



Representing the Communities of:  
BALGONIE, PILOT BUTTE,  
THE VILLAGE AND RM OF EDENWOLD,  
REGINA, RM OF SHERWOOD  
AND WHITE CITY

September 2, 2015

## **Letter to the Editor**

### Reaction to the Latest Proposal to Delay Highway Bypass Project

Municipal governments of the White Butte region are fully supportive of the Regina Bypass project, and do not support further delay.

Our Councils have been working for decades toward the day when overpasses would be sited and approved along the number 1 highway between Balgonie and Regina. The Councils of White City, the RM of Edenwold, the Village of Edenwold, the Town of Balgonie, the Town of Pilot Butte, together with the RM of Sherwood and the City of Regina, have all endorsed the approved Regina Bypass project. Notwithstanding the fact that no-one in the region was able to satisfy 100% of what every landowner, developer or interested party asked for, as a whole we are satisfied that the project, as designed, will serve the region well for years to come.

Members of our Councils were actively involved in the review of alternatives and ultimate decisions on location and design of the overpasses and service roads along the White Butte Corridor and around the south of the City to the Global Transportation Hub. This review was conducted with engineers from the Ministry of Highways and local private engineering consultants, followed at each stage by public open houses seeking input from local landowners, businesses and residents. During the review, alternate routes and locations for overpasses were, in fact, considered but were ultimately rejected because they posed bigger problems or were more expensive.

Overall, we recognize that, by fundamentally altering the planned route, one group of interested landowners will surely be made happy at the expense of another group. We do empathize with those whose lives and businesses are being disrupted today. It is possible that this disruption, and certainly the loss of life along the White Butte Corridor, could have been lessened if the overpasses had been built years ago, but they were not. We are dealing in good faith to resolve this longstanding and increasingly dangerous situation.

If the contract with the Regina Bypass Partners is voided in order to re-tender, we are very concerned that the resulting lawsuit on a 30 year 1.8 billion dollar contract, the court wrangling and stop work orders that would surely result from re-tendering to other contractors is likely to cost taxpayers millions more and, most importantly, will delay construction on the overpasses east of Regina, not expedite them.



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Preliminary survey work on the overpasses and service roads, identification of material resources and recruitment of local contractors and subcontractors is already under way by the Regina Bypass Partners. In our view, any delay in order to re-tender is not acceptable and could result in further loss of life as well as added expense to taxpayers. Overpasses at highway 48 at White City and at highway 46 at Balgonie, together with new service roads, are guaranteed by contract to be built within 2 years. We do not believe this work could realistically be completed any more quickly, and would most certainly be delayed during a re-tender process.

Respectfully,

Lain Lovelace  
Chairperson, White Butte Regional Planning Committee  
Deputy Mayor, Balgonie, SK