

Connecting Us

Four Year Action Plan



Department of Transportation
June 2016



Vision

Northerners Connected to Opportunities

Mission

To provide and promote a safe, reliable and sustainable multi-modal transportation system by strengthening connections, capturing opportunities and embracing innovation.

Priority Areas

1

Strengthening Connections

Continue to maintain and improve our existing transportation system to enhance the level of service, increase reliability, improve transportation safety and build on partnerships.

2

Capturing Opportunities

Continue to expand the transportation system through partnerships to better connect our communities and support our economic development potential.

3

Embracing Innovation

Continue to improve the way we do business by improving service delivery, modernizing transportation programs and policies, communicating better with the public to improve awareness and safety, applying new technologies, adapting the system to the effects of climate change and promoting environmental stewardship.





Operating Environment

- › Transportation system must **connect a small population of 43,000** across a large land mass of almost **1.2 million square kilometres**
- › Department is responsible for **2,200 kilometres** of all-weather highway; **1,625 kilometres** of seasonal winter roads; **27 airports** and **4 ferries**
- › Consideration of NWT transportation access: **12 communities** with uninterrupted, year-round road access; **6 communities** have all-weather access with seasonal disruptions; **11 communities** have access via seasonal winter roads; **4 communities** rely exclusively on air and marine services
- › **Climate change** increasingly **affecting reliability and efficiency** of transportation system
- › **An underdeveloped and aging transportation system** that must be addressed with limited and competing resources
- › **Increasing regulatory requirements** that drive the need for additional resources
- › **High cost of transportation services** contributing to the cost of living

Key Activities Summary 2016 - 2020

Airports

- › **Establish a revolving fund for the Yellowknife Airport to increase revenue, make the airport self-sustaining and use the resources generated to make improvements and fund projects to attract new business opportunities at the airport**
- › Replacing or expanding air terminal buildings, including at the Inuvik airport
- › Encourage commercial development at NWT airports through capital investments
- › Work with federal government to streamline regulatory processes and adopt flexible “one size doesn’t fit all” approach

Corporate Management

- › **Secure federal funding to upgrade existing infrastructure in all modes and advance new strategic transportation corridors**
- › Encourage federal government to implement key recommendations for investing in NWT transportation infrastructure in the *Canada Transportation Act* Review Report
- › Invest in community-based infrastructure projects under the Community Access Program
- › Partner with other governments and academic community to advance climate change research and development and share information and best practices
- › Implement Environmental Management System
- › Develop Green House Gas Reduction Strategy
- › Develop Communications Strategy and increase presence on social media

Key Activities Summary Continued

Highways

- › **Complete construction of the Inuvik-Tuktoyaktuk Highway**
- › Undertake major reconstruction work on NWT highways 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 8
- › Work with Parks Canada to complete reconstruction of section of Highway 5 within Wood Buffalo Nation Park
- › Systematically replace aging culverts and bridges
- › Expand use of the Highways Asset Management Systems
- › Update the *Public Highways Act*

Marine

- › **Support the Hay River Harbour Restoration Working Group in developing a long-term plan and securing federal funding for dredging the harbour**

Road Licensing

- › **Improve accessibility and continue to increase the number of driver and motor vehicle services that are available online, especially for commercial vehicles**
- › Update and modernize regulations under the *Motor Vehicles Act* and review corresponding fines to improve road safety and harmonize with other jurisdictions
- › Implement a High Risk Driver Program aimed at achieving behavioural change among participants
- › Analyze the advantages of a combined NWT identification card in partnership with other GNWT departments

Three Priority Transportation Corridors

Investing in these transportation corridors will support a lower cost of living, improved quality of life, sustainable resource development, increase tourism and boost the regional economy.

1

Mackenzie Valley Highway from Wrigley to Tuktoyaktuk


2

An all-season road from Highway 3 to Whati in the Tlicho region

3

Improved access into the Slave Geological Province from Yellowknife to Nunavut





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