



December 19, 2018

The Honourable Brian Mason, Minister of Transportation
320 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta

Dear Minister,

Re: Highway 40 Bridge – Ghost River/Waiparous Creek

On behalf of the Council of the Summer Village of Waiparous, I want to thank you for your commitment to working collaboratively with the residents of the Village in order to find a workable solution for replacing the Waiparous Creek bridge in its current alignment. Your recent comments in the Legislature were also very much appreciated as we seek to replace infrastructure critical to our community.

On Tuesday, November 27, 2018, in response to the release of Alberta Transportation's 2018 *Functional Review and Evaluation Report*, our Council passed a resolution supporting HATCH and AMEC's recommendation "that Alberta Transportation adopt Alignment Option 1A for upgrading Highway 40:14 within the Summer Village of Waiparous," placing the new bridge in a location very similar to the current bridge.

As we contemplate next steps, Summer Village of Waiparous Council seeks to understand the following:

1. When will Alberta Transportation be making a final decision regarding alignment? And when will this decision be made public?
2. When is funding for the new bridge likely to be approved?
3. When could Alberta Transportation meet with Summer Village of Waiparous Council to discuss various aspects of the report? Areas for further clarification include pedestrian crossing, speed mitigation, and design specifics, all important aspects for Village residents.

Alberta Transportation's 2018 *Functional Review and Evaluation Report* notes the deterioration of the existing bridge, stating that "many of the steel and timber components exhibit significant deterioration and are not capable of safely supporting legal highway loading." The bridge was



rated a 3 out of 10 by Alberta Transportation inspectors in 2016, denoting substandard conditions warranting bridge replacement.

Residents are concerned that further downgrading of the current bridge may have implications for school buses, fire trucks, septic service, and water haul trucks. This bridge is the main transportation access for Ghost Valley residents west of Summer Village of Waiparous. It is imperative that the bridge crossing the Ghost River/Waiparous Creek be safe and reliable. Thus, we respectfully ask that this project be given priority status in the 2019 budget deliberations.

Our community has endured bridge design processes three times in the past thirty-six years, with increasing strain on residents. The potential for our village to be torn in half by a straightened, high-speed roadway causes great angst each time this project is resurrected by a new provincial government. To avoid subjecting residents to this painful process yet again, we are asking for your help to move this project forward.

On behalf of the Summer Village of Waiparous, I wish to thank you for considering our requests regarding this critical piece of infrastructure. We are eager to move ahead with the new bridge. We seek your commitment to getting this project funded and underway, and we look forward to your reply.

Yours truly,



Matt Sundal,
Mayor, Summer Village of Waiparous

cc: Mr. Cameron Westhead, MLA Banff -Cochrane
Mr. Darren Davidson, P.Eng. Regional Director, Southern Region, AT