

**ALBERTA TRANSPORTATION  
GEOHAZARD ASSESSMENT PROGRAM  
PEACE REGION –  
GRANDE PRAIRIE DISTRICT – NORTH  
2022 INSPECTION**



Site Number	Location	Name	Hwy	km
PH037	Dunvegan	Dunvegan South 1+250 to 2+000	2:68	15.674
Legal Description		UTM Co-ordinates		
NW¼ 06-080-04 W6M		11U E 398514	N 6197340	

	Date	PF	CF	Total
<b>Previous Inspection:</b>	July 15, 2021	10	7	70
<b>Current Inspection:</b>	May 20, 2022	10	7	70
<b>Road WAADT:</b>	2,360		<b>Year:</b>	2021
<b>Inspected By:</b>	Kristen Tappenden, TRANS Ed Szmata, TRANS Max Shannon, TRANS Jason Parr, TRANS		Don Proudfoot, Thurber José Pineda, Thurber	
<b>Report Attachments:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Photographs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plans		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maintenance Items

<b>Primary Site Issues:</b>	<p>Flow slides and shallow slumps occur along gullies eroded below the highway where ditch drainage is directed downslope towards Dunvegan Creek at Sta. 2+000.</p> <p>There is a large deep-seated landslide which crosses the highway between Sta. 1+650 and Sta.1+850 (Photos 5, 6, and 7).</p> <p>There are several slides downslope of the SBL shoulder between Sta. 1+350 and 1+650, the largest of these being at Sta. 1+400, with a backscarp that has retrogressed into the highway shoulder (Photos 9, 10, 11, and 12).</p> <p>There are old rotational features further downslope at Sta. 1+860 and at Sta. 1+600 to 1+700, with a sag pond.</p> <p>There are several shallow slumps upslope of the NBL at Sta. 1+455, 1+610, 1+860, 1+900 and 1+985.</p>								
<b>Dimensions:</b>	<p>The 1+800 slide is 160 m to 200 m wide at the downslope road shoulder, and the backscarp appears to be along the upslope ditch.</p> <p>The 1+400 slide is 40 wide at the SBL shoulder, with the backscarp crack on the highway shoulder between the guardrail and the white line about 0.3 m from the white line.</p>								
<b>Maintenance:</b>	<p>An ACP patch was placed over the dip and ruts in the ACP at the south end of the 1+800 slide in October of 2017 and at the north end of the 1+800 slide in 2019. ACP patch was also placed in the summer of 2020 on the northbound lane at the south flank of the 1+800 landslide.</p>								
<b>Observations:</b>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Description</th> <th>Worsened?</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pavement Distress</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dips across road at 1+690 and 1+820 associated with both ends of slide.</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cracks and loss of the edge of the paved road in the shoulder of the pavement at 1+400 landslide</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Description	Worsened?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pavement Distress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dips across road at 1+690 and 1+820 associated with both ends of slide.		Cracks and loss of the edge of the paved road in the shoulder of the pavement at 1+400 landslide	
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Slope Movement	<p>Additional slope movement downslope of Sta. 2+000 to 1+900 indicated by cracking at crests of gullies further downslope.</p> <p>Backscarp cracks were noted in the upslope ditch at the Sta. 1+800 landslide.</p> <p>Slight movement in the slide feature below the highway in the sideslopes. The slide at 1+860 has a backscarp that is at 0.8 m from the guardrail (Photo 4).</p> <p>On-going movement in the sliding zone below the highway between Sta. 1+400 to 1+490. The backscarps at this location range between 5 to 7 m high and the slide are impacting the southbound shoulder with cracks at 0.3 m from the white line and four guardrail posts impacted (two posts are hanging and two posts are partially exposed).</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Erosion	<p>Up to 3.3 m wide by 0.8 m deep erosion gullies in the upslope ditch between 1+350 and 2+000.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seepage	<p>Some seepage and tension cracks have been observed below the highway between Sta. 1+540 and 1+600</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Bridge/Culvert Distress		<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Other		<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>Instrumentation:</b></p> <p>Fifteen slope inclinometers, 24 piezometers (22 pneumatic and 2 standpipe) were read on June 19 and 21, 2022.</p> <p>Overall, the slope inclinometers showed an increasing rate of movement compared to the fall of 2021 readings ranging from -7.2 mm/yr in SI-54 in the south backslope at Station 1+600 to 10.7 mm/yr in SI-59 near the 1+800 slide. SI18-10 at the north of the site near Station 1+600 also showed an incremental rate of movement of 9.6 mm/yr. No new zones of movements have been observed since the fall of 2022.</p> <p>Standpipe piezometer SP09-6 showed a water level at 26.2 m below ground surface. SP09-8 continued to be dry. The change in water levels on the pneumatic piezometers from the Fall of 2021 readings ranged from an increase of 2.23 m in PN18-9A to a decrease of 0.2 m in PN18-1.</p>		
<p><b>Assessment:</b></p> <p>Ongoing slide activity was observed at the Sta. 1+400 slide in 2016 right through 2022. Soil below the matting and around the soil nails, installed in 2010, has failed superficially, with more substantial failure extents below the surface treated area. It is anticipated that the rate of retrogression will likely accelerate above the areas where the soil nails have been bent downward due to a combination of confining soil loss and slope movement. The backscarp located at the shoulder of the SBL ranges between 5 to 7 m high. The SI's installed within the footprint of the 1+400 slide had rapid rates of movement in the spring and summer of 2018 (50 to 700 mm/yr.) and sheared off at a depth of 2 m as a result of mud flow after the fall of 2018.</p> <p>The 1+800 slide is a deep-seated slide that is currently affecting all three lanes of the highway over a 200 m length with the backscarp likely within the NBL ditch bottom. Based on the ongoing slope</p>		

inclinometer monitoring, the 1+800 slide plane depth varies within the embankment of the highway from about 18 m near the SBL shoulder to a depth of 28 m below the NBL shoulder with the toe of the landslide likely situated some 300 m further downslope towards Dunvegan Creek. Rates of movement in the 1+800 slide SI's typically vary from small creep movements to 11 mm/yr. and have accelerated to about 20 mm/yr. in recent years. The 1+800 slide continues to exhibit moderate rates of movement up to 11 mm/yr; however, its footprint currently affects the entire highway embankment whereby a complete closure of the highway could result from a sudden increase in slide activity.

The 1+400 slide is retrogressing rapidly and is impacting the SBL shoulder. When considering the existing smaller slide features to the south, this suggests that the expansion of this slide further to the south should be anticipated.

Thurber provided a preliminary engineering assessment report with three remedial options with ballpark "A" cost estimates to address the features affecting the highway through the site in July of 2018.

Shallow surface movement elsewhere is expected to continue, with the possibility of further shallow surface failures developing. This is likely a function of the soil type at this location and is triggered by rainfall or snowmelt and gradual loss of cohesion in the surface due to weathering.

Erosion and slope movement downslope of the highway near Sta. 2+000 are a function of water flows in the ditch and are expected to worsen.

<b>Recommendations:</b>	<b>Cost</b>
<b><u>Short Term</u></b>	
Consider closing the climbing lane with Jersey barriers starting at the boat launch turn off to approximately Sta. 1+500. Reduce the posted speed to 80 km/hr. Widen the shoulder of the northbound lane and adjust the jersey barriers further into the southbound climbing lane when required to maintain at least 2 lanes of safe traffic.	Maintenance
Continue to monitor visually for sign of activity at both slides and close the outer SBL at the 1+400 slide should tension cracks or dips appear in the roadway surface. Apply small asphalt patches at each end of the 1+800 slide to smooth out the dip when required for traffic safety.	
<b><u>Intermediate Term</u></b>	
Install driven steel pile walls at the Sta. 1+400 landslide location to temporarily maintain the climbing lane until a more permanent repair is implemented.	\$500,000
<b><u>Long Term</u></b>	
Thurber's preliminary engineering assessment provided three remedial options ranging from a realignment further to the east to completely circumvent the landslide features to maintaining the existing alignment with pile walls built at the 1+400 to 1+800 slides.	\$45 million to \$110 million

**CLOSURE**

It is a condition of this letter report that Thurber's performance of its professional services will be subject to the attached Statement of Limitations and Conditions.

Don Proudfoot, P.Eng.  
Principal | Senior Geotechnical Engineer

José Pineda, P.Eng.  
Associate | Geotechnical Engineer



## STATEMENT OF LIMITATIONS AND CONDITIONS

### 1. STANDARD OF CARE

This Report has been prepared in accordance with generally accepted engineering or environmental consulting practices in the applicable jurisdiction. No other warranty, expressed or implied, is intended or made.

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- b) Reliance on Provided Information: The evaluation and conclusions contained in the Report have been prepared on the basis of conditions in evidence at the time of site inspections and on the basis of information provided to Thurber. Thurber has relied in good faith upon representations, information and instructions provided by the Client and others concerning the site. Accordingly, Thurber does not accept responsibility for any deficiency, misstatement or inaccuracy contained in the Report as a result of misstatements, omissions, misrepresentations, or fraudulent acts of the Client or other persons providing information relied on by Thurber. Thurber is entitled to rely on such representations, information and instructions and is not required to carry out investigations to determine the truth or accuracy of such representations, information and instructions.
- c) Design Services: The Report may form part of design and construction documents for information purposes even though it may have been issued prior to final design being completed. Thurber should be retained to review final design, project plans and related documents prior to construction to confirm that they are consistent with the intent of the Report. Any differences that may exist between the Report's recommendations and the final design detailed in the contract documents should be reported to Thurber immediately so that Thurber can address potential conflicts.
- d) Construction Services: During construction Thurber should be retained to provide field reviews. Field reviews consist of performing sufficient and timely observations of encountered conditions in order to confirm and document that the site conditions do not materially differ from those interpreted conditions considered in the preparation of the report. Adequate field reviews are necessary for Thurber to provide letters of assurance, in accordance with the requirements of many regulatory authorities.

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**Photo 1.**  
Looking northwest from Sta. 2+000 at erosion gully in SBL ditch south of ditch block



**Photo 2.**  
Looking west from Sta. 1+980 below the SBL highway. More movement noted in 2022





**Photo 3.**  
Looking east at  
backslope skin  
failure at Sta.  
1+900 (More  
movement since  
2021).



**Photo 4.**  
Looking north  
from Sta. 1+890  
at the slump in  
the sideslope of  
the SBL. The  
scarp is 1.1 m  
high and  
0.8 m from the  
guardrail.





**Photo 5.**  
Looking north from Sta. 1+800 at the erosion gully developed on the ditch up to 3.3 m wide and 0.8 m deep. Erosion gully wider and deeper than noted at the 2021 inspection



**Photo 6.**  
Looking northeast across the dip in the highway at the south end of the 1+800 slide.





**Photo 7.**  
Looking from the shoulder of the SBL at Sta. 1+660 across the dip in the highway at the north end of the 1+800 slide.



**Photo 8.**  
Looking north near Sta. 1+550 at rough area (drill access bench) with some seepage and tension cracks





**Photo 9.** Looking west across soil matting and nails which were installed in August 2010 at Sta. 1+450 slide. Backscarp (5 m to 7.5 m high) continues to retrogress and is now impacting the highway. Two guardrail posts are hanging and other two posts are partially exposed.



**Photo 10.** Looking north from Sta. 1+450 backscarp. The slide scarp cracks up to 200 mm wide just west of the white line.





**Photo 11.**  
Looking south from Sta. 1+390 at the backscarp of the 1+400 slide which is impacting the highway shoulder. Slide cracks are wider and closer to the white line



**Photo 12.**  
Looking southeast towards the 1+400 slide. The slide has further retrogressed towards the highway, is wider than in 2021 and there is a 5 m to 7.5 m drop below the guardrail.





**Photo 13.**  
Looking south at  
the fresh slump  
slide that is  
impacting the  
highway at Sta.  
1+400.



**Photo 14.**  
Looking  
northwest from  
the north side of  
the erosion gully  
at Sta. 1+360



**Photo 15.**  
Drone photo of  
the backscarp of  
the 1+400 slide  
impacting the  
highway  
shoulder.