this important policy to ensure Yukon businesses, Yukon First Nations and Yukon government employees had adequate time to prepare for and understand the policy.
- An Industry Working Group was established to provide a forum for interested stakeholders to meaningfully engage by providing input and advice as tools and processes were developed to support the implementation of this policy.

**Yukon First Nations Business Registry:**

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Policy**Highways and  
Public Works

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- On December 1, 2021, verified Yukon First Nations businesses started to be listed on the Yukon First Nation Business Registry. There is a link to the registry under "Doing Business" on Yukon.ca.
  - The Yukon First Nation Chamber of Commerce acts as the Registrar of the registry. The registrar assists Yukon First Nation businesses with the application process, and performs the business verifications.
  - As of March 31, 2022, 83 Yukon First Nation businesses have gone through the verification process and are listed on the registry.
  - Over the past year, the Yukon government has received feedback from industry and our Yukon First Nation partners on the Yukon First Nation business definition.
  - The feedback focused on ensuring Yukon First Nation businesses were being properly designated and that the definition of a Yukon First Nation business aligns with the intent of the policy
  - After discussions with the Technical Working Group, the Yukon government updated the Yukon First Nation business definition in February.
  - As we learn more about the policy through implementation, we will continue to review the business definition and verification process with the Technical Working Group and Monitor and Review Committee to ensure that we are meeting the intent of the policy.

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Policy**Highways and  
Public Works**Additional Response: Contractors proof of YFN  
involvement**

- The Yukon government is committed to ensuring the benefits from the Yukon First Nations Procurement Policy flow to the intended recipients.
- This is why we will require contractors to provide a statutory declaration to say that the contractor has proof of Yukon First Nation involvement.
- This applies to all contracts where a bid value reduction or points were earned for Yukon First Nation participation.

**Additional Responses: Monitor and Review Committee**

- With Yukon First Nation and industry representatives, we co-developed the terms of reference for a Monitor and Review Committee. This committee is responsible for monitoring outcomes of the policy and providing recommendations to the Yukon government for interventions or continuous improvement.
- The committee meets at minimum on a monthly basis, and is working on their first annual report. Their report will be available on Yukon.ca.
- We have heard the concerns from industry representatives about the use of bid value reductions. Should major market impacts be observed in a particular sector, the government will work with its Yukon First Nation partners to quickly adjust the parameters around bid value reductions. The Monitor and Review Committee is provided with



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monthly reporting on the impact of bid value reductions.

- Bid value reductions are an important way to meet the policy's objectives. They will allow benefits to flow to the entire Yukon economy, which is a win-win for all businesses in the territory. All businesses can earn bid value reductions for Yukon First Nation participation in contracts.

**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- This is an important policy shift in the Yukon government's procurement system. It demonstrates a tangible commitment to reconciliation.

**Background**

- The Yukon First Nations Procurement Policy was approved on December 9, 2020, and endorsed through a joint announcement with Yukon First Nation leaders at the Yukon Forum on December 11, 2020.
- The policy came into effect on February 22, 2021, with additional measures being implemented on April 26, 2021 and October 4, 2021.
- This policy was drafted collaboratively with Yukon First Nations. Now industry is included in implementation along with Yukon government and Yukon First Nations.

**Approved by:**

March 24, 2022

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Yukon First Nations Procurement  
Policy**Highways and  
Public WorksDeputy Minister, Highways and Public  
Works

Date Approved

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Yukon Schools Functional  
Program (Generic School Design)**

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Highways and  
Public Works**Recommended response:**

- The Yukon Schools Functional Program, known as the Generic School Design was completed in 2018 to provide a consistent set of design standards and criteria to help guide future school development throughout the Yukon.
- The program focuses on providing flexible multi-use spaces that emphasize collaborative learning, the integration of technology, and Yukon First Nations culture and language. It also supports 21<sup>st</sup> century learning in the Yukon.
- It also includes strategies to provide communities that have smaller student numbers with similar educational program facilities, while maintaining an efficient use of space and helping to reduce operating costs.

**Additional Response:**

- The Yukon Schools Functional Program was used to develop the statement of requirements and design for Whistle Bend Elementary School.
- The Yukon Schools Functional Program can be applied to school projects that are procured through either the design-build or the design-bid-build model.
- The program is also being used for the Burwash Landing School and will be used for the future Whitehorse school replacement project.
- The consulting firm Colliers completed the work for \$125, 000.

**CONFIDENTIAL****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Yukon Schools Functional  
Program (Generic School Design)**Highways and  
Public Works**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- The public is interested in how schools are designed.

**Background:**

- The program details the functional and technical requirements of schools and program areas based on location and population.
- The report consulted educational design standards and buildings in British Columbia, Alberta, and Saskatchewan. These standards were compared with current Yukon schools to develop a comprehensive functional and technical requirements program to support 21<sup>st</sup> century learning in the Yukon.
- The contract registry lists the contract name as "generic school design".

**Approved by:**


March 17, 2022

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public  
Works

Date Approved