

Tłıchǫ All-Season Road. Hwy 3 to Whatì.



This newsletter, by the GNWT Department of Transportation and the Tłıchǫ Government, is one in a series about the proposed Tłıchǫ All-season Road (TASR). It is meant to provide Tłıchǫ community members with information about the project. Each newsletter focuses on a different topic and highlights the various processes that will limit environmental and social impacts to the surrounding area from the construction of the road.

3rd Whatì Special Interagency Committee Meeting – May 4, 2016

The Community Government of Whatì formed the Special Interagency Committee in June 2013. The Committee's task is to prepare the community for any potential changes as a result of an all-season road. This Committee has been responsible for engaging with the agencies that will be utilized to help with community preparations.

On May 4, 2016, the Committee met for a third time to discuss:

1. Do we have the plans to address increased service demands in Whatì?
2. Do we have the facilities and resources in Whatì to meet current and increased future demands?
3. Do we have people assigned and prepared to address the impacts from growth and change to Whatì?

Each agency was provided an opportunity to provide an update and identify where they needed additional resources. The floor was then opened for questions and comments from the public. Approximately 80 people were in attendance; double the attendance from previous years.

Areas Needing Development

Four main areas were identified as needing further resources: training, housing, families and economic development.

- Training initiatives are underway to increase skills in the region such as heavy equipment operations training, housing needs are being assessed, a new seniors facility is being planned and a new regional economic agency has been struck.
- Following the interagency meeting, each agency was requested to produce a brief report every 4-6 months to identify what has been accomplished. These updates will be circulated to all agencies to encourage stronger collaboration.
- New agencies that would deal with population growth were identified and should be considered to join the group, for example, Northwestel and NTPC, as greater strain is put on power and internet services.

Overall Outcome

Agencies have been developing plans and are developing capacity to deal with potential impacts from the community and changes within Whatì. All participants, including the public who spoke, supported the efforts being made by the various parties and the collaborative approach the Whatì Interagency Committee meetings provide. The next Interagency Committee meeting is scheduled for 2017; however, smaller working groups will meet throughout the upcoming year to develop and operationalize plans to manage any impacts from the construction and operation of the new road.