



## Release

September 1, 2010  
For Immediate Release

### **THE NEW PTH 15 AND PTH 44 HIGHWAY BRIDGES OPENED TO TRAFFIC**

#### **Public Should Slow Down and Observe All Traffic Signs When Passing Construction Crews As Projects Proceed**

Today, the Manitoba Floodway Authority (MFA) announced that the new PTH 15 and PTH 44 Highway Bridges are open to traffic.

“The Red River Floodway Expansion is one of the largest public infrastructure projects in Manitoba’s history and the Government of Canada is pleased to have been a funding partner in this project, including the replacement of both of these bridges,” said Vic Toews, Minister of Public Safety and Member of Parliament for Provencher. “Our government will continue to deliver on our commitment to provide safe, modern infrastructure for Manitobans, and all Canadians.”

“The opening of the two new bridges to traffic is a major milestone for the floodway project,” said Steve Ashton, Manitoba Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation. “The safety improvements associated with both bridge projects will improve public safety for years to come. With the completion of these projects, eight highway and railway bridges that cross the floodway have been replaced.”

The new PTH 15 Bridge is approximately 1.9 meters (6.2 feet) higher than the previous bridge and designed to the 1-in-700 year flood level. The new bridge meets current design standards and will have a life span of approximately 75 years. The three-lane structure includes a westbound turning lane for traffic turning south onto the Perimeter Highway, which will be opened later this fall. It also includes safety improvements such as a raised bridge median and lighting on the bridge. As part of the project, PTH 101 is being straightened and improvements are being made at the junction of PTH 15 and PR 207. The intersection at PTH 15 and PR 207 has been designed to include traffic signals. The cost of the bridge replacement project was approximately \$10.8 million.

The new PTH 44 Bridge is approximately 0.9 metres (3.0 feet) higher than the previous structure and is designed to the 1-in-700 flood level. In addition to meeting current design standards, the project has incorporated a number of safety improvements including intersection improvements at the north end of the interchange where PR204 and PR 204A meet, larger curves on the connecting loops, paved shoulders on the interchange, and intersection improvements at PTH 44 and Rockhaven Road. The cost of the bridge replacement project was approximately \$14.7 million.

"We thank the public, the local municipalities, and especially local residents for their patience and understanding in dealing with any inconveniences resulting from these construction projects," said Ernie Gilroy, CEO of the Manitoba Floodway Authority. "As the projects proceed, we would like to remind the public to slow down and observe all traffic signs when passing construction workers."

Both bridge project projects began in the summer of 2009 and are scheduled for completion by end of the year including the demolition of the original bridges, associated road works, and cleanup work.

In the spring of 2009, the floodway project achieved one-in-700 year flood protection. To date, approximately 150 companies and approximately 3000 people have worked on the \$665 million floodway project.

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