



**Ministry of
Highways and
Infrastructure**

Policy and Programs

Saskatchewan

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June 23, 2010

Our File:

Al Rosseker
Saskatchewan Trucking Association
1335 Wallace Street
REGINA SK S4N 3Z5

Dear Mr. Rosseker:

Further to your inquiry about the washout on Highway No. 1 near Maple Creek, here is an update on the situation and plans for accommodating traffic. Firstly, let me start by saying that the Ministry recognizes that this natural disaster has negative consequences for both shippers and carriers. Rest assured, the Ministry is using all available resources to re-open and, ultimately, restore the full level of service on Highway 1.

There are two section of Highway No. 1 that were damaged. The first location is at Eagle Creek, approximately 5 km west of the Junction of Highway No. 21. About 175 meters of the westbound lanes were entirely washed away. The eastbound lanes remain intact, with the exception of approximately 75 meters where the passing lane was washed away.

The second location is from the Alberta-Saskatchewan border to 2 km east. This section received shoulder and side slope damage resulting in 0.3 to 1.0 meter drop off the edge of the pavement and minor undermining of the existing driving lanes. The work to repair this section of highway is targeted for completion late Friday, June 25 or Saturday, June 26, 2010.

At Eagle Creek, the Ministry is concentrating on the restoration of the eastbound lanes which includes rebuilding of the earth embankment, placement of granular structure, placement of interim asphalt wearing surface, and stabilization of the existing medium crossings. Twenty-four hour construction is underway to re-open the highway. Upon completion, there will be two functional eastbound lanes. This work was targeted for late Friday, June 25 or Saturday, June 26, 2010.

Once both eastbound lanes are repaired, the highway will be opened to both eastbound and westbound traffic. Westbound traffic will be required to cross the median using existing median crossings. At this point, only legal dimension and legal weight vehicles will be allowed to use this portion of Highway No. 1.

Once the highway is opened to two-way traffic, the Ministry will begin work to construct enhanced crossovers. Upon completion of these crossovers, the highway will be opened to long combination vehicles including Rocky Mountain Doubles and Turnpike Doubles. Work on the crossovers is expected to be completed by July 7, 2010.

With the completion of the crossovers, work will begin to rebuild the highway. The reconstruction of the highway is planned to be in two phases. The first phase will be to reconstruct the westbound lanes, including drainage structures. Traffic will then be switched to the westbound lanes. The second phase will be to reconstruct the eastbound lanes, including drainage structures.

Reconstruction of the westbound lanes is estimated at 6 – 8 weeks. Reconstruction of the eastbound lanes is estimated to require an additional 6 – 8 weeks, subject to engineering assessment of the integrity of the retained embankment and drainage structures.

Full re-instatement of 4-lane roadway is expected to be completed by approximately late-September to mid-October, assuming no major regulatory barrier or weather impediment.

Outside of these two sections, Highway No. 1 is available for operation as a divided highway. Minor erosion repairs may be required, but the safe operation of the highway has not been compromised. Until the work to fully restore Highway No. 1 is complete, all overdimension vehicles and loads with the exception of LCV's and all overweight vehicles are required to use alternate routing.

If you have any further questions, please contact me at (306) 787-6998. As updates are made available, I will forward these to you for distribution to your membership.

Sincerely,



Andrew Cipywnyk, P. Eng
Manager, Trucking Policy and Regulation

cc: George Stamatinos, Assistant Deputy Minister
Terry Schmidt, Assistant Deputy Minister
Harold Hugg, Executive Director, Transportation Policy
Les Bell, Executive Director, Transportation Programs and Services
Rosann Semchuk, Executive Director, Communications and Public Relations

AC/ds