SPRING 2019 NEWSLETTER

RED RIVER FLOODWAY BRIDGE ON PTH 59 NORTH

Manitoba

Project Overview

The existing bridge over the Red River Floodway on PTH 59 North at Birds Hill was originally constructed in 1964. This bridge is located on one of the most heavily travelled routes in Manitoba. It serves as a vital link north of the City of Winnipeg to Eastern Manitoba, including the areas of Eastern Lake Winnipeg and the Whiteshell and Nopiming provincial parks.

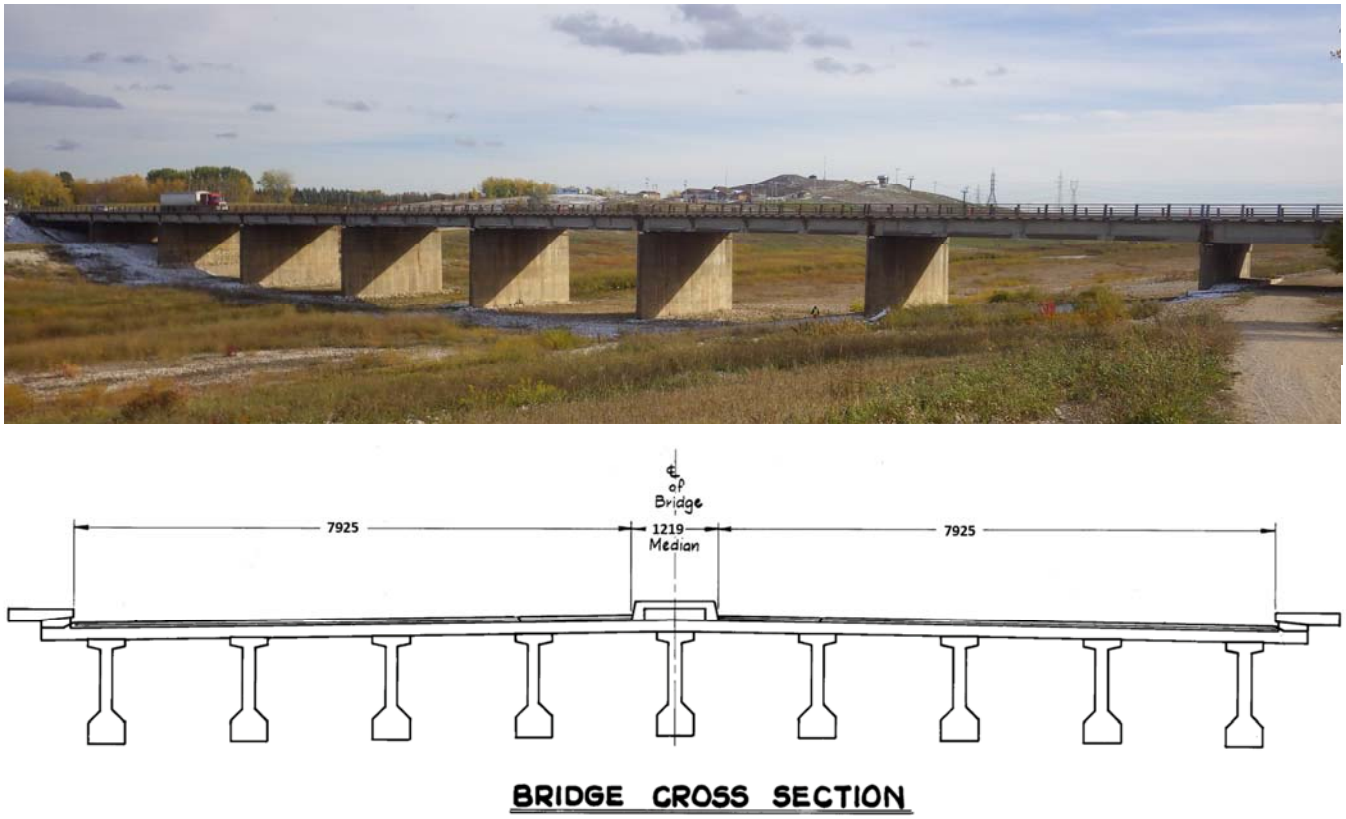

Figure 1. PTH 59 North Red River Floodway Bridge and Existing Bridge Cross Section

The bridge has reached the end of its service life and needs to be replaced. Manitoba Infrastructure has determined that the most cost-effective solution is to replace the existing bridge.

The project will also include improvements to PTH 59 North in the immediate vicinity of the bridge in conjunction with the bridge replacement.

As part of the preliminary design process, two design concepts for this project were examined in detail. The Preferred Alternative is shown in Figure 2 and the other alternative considered is shown in Figure 3. This second alternative was ultimately not selected due to roadway geometry issues, private property acquisition impacts and higher cost.

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Frequently Asked Questions

Why is this project necessary?

This project is necessary because the PTH 59 North Bridge over the Red River Floodway was built in 1964 and is approaching the end of its useful service life. Manitoba Infrastructure has been monitoring the condition of the bridge and has determined that the most cost-effective solution is to replace the existing bridge.

When will construction occur?

Pending project approval, construction is anticipated to start in November 2020 and continue until November 2023. The project is expected to be completed and open to traffic by November 2023.

Will the bridge be closed during construction?

The bridge will remain open and traffic on PTH 59 North will be maintained at its current level in both directions (two lanes southbound and one lane northbound) throughout the construction process. For short durations, there may be occasional reductions to one lane of traffic in the southbound direction.

Will my house or property be affected?

With the Preferred Alternative, no private property acquisition will be required. In general, on projects where land may be required, Manitoba Infrastructure would contact individual property owners early in the process to discuss the implications. No alternatives under consideration required the acquisition of any homes.

What will happen if there is spring flooding while the bridge is under construction?

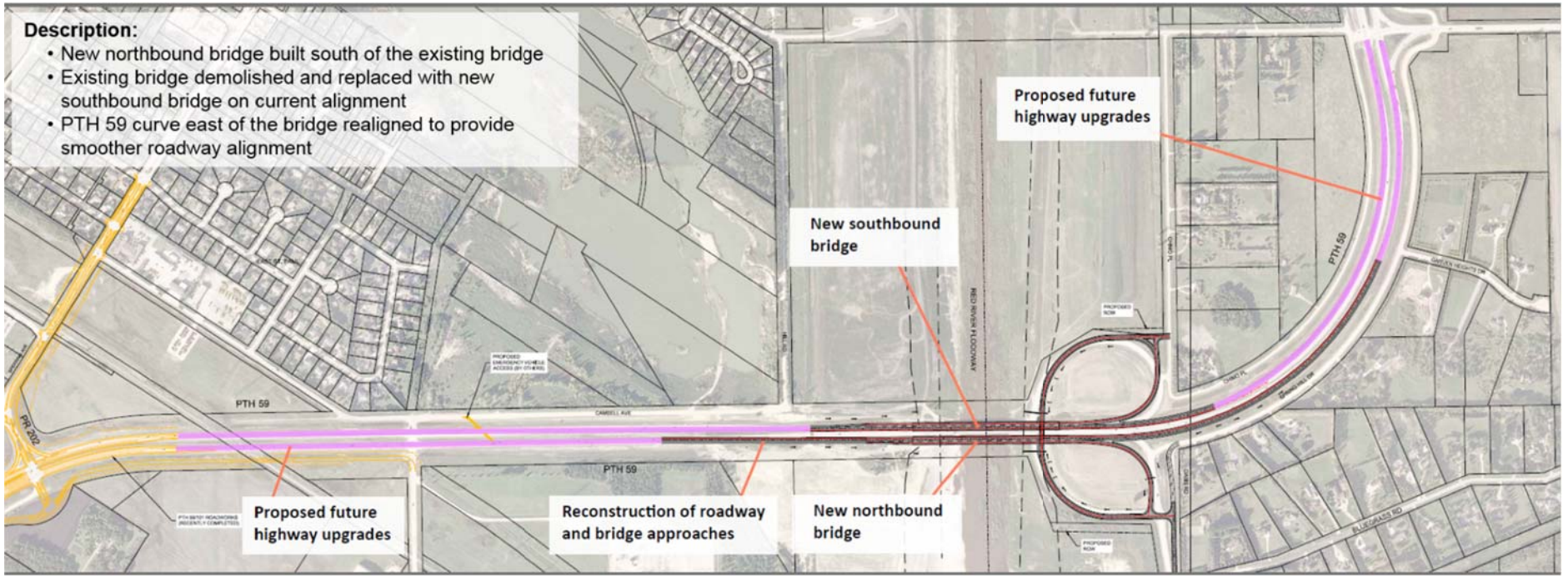
All construction will be staged appropriately to accommodate operation of the Red River Floodway during spring runoff. The project will be coordinated with the Hydrologic Forecast Centre to ensure that construction does not affect flood control requirements. This was accomplished successfully during the Red River Floodway Expansion Project that saw the Floodway operate at full capacity during major flooding in 2006 and 2009.

Will the bridge be repaired prior to replacement?

Repairs to restore the bridge to two lanes in the northbound direction will not be undertaken in the interim period before construction is proposed to start in November 2020. Manitoba Infrastructure investigated repair options and determined that proceeding to replacement is the most cost-effective solution due to the time and cost required to complete the repairs.

What happens next?

The preliminary design report is expected to be completed in June 2019, with detailed design beginning in late summer. Regular project updates will be posted on the project website at https://www.gov.mb.ca/mit/wms/structures/design.html and delivered to the local community in the project area at major milestones throughout the design and construction process.



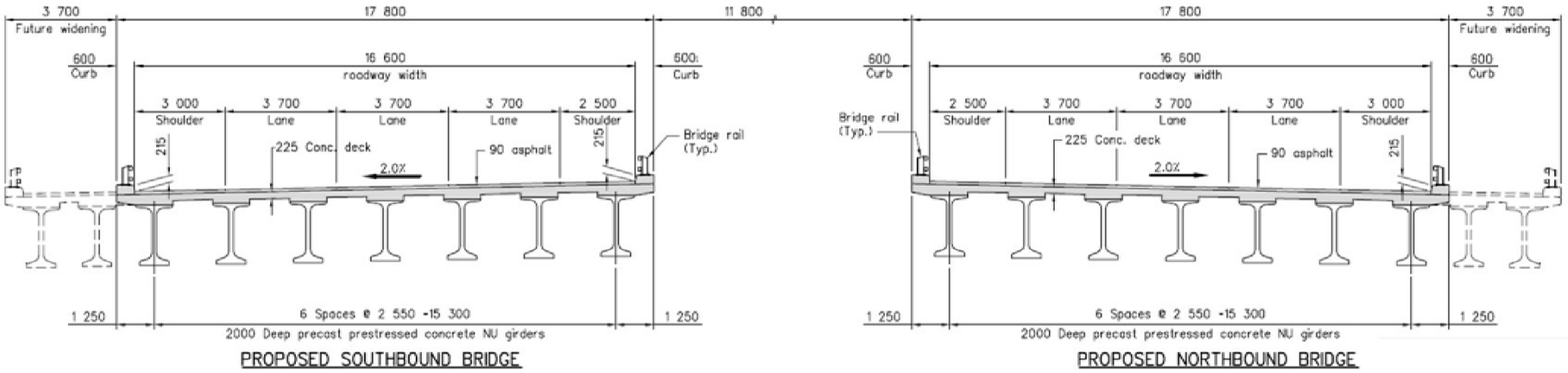


Figure 2. Preferred Preliminary Alternative and Proposed Cross Sections of New Southbound and Northbound Bridges

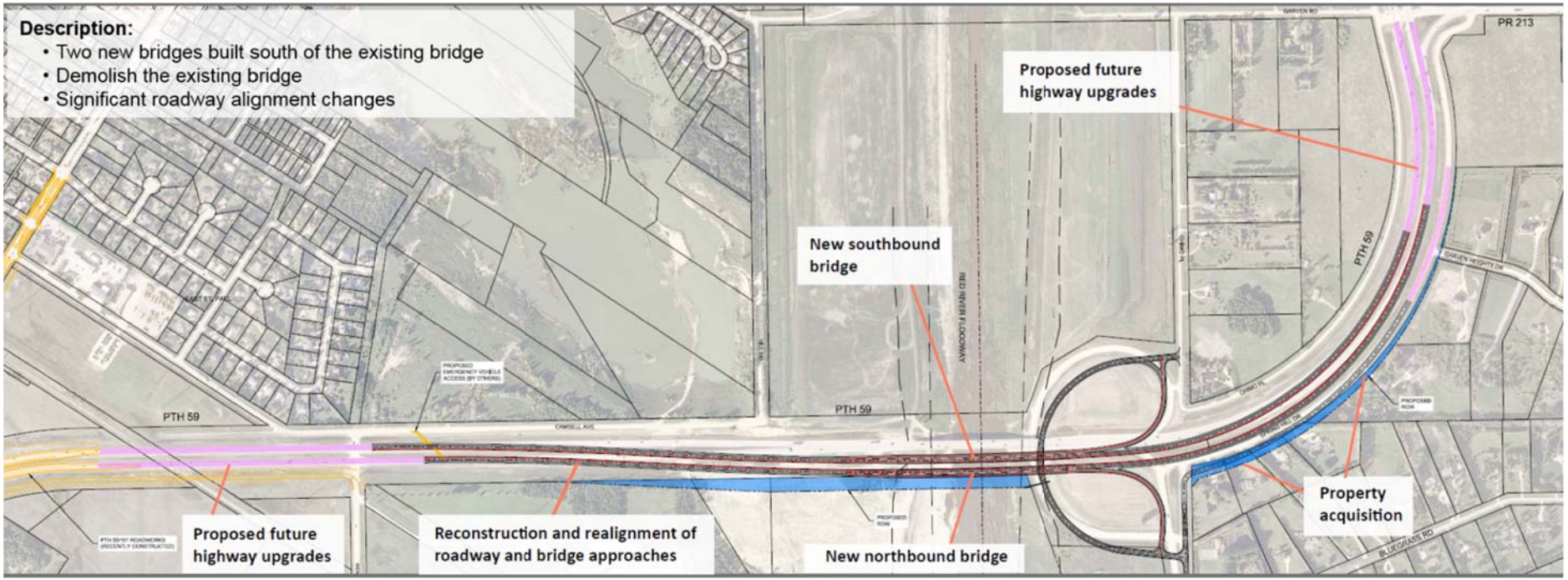


Figure 3. Other Alternative Considered