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PUBLISHER
Lana Meier



SALES & MARKETING
Brett Mitchell



SALES & MARKETING
Gwen Keller



REPORTER/PHOTOGRAPHER
Dennis Young



REPORTER/PHOTOGRAPHER
Ty Dilello



REPORTER/PHOTOGRAPHER
Jennifer McFee



GRAPHIC DESIGNER
Nicole Kapusta



GRAPHIC DESIGNER
Tara Gionet



DISTRIBUTION
Christy Brown



CLASSIFIED ADMINISTRATOR
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Ty Dilello
1-204-250-6322
news@carmanstandard.ca



Elm Creek intersection design study underway, construction to start in 2027

By Becca Myskiw

A functional design study of the Provincial Trunk Highway (PTH) 2 and 13 intersection is underway.

Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure is working with WSP on studying the controversial intersection, infamous for causing accidents, stress, and danger at the entrance to Elm Creek. In 2020, a southbound semi and trailer ran through the intersection and was hit by an eastbound pickup truck, killing the driver of the pickup. There have been numerous other collisions and near misses at the intersection.

Residents in the Elm Creek Facebook group agreed that a change is needed. One group member noted an evening when he saw a semi with a flat deck “blowing through the intersection” just 200 feet away from him. He said that was the fourth time he’d seen that happen this year.

Elm Creek resident Alice Miller said she’s seen traffic “barrel through” the intersection regularly at all times of the day, with semis being the most common issue. She said anyone in Elm Creek knows to have their foot on the brake and be ready to be defensive when approaching the intersection.

A provincial spokesperson said WSP “will be investigating the operation and safety of the current intersection layout and bring forward different options for future designs including an option for a roundabout.”

Miller said a roundabout would be the only thing she could think of to help the problem, and she was she’s looking forward to seeing the plans. She’s glad the province is allowing the community to see the plans beforehand and have a voice in the matter too.

In upcoming engagement sessions, Manitoba Transportation and Infra-

structure will present design options to stakeholders, rightsholders, and the public. The provincial spokesperson said the department intends to include additional work, such as a potential culvert box extension, new guardrail installation, improved access management along the highway, and relocation of utilities and drainage, within the project scope. Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure is also anticipating a possible land acquisition for the project.

WSP anticipates the functional design study to be done by the end of 2024, with a detailed design to come shortly after and be available by the end of 2025. Tendering for the construction is slated to be done in 2026, with construction on the intersection starting in 2027. Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure projects’ total project cost is around \$5 million.

Manitoba has lowest inflation rate in Canada for fifth month in a row

By Lana Meier

Last week’s release of the latest Consumer Price Index (CPI) report from Statistics Canada reaffirmed Manitoba’s position as the province with the lowest inflation rate, according to Finance Minister Adrien Sala who shared the news last week.

Sala expressed concern for the financial strain on Manitobans, who have been tapping into their savings to meet their monthly needs. In response, our government swiftly implemented measures to ease the burden by reducing the 14-cents-a-litre gas tax. This adjustment not only puts money back in your pocket but also contributes to lowering inflation

across Manitoba.

Manitoba has maintained the lowest inflation rate in Canada for the past five months. However, in May, its consumer inflation increased to 1.3 per cent compared to April’s 0.4 per cent, but it is still significantly lower than Canada’s overall inflation rate of 2.9 per cent.

Compared to the national average, Manitoba saw more favorable results in various commonly bought items and services as reported by Statistics Canada. These include rent, gasoline, phone services, recreational equipment, and clothing.

“Our decision to immediately cut the gas tax has had a direct impact on

inflation, lowering everyday costs for families in Manitoba,” said Sala. “We know too many people are still feeling squeezed and our government is taking action to keep costs lower for people, whether they’re trying to pay their mortgage or buy groceries.”

The Manitoba Bureau of Statistics estimates the fuel tax holiday has directly contributed to a decline of 0.4 percentage points to inflation. Manitoba’s gas tax holiday is also helping to reduce food inflation, which looks at both food purchased from stores and food purchased from restaurants, noted the minister.

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Carman Dufferin Standard
Box 39, Stonewall, MB, R0C 2Z0

Head Office: 1-204-467-5836

Classified & Announcements: 1-204-467-5836

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