# ALBERTA TRANSPORTATION AND ECONOMIC CORRIDORS GEOHAZARD ASSESSMENT PROGRAM PEACE REGION - SWAN HILLS 2024 INSPECTION



Site Number	Location	Name	Hwy	km
SH006-1	North of Swan Hills	Klumph Creek	33:14	18.1-18.6
Legal Description		UTM Co-ordinates		
NE28/SE33-70-9-W5M		11U E 608,502	N 6,107	107

	Date	PF	CF	Total
Previous Inspection:	30-May-2022	10	4	40
Current Inspection:	5-Jun-2024	10	4	40
Road AADT:	680	0	Year:	2023
Inspected By:			Ken Froese, Thu Roger Skirrow, T	
Report Attachments:		⊠ Plans		

Primary Site Issue:	The highway crosses an active slide area approximately 700 m in width over an overall slope height of 57 m. Movement appears to be 6 m to 13 m deep, seated in weathered bedrock or the base of clay overburden at the bedrock contract. The slide was likely triggered initially by high water levels within the slope and toe erosion by the highly mobile Swan River. Movement is manifested on the highway at each end of the scarp: transverse cracking at the north and culvert distress at the south. Persistent creep movements continue to produce pavement distress.
Dimensions:	500 m of highway length with an embankment fill height between 4 m to 10 m in height (north to south).
Date of Remediation:	1988: 40 m wide portion of west portion of embankment near the tributary to the Swan River failed damaging both culverts which was repaired. 2001: Construction of toe berm (600 m long) with sand subdrains using excavated material (390,000 m³) from upslope areas for off-loading. Outlets of 1200 mm and 900 mm culverts at Klumph Creek were repaired and extended.
Maintenance:	2016: ACP patch placed over cracks at north end of site. 2017: Overhead powerline installed on east side of highway. 2020: Patching at north end of site.

Observations:	Description	Worsened?
□ Pavement Distress	Crack pattern at north end of site continued to reflect through patch. Deterioration of driving surface observed over most of the highway length within the slide area.	$\boxtimes$
⊠ Slope Movement	Ongoing movement observed in instruments and confirmed by pavement distress. The rate of movement appears to be relatively stable.	$\boxtimes$
⊠ Erosion	Erosion at outlet of north culvert riprap apron noted in 2014 deepened in 2017 and again in 2019.	

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⊠ Seepage	Numerous depressions with ponded water observed downslope of highway.	$\boxtimes$
⊠ Bridge/Culvert	Sinkhole (3 m by 2 m) first observed in 2013 has become wider and deeper.	$\boxtimes$
☐ Other		

Instrumentation (Spring 2024):	
SI18-30 to -35	SI18-30 has a cumulative movement of 28 mm at 14 m depth representing an increase of 2.1 mm since Spring 2023. SI18-31 has a cumulative movement of 27 mm at 13.2 m depth. SI18-32 has a cumulative movement of 12 mm at 15.5 m depth., SI18-33 has a cumulative movement of 23 mm at 16.4 m depth. SI18-34 shows no discernible movement. SI18-35 has cumulative movement of 5 mm at 5.4 m depth.
SP00-2, SP00- 6A, SP00-6B	SP00-2, SP00-6A and SP00-6B have decreased in the last year after reaching historical high water levels.
PN18-30 to -35	Water levels increased to historical highs in Fall 2019 or Spring 2020 and have now begun to decrease with PN18-34 and -35 below initial measured water levels. PN18-32 has been relatively stable over the last two years. PN18-30, -31, and 33 increased in Spring 2024.
Damaged/ Destroyed	SI10 (11 m depth), SI11 (5.7 m depth), SI00-5, SI00-6, SP00-5 (unable to locate)

#### Assessment:

The landslide is still active and moving at a very slow rate. Instrumentation installed in March 2018 initially measured slow movements near the highway at about 13 m to 14 m depth and has now, as of 2022, identified movement zones in all inclinometers, including those further downslope from the highway, except for SI18-34. Asphalt milling and patching (latest in 2022) is still required about every three to four years to maintain the roadway at the north end of the site where it crosses the landslide scarp. Milling may be required in the next couple of years to reduce the humps that will likely form at the north end of the site. The highway was patched in 2022 and a few more of the cracks have reflected through since, with minor vertical displacement.

The instrumentation installed in early 2018 has revealed ongoing creep movement which is impacting the highway surface. Based on Dwg, No. 32121-SH006-1-2, attached, it appears that the large-scale landslide is toeing out near the top of the toe berm. Given the large size of the landslide and slow movement rate, periodic patching of the asphalt at each flank appears to be the most cost-effective method of dealing with the landslide movements. However, continued monitoring of the site (visual and instrumentation) is recommended to manage the risks.

# **Recommendations:**

### **Short-Term:**

 Short-term road maintenance (patching and milling to provide a safe, smooth surface) should continue as required. Longer term options align with the short term maintenance recommendations. Enlargement of the toe berm might further slow movement rates, however there are now significant wetlands adjacent the toe berm that would have to be accounted for.

# Ongoing Investigation:

• It is recommended that the biennial geohazard inspection and twice-annual instrumentation readings schedule be maintained.

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# 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. Roger Skirrow, P.Eng. Senior Geotechnical Engineer Mark Gallego, P.Eng.

Geotechnical Engineer

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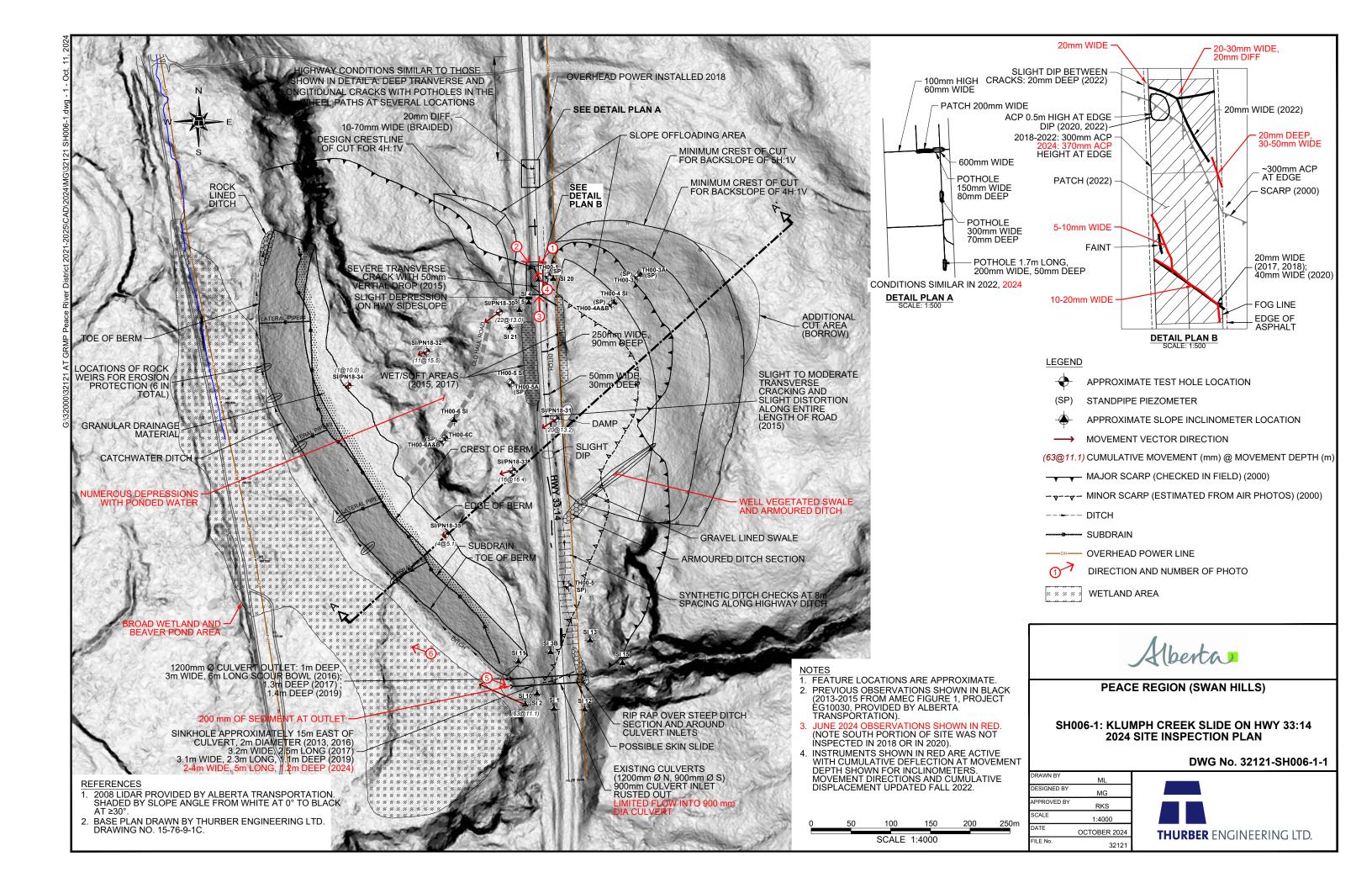
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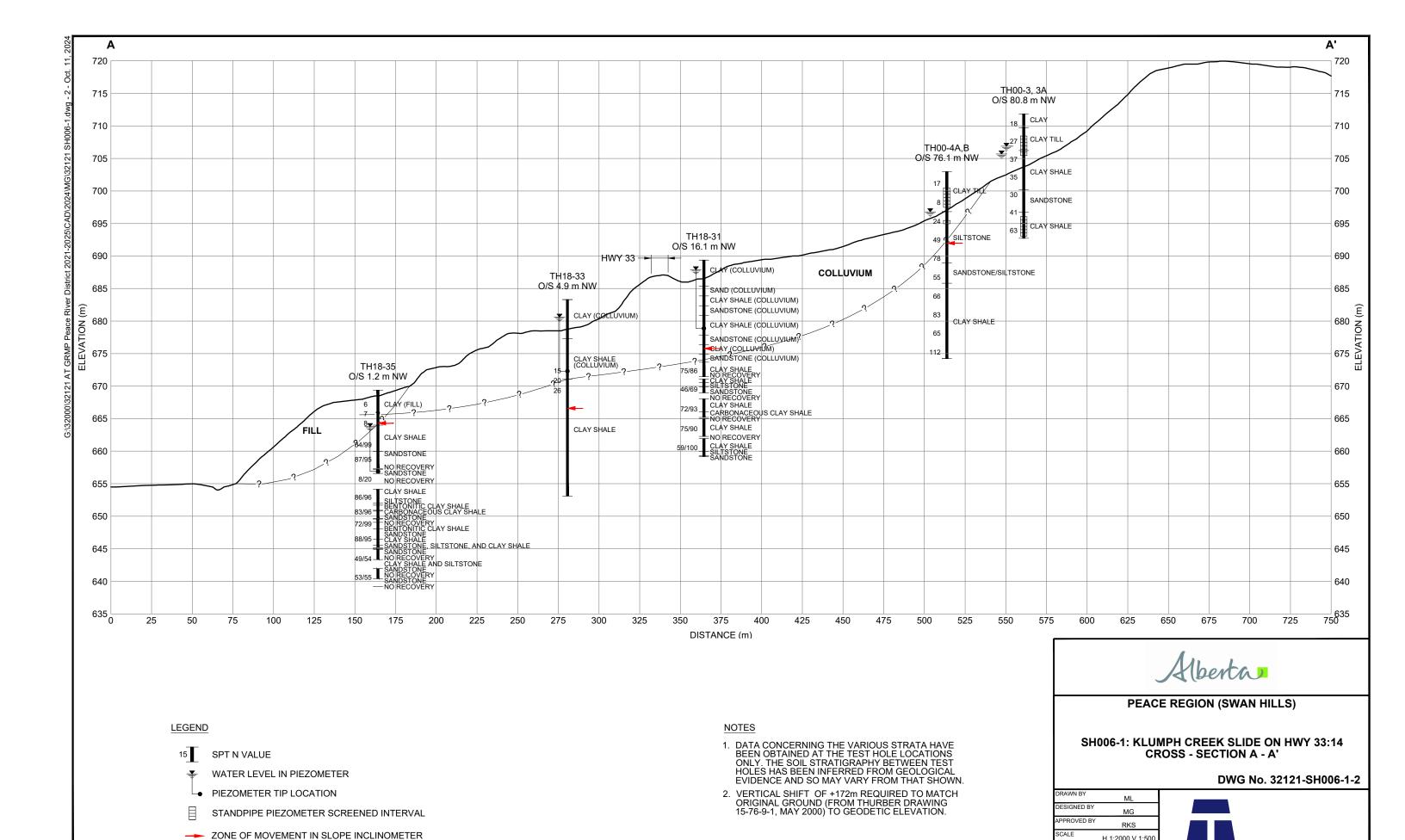
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OCTOBER 2024

32121

THURBER ENGINEERING LTD.

LAST UPDATED







Photo 1 – Looking south from east shoulder at main scarp crack and patch at north end of site.



Photo 2 – Looking south from west shoulder at main scarp crack and patch at north end of site.

Note powerline installed on east side of highway since 2017 visit.







Photo 3: Looking north at hump over main scrap crack at north end of the site.



Photo 4: Looking south at crack at south end of patch at north end of the site.







Photo 5: Looking at south culvert which had build up of sediment at outlet.



Photo 6: Looking at broad beaver pond and wetland area downslope of the highway.