



May 31, 2019

The Honorable Ric McIver, Minister of Transportation
320 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta

Calgary.Hays@assembly.ab.ca

Dear Minister,

Re: Highway 40 Bridge over Ghost River/Waiparous Creek

On behalf of the Council of the Summer Village of Waiparous, I wish to congratulate you on your recent election win and your appointment as the Minister of Transportation.

I also want to take this opportunity to ask for your help with a critical piece of provincial infrastructure within the Summer Village of Waiparous. The single-lane bridge by which Highway 40 spans the confluence of the Ghost River and Waiparous Creek is in desperate need of replacement. After thirty-seven years of discussion between area residents, successive Councils, and various provincial governments, we are looking to your government to finally complete this project.

Alberta Transportation's 2018 *Functional Review and Evaluation Report* notes the deterioration of the existing bridge, e.g. "Many of the steel and timber components exhibit significant deterioration and are not capable of safely supporting legal highway loading." In 2016, Alberta Transportation inspectors rated the bridge a 3 out of 10, denoting substandard conditions warranting bridge replacement. This bridge is the main transportation access for Ghost Valley residents west of Summer Village of Waiparous, and further downgrading of the current bridge may have implications for the school buses, fire trucks, septic service, and water haul trucks serving this population. Thus, we respectfully ask that this project be given priority status in the 2019 budget deliberations.

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

1. Will your government endorse the recommendation made in Alberta Transportation's 2018 *Functional Review and Evaluation Report*, "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?

Alignment Option 1A is supported by Alberta Transportation, Village residents and Village Council (resolution of November 27, 2018). Stakeholder agreement on bridge alignment has positioned our community to move forward with this project.



2. When is it likely that funding will allow this bridge project to move into the preliminary engineering phase?

As stated earlier, after thirty-seven years of discussion regarding this bridge replacement, we are looking to your government to finally complete this project. We seek your commitment to funding this project and getting it underway.

On behalf of the Summer Village of Waiparous, thank you for considering our requests regarding this critical piece of infrastructure. We look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,



Matthew Sundal,
Mayor, Summer Village of Waiparous

cc: Miranda Rosin, MLA Banff-Kananaskis
Mr. Darren Davidson, P.Eng. Regional Director, Southern Region, Alberta Transportation