

NEWS RELEASE

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Saskatoon completes historic bridge-building project

Today, the City of Saskatoon celebrates the completion of its largest-ever bridge-building project with the community invited to participate.

The three orders of government funded the \$238.8 million Bridging to Tomorrow Project which includes Chief Mistawasis Bridge, McOrmond Drive and Central Avenue extensions, and the Traffic Bridge. The Government of Canada is contributing up to 25 per cent of eligible costs, the Government of Saskatchewan is contributing \$50 million toward the Chief Mistawasis Bridge, and the City is funding the remainder.

“The Bridging to Tomorrow Project is a great example of what can be achieved through strong partnerships between all levels of government,” said the Honourable Ralph Goodale, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness. “This new infrastructure is an essential addition to Saskatoon’s transportation network that will greatly improve commuter connections among key parts of the city. It will not only help get people and goods where they need to go safely and efficiently, but reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support economic growth for years to come.”

“The provincial government’s \$50 million investment in Chief Mistawasis Bridge demonstrates our commitment to ensuring Saskatoon remains one of the fastest growing cities in Canada and continues to offer a good quality of life for all citizens. The new bridge will improve traffic flow for commuters and ease congestion for shippers. Congratulations to everyone involved in the successful completion of the project,” said the Honourable Scott Moe, Premier of Saskatchewan.

“The opening of these two new bridges is a huge step forward in creating a more connected community,” said His Worship Charlie Clark, Mayor of Saskatoon. “Both of these bridges are very significant for our city. The Chief Mistawasis Bridge is a key element for our future growth and success, and the naming of the bridge was a journey itself toward living up to the calls to action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. The Traffic Bridge reconnects a historic link between the two sides of the river for vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists alike. I would like to thank the federal and provincial governments for their funding that helped to make this happen in our community.”

“The Bridging to Tomorrow project was an investment in the future of our city for the benefit of everyone,” said Jeff Jorgenson, City Manager. “Our plans for growth are

founded in sustaining a great quality of life for Saskatoon residents. These projects are foundational infrastructure improvements that help us create a city that is vibrant and attractive to citizens today and for future generations.”

Chief Mistawasis Bridge opening celebrations included a grand entry with local Indigenous leaders, dignitaries, elders, survivors and students, and an opportunity for visitors to explore the bridge deck.

“The naming of Chief Mistawasis Bridge provides a lasting legacy of hope and reconciliation for the community and a source of great pride for our children and generations to come,” said Anthony Blair Dreaver Johnston, University of Saskatchewan School of Environment and Sustainability Indigenous Mentor and great-great-great grandson of Chief Mistawasis.

For the Traffic Bridge opening, a community bridge party will feature a variety of cultural entertainment, food trucks and a bridge and project history display.

“We’re pleased to be a partner in the development of this historic infrastructure project, and look forward to continuing our long-term relationship as a valued service provider to the City of Saskatoon,” said Grant Beck, CEO, Graham Commuter Partners.

The Chief Mistawasis Bridge will open to traffic later in the day on Tuesday, October 2. The Traffic Bridge will open to traffic on Wednesday, October 3.

To commemorate the project, a detailed video showcasing the Bridging to Tomorrow project, and the construction of the bridges and roadways is available at saskatoon.ca/bridging.

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