

BRIDGE RENEWAL

in Manitoba

By Ron Richardson, Director, Operations and Maintenance, Water Control and Structures, Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation

In 2006, Manitoba launched the largest highway and bridge renewal strategy in provincial history. This 10-year, \$4 billion commitment for highways and bridges will allow the province to significantly increase its annual commitment for bridge renewal, allowing a record number of projects to be completed. In the five-year Highway and Bridge Renewal Plan Manitoba has committed over \$261 million to a bridge program, allowing for more inspections, better maintenance, and significantly enhanced capital renewal. The Renewal Plan also provides flexible funding to allow for immediate response to emerging needs – yet another initiative that will enhance public safety. Just a few weeks ago, an additional \$125 million was committed for the remaining four years of the plan, to further expand the province’s bridge construction, maintenance and inspection capacity.

These new resources will ensure the province’s 2,400 structures and culverts are inspected on regular schedules. All of the bridges will receive a visual inspection each year conducted by trained staff inspectors, with more detailed engineering analyses occurring at least once every four years or where deemed necessary.

Safety remains our highest priority. If a problem on a bridge or overpass is detected during inspection we take action immediately. This can involve anything from minor repairs to more significant rehabilitation, with bridge load restrictions or bridge closures imposed to protect the traveling public until the issue is addressed.

This new initiative, and the overall multi-year investment strategy, will continue to renew Manitoba’s roads, enhance safety and help sustain our vibrant economy. ♻



Girder Placement on Hwy. 1 East.



New bridges built as part of the Red River Floodway expansion.