



Mackenzie Valley Highway

Norman Wells/Tulita – February 2020

Government of
Northwest Territories



Purpose

To provide an update on Mackenzie Valley Highway (MVH) activities in the Sahtu Region:

- MVH Environmental Assessment (Wrigley to Norman Wells)
- Prohibition Creek Access Road (PCAR)





Strategic Transportation Corridors



- Three strategic transportation corridors identified as priorities in GNWT's 25 Year Transportation Strategy *Connecting Us*
 - **Tłıchǫ All-Season Road**
 - **Mackenzie Valley Highway**
 - **Slave Geological Province Corridor**
- Priorities of the 19th Legislative Assembly
Make strategic infrastructure investments that connect communities, expand the economy or reduce the cost of living, including the Mackenzie Valley Highway, the Slave Geological Corridor and the Taltson Hydro Project
- 2019-2023 Mandate of the Government of the Northwest Territories
Advance the development of the Mackenzie Valley Highway, Slave Geological Province Corridor, and the Taltson Hydro Expansion Project



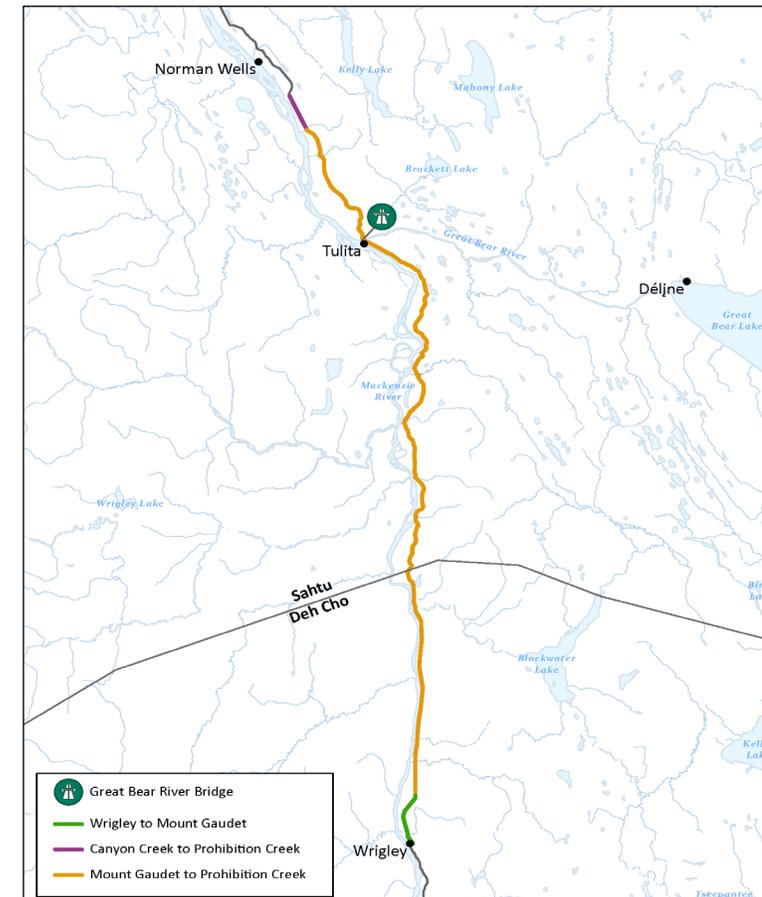
MVH Specific Benefits

- Connect communities to new social opportunities
- Increased resiliency to impacts of climate change
- Reduce cost of living
- Provide access to mineral and petroleum resources
- Support development of strong northern workforce and business opportunities through construction and operation
- Create tourism opportunities



MVH — Currently Funded Projects

- \$140 million announced June 2018
 - Great Bear River Bridge
 - Mount Gaudet Access Road
 - MVH Environmental Assessment and Engineering (Wrigley to Norman Wells)
- Other funded projects
 - Oscar Creek Bridge
 - Hodgson Creek Bridge (to be included in Mount Gaudet Access Road project)
- Opportunity for additional funding for future highway construction under Investing in Canada Plan

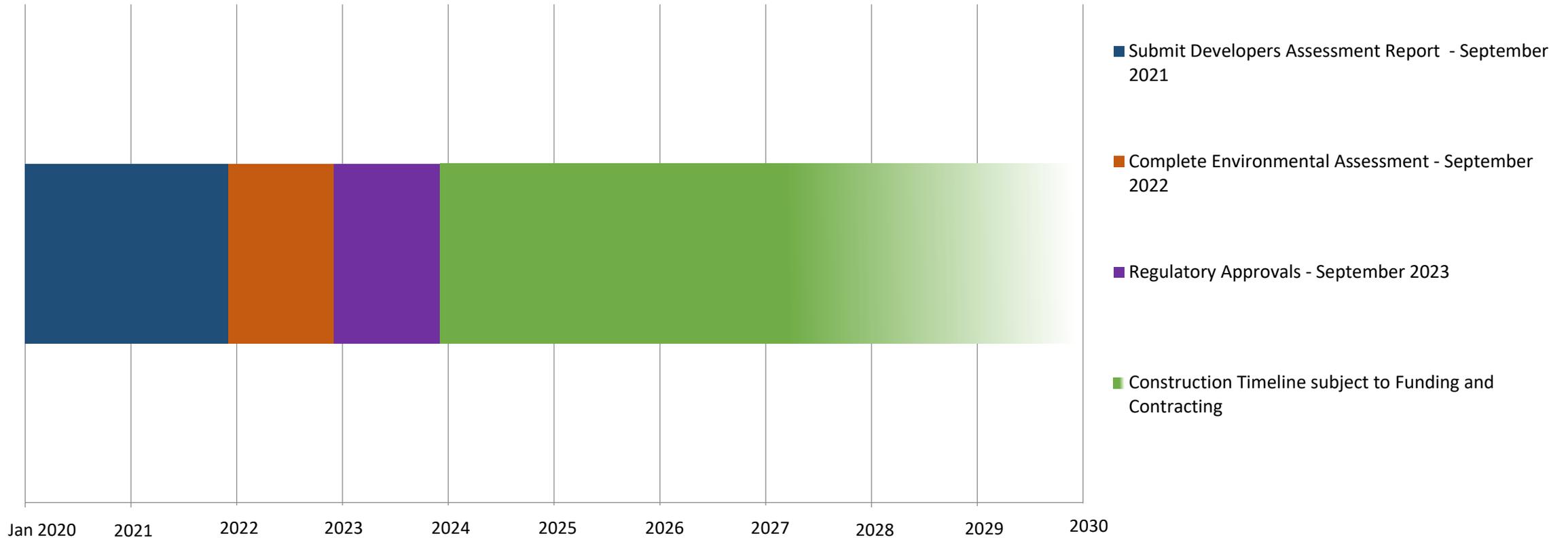


MVH EA — Next Steps

- **Developer's Assessment Report (DAR)**
 - Completion of the DAR is the next major step in the EA
 - Target date for completing DAR is September 2021
- Technical studies required to complete the DAR
 - Traditional knowledge
 - Socio economic
 - Environmental
 - Archaeological
 - Land use
 - Engineering
- INF plans to complete these studies in partnership with Indigenous and community governments, maximizing local involvement, and determining best possible route.



MVH EA – Anticipated Timeline



MVH Construction

Construction of major sections of the MVH between Wrigley and Norman Wells will occur when:

- EA has been completed
 - Land access/tenure has been secured in accordance with *Sahtu Dene and Metis Land Claim Agreement*
 - All regulatory authorizations have been obtained
 - Funding for construction has been secured
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- Possible exceptions – short road extensions from communities along MVH alignment (e.g. Prohibition Creek Access Road)



Road Extension Projects



www.inf.gov.nt.ca/en/canyon-creek-all-season-access-road-project

- Short road extensions along MVH alignment
- Could advance separately from MVH EA
 - INF will submit separate applications for approval of regulatory boards
 - Will require community support
- Capacity building projects – e.g. Canyon Creek Access Road
 - 14 km road south of Norman Wells
 - \$20 million project
 - 81 people employed at peak construction
 - Average 84% local and northern employment
 - 12 trainees and 16 Heavy Equipment Operators

Prohibition Creek Access Road (PCAR)

- Proposed 14 km all-season road from Canyon Creek to Prohibition Creek
- Construction funding to be secured
- Will be built along alignment of existing Mackenzie Valley Winter Road
- Anticipate between 18 and 24 months to complete construction
- GNWT will work with and engage residents and Indigenous organizations in Sahtu to advance the project



PCAR – Next Steps

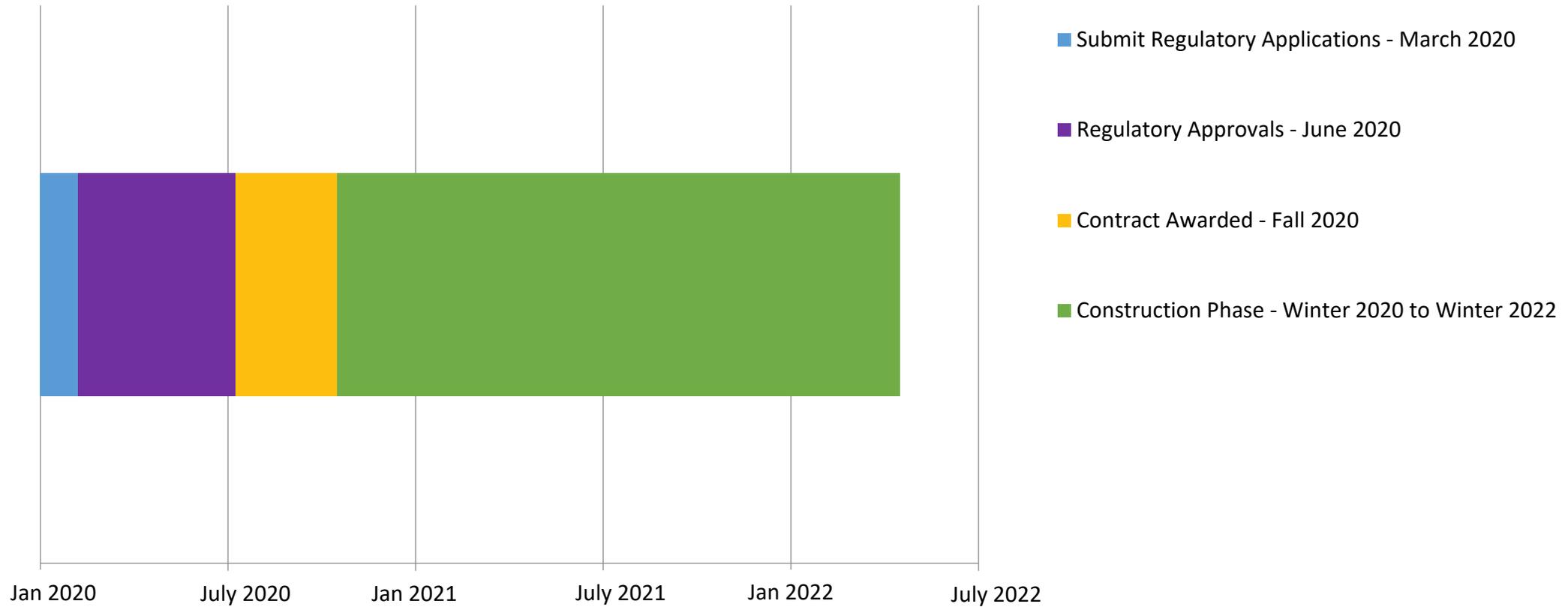
- LiDAR has been collected and a terrain analysis completed.
- Preliminary design has been started to identify the centre line of the road.
- Geotechnical drilling along the road alignment is expected winter 2020.
- Den and nest survey was just completed and will be done again in fall 2020.
- Archaeological Overview Assessment is being completed.

PCAR – Next Steps

- Traditional knowledge collection is required.
- Project Description Report and regulatory applications are being prepared for submission in winter 2020.
- Regulatory approval expected in spring 2020.



PCAR – Anticipated Timeline



Four Mile Creek Road

- Considering in relation to Great Bear River Bridge project
- Training/capacity building opportunities
- Develop winter access road from Mackenzie Valley Winter Road to Great Bear River Bridge as part of GBRB project
- Design for winter access road being completed as part of GBRB design
- Upgrade winter access road to all-weather road after completion of GBRB project
- Construction funding for all-weather road to be secured

MVH Participation

- GNWT has developed a formal working relationship through MOU with SSI
- Section 35 consultation
- Public/community engagement
- Opportunities for public debate through Environmental Assessment and permitting processes
- MVH@gov.nt.ca





Thank you.

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www.inf.gov.nt.ca/en/mackenzie-valley-highway-project