



EAST SIDE TRANSPORTATION INITIATIVE

Community meetings held to discuss all-season road options

In late May and early June 2010, a series of community meetings took place on the east side of Lake Winnipeg to discuss the options being considered for an all-season road in the region.

The meetings – hosted by the East Side Road Authority (ESRA) and its engineering consultant, SNC Lavalin – were the second round of meetings in the region focusing on ESRA's Large Area Transportation Network Study (LATNS), a study examining potential

all-season road route options for the northern part of the east side region.

These round two meetings took place in Little Grand Rapids, Pauingassi, Poplar River, Wasagamack, St. Theresa Point, Red Sucker Lake, Gods Lake, Manto Sipi (Gods River), Bunibonabee (Oxford House), Cross Lake, and Garden Hill First Nations and Island Lake and Gods Lake Narrows Northern Affairs communities.

The first round of the LATNS community meetings, held in spring 2009, presented seven different route options to the communities and the public. Based on community and public input, traditional and ecological studies, and technical criteria, they were refined to four route options. These four options were presented to the communities during the recent round of meetings.

Feedback received from the communities on the four options will be considered and included in the final phase of the LATNS. The study is expected to be completed by the end of 2010, with a recommendation for an all-season road for the remainder of the region.

Late last year, ESRA announced that it would be building a 160 kilometre, all-season road in the southern portion of the region from PR 304 to Berens River First Nation. The environmental licensing process is currently underway for this route. Pending federal and provincial approvals, construction of the road is expected to begin later this year.

For more information on the East Side Transportation Initiative, please contact the East Side Road Authority at 204-945-4900 or toll free 1-866-356-6355 or visit www.eastsideroadauthority.mb.ca.

Community meeting at Amos Okemow Memorial School in Manto Sipi on June 10, 2010.

