

FOR RELEASE
April 18, 2016

Work continues to complete Shakwak program highway improvements

WHITEHORSE—In 2016/17, the Government of Yukon expects to invest more than \$12 million to complete Shakwak highway improvements. The improvements will include three projects on the Alaska Highway between km 1710 and km 1832 as well as work to repair sections of the road that have been impacted by thawing permafrost.

"The work completed to date provides an all-weather paved road for the Haines and Alaska highways, connecting Yukon communities on a year-round basis." Minister of Highways and Public Works Scott Kent said. "Not only have the Shakwak projects enhanced the safety and condition of the Alaska Highway, but Yukoners have also benefited from employment opportunities."

Projects completed under the Shakwak program include:

- reconstruction of the Alaska Highway from Haines Junction to the Yukon-Alaska border, north of Beaver Creek;
- reconstruction of the Haines Road; and
- replacement of the Slims River Bridge, Donjek River Bridge, White River Bridge and Duke River Bridge.

Research completed at the Beaver Creek Permafrost Testing Site, and other permafrost research along this highway corridor, is helping the department to design and implement adaptation techniques to minimize the impacts melting permafrost has on the highway.

This year's work is expected to put 40 Yukon residents to work.

It is anticipated that the projects will go to tender this spring.

-30-

Contact:

Dan Macdonald
Cabinet Communications
867-393-6470
dan.macdonald@gov.yk.ca

Doris Wurfbaum
Communications, Highways and Public Works
867-393-7193
doris.wurfbaum@gov.yk.ca

News Release #16-142



Stay up to date with the latest Yukon government news by subscribing to our RSS feed here:
<http://www.gov.yk.ca/news/rss.html>. Or follow us on Twitter @yukongov.