GEOHAZARD ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

NORTH CENTRAL REGION – ATHABASCA



2012 INSPECTION

Site Number	Location	ו	Name				Hwy	km
NC 49	4 km Sou	th of Elk Point	North Saskatchewan River Bridge North Abutment			41:22	23.2	
Legal Description	UTM Co-ordinates (NAD 83)							
SE-25-56-7-W4M			12 N 5968291				E 506736	
		Date	PF	CI	F	Total		
Previous Inspection:		N/A						
Current Inspection:		June 13, 2012	7	4	4		28	
Road AADT:		3300)	Year:	Year: 2011		11	
Inspected By:		Tarek Abdelaziz, Don Proudfoot (Thurber) Roger Skirrow, Arthur Kavulok (TRANS)						
Report Attachn	nents:	Photograph	IS 🔽	Plans	□ Maintenance Items			

Primary Site Issue:	Slow creep movement and settlement of the north approach fill head slope resulting in a depression at the north end of the bridge				
Dimensions:	About 25 to 30 m long (along the bridge alignment to the north of the abutment) for the full width of the bridge driving lanes				
Date of any remediation:	N/A				
Site History/Maintenance:	The original highway alignment was located to the east of its current location. In 1985, a new five span standard bridge with a total length of about 347 m was constructed over the North Saskatchewan River at the new highway location. The height of the north embankment approach fills varied from 13 to 15 m. The subsurface conditions below the fill consisted of about 10.5 m of compact to dense clayey sand/silt and gravel underlain by 3 m of very stiff to hard clay and 14 m of clay shale (bedrock). The abutment foundations consisted of steel H piles (HP 360X132), driven to practical refusal into the clay shale bedrock. In 1987, erosion gullies developed within the east and west sides of the approach fill. The repairs included the removal of erosion debris and installation of gabion mats (at the east side) and Geo Cell in-filled with gravel (at the southwest side) within the eroded gullies. In 2004, concerns were raised about the stability and the settlement of the north approach fill. A dip formed in a progressive manner at the north end of the bridge between 2004 and 2011. In 2011, an ACP overlay was placed along the full length of the bridge. A new valve cover extension was placed by Thurber in 2012 to extend the instrument protection through the new valve stabely.				
Observations:	Description	Worse?			
Pavement Distress	ACP overlay along the full length of the bridge in 2011				
Slope Movement	200 to 400 mm gap below the underside of the north abutment seat; approach fill head slope creeps at a very slow rate.				
Seepage					

Bridge/Culvert Distress		
Other	Bare vegetation at head slope location; no signs of distortion in the steel girder bearings	

Instrumentation: (1SI)

Creep movement at a rate of 0.4 mm/yr and 0.6 mm/yr over 13.7 to 16.2 m and 19.2 to 21 m, respectively

Assessment (Refer to attached Figures):

The progressive development of the depression at the north end of the bridge may be due to the slow creep movement of the head slope and the self-weight settlement of the fill. At the time of the site visit, there were no evidence of landslide cracks at the approach fill head slope/side slopes, or pavement distress at the north end of the bridge.

The new pavement overlay provided a smooth ride to motorists and eliminated safety concerns.

It is anticipated that the slope will continue to exhibit slow creep movements in addition to the ongoing settlement of the approach fill. It is unlikely that a new pavement overlay will be required in the near future.

The bare head slope could be due to plant sterilization due to salt.

Recommendations:

This site should be visited again next year to confirm the site observations. If the site condition remains unchanged next year, the subsequent site inspection visit could be deferred for a few years.











Photo#1 Looking south from the north side of the bridge at the ACP overlay



Photo#2 Looking north from the top of the bridge at the highway west side slope and river valley slope





Photo#3 Looking north from the top of the bridge at the river valley and approach fill slopes; note the presence of two gabion mattresses along existing slope above the river valley slope



Photo#4 Looking north at the approach fill slope; note that the slope surface is partially bare of vegetation





Photo#5 Looking east at the steel girder rocker bearings



Photo#6 Looking north at north abutment seat; note the gap developed below the seat due to fill settlement





Photo#7 Looking east from the crest of the river bank slope at the existing trail and bridge pier