

North Commuter Parkway



1. Asset information

The North Commuter Parkway Project involved the replacement of the 109-year-old Traffic Bridge in Saskatoon's downtown core, the construction of a new six-lane bridge crossing the South Saskatchewan River in the City's north end called Chief Mistawasis Bridge and 8.3 kilometres of new 4 and 6 lane arterial roadways. The 30-year long concession project became operational in 2018.



The Project improves travel times across the City, and reduces fuel consumption for commuters and public transit, thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving business productivity, and enhancing the quality of life for the City's citizens.

Availability payments are received from the City of Saskatoon.

2. Impact

Reliable and resilient transport and reduced travel time for c. 3.7million vehicles per year



3. Awards and certifications

- P3 Awards – Best Road/ Bridge / Tunnel Project – Finalist (2016)
- CCPPP National Awards – Gold for Innovation and Excellence in Public-Private Partnerships (2018)

4. Environment

GHG emissions

The Operator implemented the use of segmented plow blades in their primary plow/sanding unit for winter operations. This maximizes efficiency of plowing operations thus reducing the carbon footprint.

New light vehicles added to the fleet are continually looked at for economic and environmental efficiencies.

The project utilizes LED lighting throughout the alignment. 65 watt LED luminaires were used replacing 250 watt high-pressure sodium fixtures. The annual CO₂e reduction compared to traditional HPS lamps is more than 50%



Climate risk

The project was screened to evaluate the potential physical impacts from climate change based on 'Paris-aligned' (RCP2.6 ~+1°C) and 'High emissions' (RCP8.5 ~+3.7°C) scenarios across three time periods (2020, 2050 and 2100). The project maintains a Low physical climate risk score under both scenarios.

Waste & Water

The Operator recycles as much waste as possible from their own consumables and from debris that is collected along the roadway. From cardboard to plastics and tires to asphalt.

The Operator uses calcium chloride brine, resulting in more efficient snow/ice removal and less use of salt. This results in removal of more snow in just one pass, leaving less for rework which helps in minimizing the use of de-icing agents that inevitably end up in the waterways.

The management services provider continues to monitor waste and water consumption and is actively exploring opportunities to reduce them wherever possible.

Biodiversity

The asset is built in compliance with local environmental regulations. During the concession period, the Portfolio Company focuses on promoting restoration efforts to improve degraded or removed ecosystems that act as natural carbon sinks and can improve resilience to climate-related damages, such as:

- Habitats for indigenous species including vegetated swale crossings to allow small amphibians to cross the roadway
- Several hectares of compensation wetlands to allow native vegetation and birds to flourish as naturally as possible. This work was implemented to mitigate the impact of the project on the native wetlands.

Additionally, the Portfolio Company has a Biodiversity policy in place.



Noise and air quality

The project monitors noise along the motorway and surrounding neighbourhoods.

Additionally, the project monitors air quality throughout the alignment.

5. Social

Health & Safety

Health and safety is on the agenda each board meeting. Our asset managers work actively with the Portfolio Company or its management service providers, to promote a strong health and safety culture, facilitate the sharing of best practices.

We endorse a zero-tolerance approach to occupational health and safety incidents. Additionally, the Portfolio Company has a Health & Safety policy in place and regularly conducts a fire or health and safety audit.

Diversity

Not applicable as the Portfolio Company does not employ any staff.

Impact for local communities

The portfolio company has a history of contributing to local charities and community organizations. This year, the beneficiary was the White Buffalo Youth Lodge, which provides thousands of backpacks stuffed with school supplies for children of families in need.



6. Governance

Delegation & oversight

The Portfolio Company directors review on a quarterly basis comprehensive board report, including both general project management and financial management. The project has a rigorous governance structure in place with quarterly board meetings, ad-hoc meetings when required and an authority delegation matrix to the management services provider.

The Portfolio Company has robust ESG policies and procedures in place and clear board-level responsibility to monitor their application. The ESG standard policies include:

- Biodiversity policy
- Code of Conduct, including anti-bribery, anti-corruption and non-discrimination
- Conflict of interest
- Cyber-security
- Diversity
- ESG
- Health and safety (workplace accident prevention)
- Anti-slavery & Human Trafficking policy (Modern Day Slavery)
- No-idling
- Rapid escalation
- Responsible contractor
- Tax
- Whistleblowing

The Portfolio Company holds frequent meetings with the public sector client to promote collaboration, coordination and integration of operations.

Reporting

The Portfolio Company uses a quarterly board pack, reporting to the board of directors on the operational and financial performance of the project and compliance with its obligations and regulation/legislation, including the policies.

Additionally, the Portfolio Company reports annually into BBGI's ESG KPI survey, which composed of 100+ data points, covering all aspects of ESG oversight.

Cyber security

Portfolio Company and its subcontractors continuously monitor that the cyber security policy is in place and perform information risk analysis and develops mitigating measures. They have a robust and comprehensive IT backup system in place. Additionally, the Portfolio Company has a Cyber security policy in place.

Contact

Registered Office EBBC
6E route de Trèves
L-2633 Senningerberg
Grand Duchy of Luxembourg
Telephone: + 352 263479-1

esg@bb-gi.com
www.bb-gi.com

Registre de Commerce et des Sociétés
Luxembourg B163879

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