



ALL-SEASON ROAD PROJECT RECEIVES GREEN LIGHT TO MOVE FORWARD WITH CONSTRUCTION

The East Side Road Authority (ESRA) has received the green light from federal authorities to proceed with the all-season road from PR 304 to Berens River First Nation.

“With federal approvals being granted in addition to the provincial environmental approvals received last summer, ESRA can continue to move forward with construction of the all-season road,” says Eric Robinson, Minister responsible for ESRA. “While improving transportation, this project also provides an important opportunity to generate jobs, training and economic spin-offs for residents of the east side of Lake Winnipeg for years to come.”

In November 2009, ESRA filed an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) with federal and provincial regulators. It outlined the construction of a 156 km, gravel all-season road from PR 304, east of Manigotagan, north to Berens River First Nation. Approximately 86 per cent of the all-season road alignment follows the existing Rice River Road and winter road alignment, eliminating the need to establish new rights-of-way and fragmenting undisturbed habitat.

On August 16, 2010, ESRA received a provincial licence as a Class 2 Development under *The Manitoba Environment Act*. Since that time, ESRA has been undertaking work authorized by its

provincial license. The project was also reviewed under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (CEAA). As part of this process, the federal government issued a Comprehensive Study Report on the proposed project. Based on the study and comments received from the public, the federal minister of the environment issued an Environmental Assessment Decision Statement concluding that: “The project, taking into account the mitigation measures described in the Comprehensive Study Report, is not likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects.”

ESRA is fully committed to meeting all federal and provincial conditions for environmental licensing and will continue to obtain all necessary approvals and authorizations under the *Fisheries Act* and *Navigable Waters Protection Act* as the project proceeds.

“As part of the environmental licensing process, ESRA has been visiting communities and meeting with residents to hear their views on the project,” says Ernie Gilroy, CEO of ESRA. “Their input has helped shape the project, including the route

selection process. Now with the project receiving the green light to proceed, we look forward to working with local communities to ensure that they participate in, and benefit from, the road construction project.”

Gilroy thanked the local residents, chiefs and councils, non-governmental organizations, the federal and provincial regulatory authorities and all those who participated in the environmental licensing process. “We look forward to continuing to work together as we move forward with this project while protecting the environment.”

Work on the all-season road is currently underway.

For more information, go to the ESRA website: www.eastsideroadauthority.mb.ca; or call **1-866-356-6355** toll free in Manitoba.

The East Side Road Authority
200 – 155 Carlton Street • Winnipeg, MB R3C 3H8
Tel: 1-204-945-4900 in Winnipeg
Toll Free: 1-866-356-6355 • Fax: 1-204-948-2462
Email: eastside@gov.mb.ca

