



October 07, 2020

MS. LESA SEMMLER
MLA, INUVIK TWIN LAKES

Oral Question 335-19(2) Dempster Highway

This letter is in follow-up to the Oral Question raised on June 12, 2020 regarding the plans for widening the Dempster Highway.

A total of \$22.5 million has been approved in the Department of Infrastructure (INF) capital plan over five years, from 2019/20 to 2023/24, for reconstruction and improvements to the Dempster Highway. The plan includes three kilometres (km) of reconstruction a year, starting from the north side of the Mackenzie River (km 143.6) and working towards Inuvik. In support of this work plan, INF completed surveys from km 143.6 to 179.6 (36 km) and completed structural road design up to km 149.6.

In 2020/21, \$4.5 million has been approved and the plan is to reconstruct the section between km 143.6 and 146.6. The contract was awarded to Allen Services and Contracting Ltd. through a public tendering process in fall 2020.

My predecessor as Minister of Infrastructure asked INF to assess the feasibility of your request to revise the Dempster Highway reconstruction work plan to start widening the road from Inuvik (km 259.3) and continuing towards Tsiigehtchic. While INF will need to complete the survey, planning and design work, obtain quarry permits, and do crushing and stockpile preparation, it is possible to start reconstruction from km 259.3 towards Tsiigehtchic beginning in summer 2021.

In response to the question about working on both ends of the highway at the same time, we are only able to conduct highway widening one section at a time. Working concurrently on both ends of the highway would double the permits, stockpile locations, crushing locations, survey work, tenders, and more.

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As the capital funding allocates only three km per year of highway widening, it would make sense to only work on one section at a time.



Diane Archie
Minister, Infrastructure

c. Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

Legislative Coordinator
Executive and Indigenous Affairs