ALBERTA TRANSPORTATION GEOHAZARD ASSESSMENT PROGRAM PEACE REGION (GRANDE PRAIRIE DISTRICT- NORTH) 2021 INSPECTION



Site Number	Location		Name		Нул	/	m		
PH024	11 km W	Cleardale	Clear River	East Hill-(Old S	Site 8) 64.0	12 2	4 2-25 5		
Legal Description		Cleardale	LITM Co-ordinates (NAD 83)			2 2	4.2-20.0		
NEOT/SEO4 04 11		11 N 6244920 E 226445							
NE21/3E34-04-11	-000			244030		50445			
		Date	PF	CF		Total			
Previous Inspection:		June 16, 2020	12	4	48 (Ris	48 (Risk Eros. Scale)			
Current Inspection:		Julv 14, 2021	9	4	36 (Risk Eros, Scale)		Scale)		
Road AADT:		260		Year:	2020				
		Don Proudfoot, Barry Meays (Thurber).							
Inspected By:		Ed Szmata, Roger Skirrow, Rocky Wang, Ken Szmata, Max Shannon (AT)							
Report Attachments:		Photographs Plans Maintenance Items							
Primary Site Issu	le:	Erosion of (took place backup/relea iced up and beneath the structure ero	the highway in 2013, 20 ⁻ ase overtop o d was unat e highway f sion along tl	y south ditch 8, 2019, and of the 1200 mm le to handle rom the sprin ne north ditch o	and embar again in 20 CSP culve all of the g melt. Al- channel.	nkment)20 due rt inlet w flow no so, gab	shoulder to water hich had orthwards ion drop		
Dimensions:		South embankment/ditch/channel erosion ~900m long x <7m wide x <2m deep; North gabion erosion ~50m long x 20m wide x 5m deep.							
 1979 - North ditch gabion liner at select locations, channel shapin 2008 - Slide excavation/subdrains/recompaction, erosion repudrainage re-routing, 1200 CSP repair/extension, embankment and backslope flattening. 2020 - MC performed culvert maintenance, excavated out so hwy embankment & loose ditch erosion material, and lined south ditch/embankment with 6-80 gravel along an upper ~7perc reach, Class 2 riprap along the middle ~9 percent reach, and the lower reach unlined west of the 760 mm SWSP cross culvert. 					shaping. n repair, cment fill out south lined the 7percent , and left ulvert.				
Maintenance:		August 2008 2013, 2018 locations ald immediately 2016 - WB la 2017 (Fall) - 2019 – Ex backfilled wit	Asphalt ov Pitrun place ong the south after the sprate ACP pate Chip seal. Accavated south pitrun cov	rerlay. ed to infill maj h highway em ing flow events ch adjacent to uth ditch erc ered by TRM.	or erosion bankment s. SI. osion and	Wors	ened?		
Observations:			Descr	iption		Yes	No		
Pavement Distress		A 3m long o directly belov at the east e Some erosi (eastbound) vertical drop (repaired mo	crack obser w the creep nd of the site on and un shoulder, off along the ost recently in	ved in the WE ng north backs dermining of with a few cr edge of pave n 2020).	3 shoulder slope area the south racks and d shoulder		V		
Slope Movement		Along the to valley slope softening fro Also, creep area at the e	e (~10 m h near the 12 om saturatic movement east end of th	gh) of the nat 00 CSP inlet a n and rapid o in the north e site.	ural south rea due to drawdown. backslope	V			

✓ Erosion	The ditch along the south highway embankment became severely eroded from the spring, 2020 and 2019 flows, incising through the pitrun gravel placed in 2018 and 2019, and was carried down-gradient and deposited near the west end of the site (ditch/embankment was repaired in 2020). This erosion extended southwards into the bush due to the over-flow water along the south ditch. There was retrogressive slumping around two of the north ditch gabion drop structures (50 m long) downstream of the 760 mm dia. culvert outlet that were completely destroyed from previous flood events. Below the outlet of the 760 mm dia. SWSP (where riprap was added in 2020), a gully has formed along the west edge of the riprap and joined the gully around the gabion drop structure. 1 m deep scour holes across the north ditch channel exist (1 about midway between the 760 mm dia. and 810 mm dia. culvert outlets, and another below the 760 mm outlet). Also, some rilling outside the guardrail along the north highway embankment edge over a length of ~100 m, due to excess sanding gravel build-up (east half was graded in 2020, west half remains).	٢	
Seepage	From subdrains in south ditch and Lookout slide.		
Bridge/Culvert Distress	The 1200 mm dia. culvert outlet has a slight oval shape beneath the settled area. The 810 CSP cross-culvert that was ½ full of sediment was flushed/cleaned in 2020. The pitrun covered inlet and outlet areas of the 760 mm dia. SWSP cross-culvert were flushed/cleaned and the pitrun removed in 2020.		۲
Cother			

Instrumentation:

Inclinometer SI08-1, last read June 4, 2011 – No discernable movement since the fall of 2009.

Assessment (Refer to Figures PH024-1-1, -2, & -3):

A surge of meltwater occurred during spring thaw in 2013 along the channel leading to the south embankment near the east end of this site, at the entrance of the 1200 mm dia. CSP culvert that drains northwards beneath the highway. It was likely joined by highway ditch runoff meltwater further east, which also drains down along the south embankment and outlets in front of the 1200 mm inlet via the 900 mm dia. SWSP. The volume of water was greater than the culvert could handle (it is also possible that ice was also restricting the culvert), causing the water to back up overtop the inlet/headwall. It backed up high enough (10 to 12 m of head) that the water flowed westwards along the toe of the south embankment, then along the south highway ditch, and finally southwest away from the highway through the bush (it was documented to have subsided by the next morning). In addition to eroding soil, it eroded the erosion control soil covers, and some of the buried subdrain that was installed in the south ditch in 2008. This scenario was forecast as part of the 2007 design measures, prior to the 2008 construction, where the culvert was estimated to only handle a 1 in 5-year design flood peak, which would result in a build-up of water for events greater than 1 in 5 years.

Similar occurrences took place during the spring flow events in 2018, again between April 1 to 3, 2019, and again in 2020. Ice build-up at the inlet of the CSP culvert was documented by the maintenance contractor LaPrairie as a cause of the 2019 event.

The pitrun gravel that was used to fill 2018's erosion event was eroded and washed downslope, filling the south ditch near the west end, and water also ran overtop the highway and down the north embankment at one location. LaPrairie used a backhoe to dig part of the ditch out and swept the excess pitrun off the road. Similar south ditch erosion occurred in spring, 2020 after the 2019 installation of pitrun with TRM cover. The 2020 repairs involved grading the south embankment with 6-80 gravel, and installing a south ditch liner consisting of: 6-80 gravel over a 130 m length where the gradient was ~7 percent; then Class 2 riprap along the bottom portion of the channel over a 110 m length extending up to the 760 mm SWSP culvert where the gradient was ~9 percent, as shown on Section D-D' on Drawings PH024-1-2 and -3; and left the ditch bottom unlined west of the 760 SWSP (where a modest ditch block was constructed), as shown on Section C-C'.

The 810 mm diameter culvert had been half full of sediment for several years. This culvert appears to have been originally installed to bring water from the south ditch across to the north side of the highway for discharge via the 1.04 m dia. SWSP centreline pipe down into the dissipation pool on the south side of the highway. It appeared that this pipe had not been allowing flow to the north side either due to lack of maintenance or after it was purposely blocked. This culvert was cleaned out in 2020, and the inlet was formed with a riprap covered inlet bowl and a downstream ditch block that grades downwards to the south which would appear to let flood water overflow to the west through the bush if this culvert backs up flow.

The backed-up water from the flood surges nearer the inlet of the 1200 mm dia. culvert saturated the native soil along the toe of the natural valley slope and combined with toe erosion from flowing water and a likely sudden drawdown scenario, caused toe slumping of the natural tree covered slope. This has gotten worse the last couple of years but is not currently affecting the functionality of the site, although some slide debris was observed beyond the toe of the slope in 2021.

On the north side of the highway, the 1200 mm dia. CSP flowing full was also likely combined with runoff from the area/slopes to the north, which caused damage to one of the steeper sloping gabion lined channel sections further west and created a scour hole in the channel further west of this. The channel was overgrown with trees which reduced the flow capacity causing water to flow around and erode the sides of the gabion structure. In the 2013 event, there was also an erosion scour around the outlet of the 760 mm dia. SWSP in the north ditch, resulting from runoff originating from the south ditch flowing beneath the highway, which may have also contributed to the large erosion feature around the gabions immediately west (downslope) of this outlet. Both the inlet and outlet of this pipe were covered with pitrun in 2019, but this culvert was flushed/cleaned in 2020. A runoff gully has since formed beyond this culvert outlet and joined the gully that exists around the channel gabion.

In 2015, an erosion gully was observed overtop of the ditch block at the inlet to the 900 mm dia. SWSP in the north ditch, which was likely formed by surface runoff overtopping the 900 mm dia. SWSP entrance during a high flow event and became larger in 2019. The inlet of this SWSP also appeared to be getting jacked up into the air by frost action the last few years, as the void beneath was getting larger. In 2020, the erosion was repaired with 6-80 gravel fill, and the void was repaired with the addition of riprap, and both appear OK in 2021.

The average south ditch gradient was estimated to be in the order of 9 percent beginning about 90 m west of an approximate perpendicular line to the hwy extending from the 1200 mm diameter CSP culvert outlet in the north ditch; was about 7 percent over a 130 m length east of this (where the ditch is currently lined with 6-80 gravel); and about 6 percent further east of this to the slope break point. The 9 percent gradient is likely too steep, and flood surge flows too large, for these prior ditch liner repair attempts consisting only of 6-80 (pitrun) gravel. This section of the ditch bottom currently being lined with Class 2 riprap should be an improvement, but the riprap may have to be extended further eastwards.

It was also indicated by AT that it is planned to bore another cross-culvert across the hwy (between the existing 1200 mm CSP culvert inlet and the present gravel lined south ditch), and then

line the remaining segment with riprap west of this up to the current Class 2 riprap liner, to help pass more spring flood surge flows from the south ditch over to the north side of the hwy.

Recommendations:

Cost

Maintenance:

The highway side of the south ditch erosion was backfilled with pitrun gravel in 2013 (~400 m³), in 2018, in 2019, and again in 2020 as emergency measures to re-establish the eroded/undermined highway embankment. Additional gravel should be placed as required against the edge of asphalt to buttress the pavement and maintain hazard-free traffic safety.

The 1200 mm dia. CSP inlet should be inspected and steamed each spring (if required) to remove ice build-up with a backhoe and establish unrestricted flow. We recommend that this late winter/early spring check and steaming be formally added to the maintenance contractor's annual maintenance work requirements. **\$5,000 annually**

Some of the rilling erosion had been graded/smoothened. Repair the remaining rill erosion outside the north edge of the guardrail and along the edge of the eroded ACP north shoulder by first grading the existing surface, then adding/track-packing/shaping a few loads of gravel infill (Photo 14), and then covering with topsoil and TRM. **\$5,000**

Clean out future slide toe debris accumulations from in front of the 1200 culvert inlet area if required.

Short Term:

The damaged gabion structures on the north side of the highway need to be reconstructed to their original condition. The downstream end of the damaged gabion drop structure furthest west (Section A-A' on Drawings PH24-1-1 and -3) should have the sideslopes trimmed back flatter, and then use some of this material to build up the bed, before armouring the bottom and sideslopes. Consideration could be given to lining the replacement structures with Class 2 riprap instead of gabion mattress.

Ballpark Cost \$100,000

The main 1200 mm dia. CSP should be inspected with a camera inserted along the pipe to see if it is restricted or damaged in any way, or if the joints are compromised which could lead to water leaking out and creating erosion around the outside of the pipe. To prevent future icing of the culvert inlet, perhaps a permanent heat system consisting of heat wires inside small metal tubing attached to the inside of the culvert inlet over a 10 m length and powered by a solar cell mounted on a post with a battery backup could be employed. **\$75,000**

The 150 mm dia. and 150 m long CSP subdrain near the east end of the south ditch (installed as part of the 2008 repairs to intercept seepage and keep water levels lower above the former Lookout Slide) should be replaced and outlet it onto the ditch surface further west. **\$50,000**

As a minimum, the ~330 m long segment of the currently unlined south ditch bottom extending west of the riprap lined segment up to the 810 CSP culvert, should be topsoiled, seeded, and covered with TRM. \$10,000

The erosion gully between the outlet of the recently opened 760 mm diameter SWSP and north channel should be repaired by grading a trapezoidal channel and lining it with Class 1 riprap over non-woven geotextile. Ballpark Cost \$20,000

Medium Term:

The erosion along the toe of the south highway embankment and ditch is currently the biggest threat to the highway and although some repairs were performed in 2020, supplementary repairs are needed. This eroded section next to the highway is about 550 m long in total. A Class 2 riprap south ditch bottom segment ~110 m long was installed in 2020, and it should extend over the entire ditch that has a ~9 percent gradient (to the 810 CSP inlet at the west end) and may also need to be extended further east over the present 130 m long gravelled ditch segment (also installed in 2020). If the current riprap lined and gravel lined ditch bottoms, and unlined ditch bottom further west, become eroded during the next flood surge, it could be repaired using the following methodology:

- 1) Remove all loose fill by excavation down to the base of the erosion gully but a minimum of 1 m depth, separating the clay and gravel while rolling it back along the sideslopes (cutting into the backslope should be discouraged).
- 2) Re-build the bottom of the ditch by compacting the excavated clay back into the erosion channel in thin lifts using a sheepsfoot compactor, supplementing with imported clay from a borrow source where required, and use well compacted gravel to rebuild the sideslopes.
- 3) Grade the surface, forming a neatly contoured, flat-bottomed (min. 2 m wide) ditch before covering the surface with "Type C" non-woven geotextile.
- 4) Line the bottom and sides of the ditch with 0.3 m thick gabion mattress. Gabion basket ditch check weirs underlain with non-woven geotextile should also be incorporated into the liner stepped at maximum 10 m intervals along the ditch.

Ballpark Cost \$550,000

a) The 150 m length of the south ditch away from the highway in the bush near the west end, should also be repaired. Even if the now cleaned and flushed 810 mm and 760 mm diameter centreline culverts (and a proposed new centerline bore, discussed below) take some flow to the north there may still be some flow extending down the south bank through this eroded area. A more durable fix for this section would be to infill the eroded areas with clay compacted in thin lifts using a sheepsfoot compactor, grading the surface and then covering it with gabion mattress all the way down to the stilling pool.

OR ALTERNATIVELY,

b) A cheaper stop gap approach for the 150 m length away from the highway would be to fill the eroded areas with class 1 riprap placed over non-woven geotextile in the upper slope area and construct a riprap lined drop structure on the lower 20⁰ slope above the 1040 mm SWSP outlet (1.9 m headscarp area) to dissipate flows upslope of the stilling basin.

Ballpark Cost \$80,000

Ballpark Cost \$150,000

Long Term

As mentioned in the assessment section of this report, it is planned to bore another cross-culvert across the hwy (somewhere between the existing 1200 mm CSP culvert inlet and the present gravel lined south ditch), and then line the remaining segment with riprap west of this up to the current Class 2 riprap liner, to help pass more spring flood surge flows from the south ditch over to the north side of the hwy (assumed 200 m long x <10 m deep).

Ballpark Cost \$700,000

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

Barry Meays, P.Eng. Senior Geotechnical Engineer



STATEMENT OF LIMITATIONS AND CONDITIONS

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Photo 1 – Looking north at the inlet of the 810 CSP on the south side of the hwy embankment.



Photo 2 – Looking west along the unlined south ditch from near the west end, at the 2020 grading that took place along the south highway embankment and ditch.





Photo 3 – Looking west along the south ditch and hwy embankment.



Photo 4 – Looking west along the unlined south highway ditch from the inlet of the 760 mm dia. SWSP.





Photo 5 – Looking north at the inlet of the clean 760 mm dia. SWSP.



Photo 6 – Looking east from the ditch block along the riprapped south ditch channel from the inlet of the 760 mm dia. SWSP.





Photo 7 - Looking west along the recently lined south ditch channel and highway embankment, at the point where the riprap (west) and gravel (east) merge.



Photo 8 – Looking east along the south ditch channel and hwy embankment that was lined with 6-80 gravel.





Photo 9 – Looking northwest at the erosion that formed in 2020 along the boundary of the south embankment fill and the bush line.



Photo 10 - Looking north at the 900 SWSP outlet and gabion outlet structure.





Photo 11 – Looking west at the 1200 mm CSP inlet headwall.



Photo 12 – Looking south at the valley slope slumping above the 1200 culvert inlet and gabion outlet area, caused by rapid drawdown of built-up floodwater.





Photo 13 – Looking west at the repaired erosion area around the north 900 mm SWSP entrance.



Photo 14 – Looking west at the rilling adjacent to the north guardrail (just west of the repaired rilling on the north embankment).





Photo 15 - Looking south at the 810 CSP outlet along the north ditch channel that was cleaned in 2020. Note the erosion scour bowl forming.



Photo 16 - Looking west (downstream) along the north ditch channel just upstream of the 810 CSP outlet and 1040 SWSP inlet. Note the gabions are still intact here.





Photo 17 – Looking west along the north ditch channel.



Photo 18 – Looking east (upstream) along the north ditch channel at the ongoing erosion and eroded gabion liner between the 760 SWSP and 810 CSP outlets.





Photo 19 - Looking south at the 760 mm SWSP outlet. Note the erosion gully along the west side of the riprap that was added downslope of the culvert in 2020.



Photo 20 - Looking west at the erosion in the north ditch channel at the completely eroded gabion liner east (upslope) of the 760 SWSP outlet.





Photo 21 - Looking east at the 1200 CSP outlet area in the north channel.



Photo 22 - Close-up view of culvert outlet, looking west.