

RURAL ROAD UPGRADING PROGRAM GUIDELINES

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OVERVIEW OF RURAL ROAD UPGRADING PROGRAM (RRUP):

RRUP provides financial support for the improvement of maintained and unmaintained Yukon roads. RRUP funds are typically targeted at projects that serve public transportation needs. On unmaintained rural residential roads, preference is given to community based applications where property owners provide, or agree to provide, financial or in-kind contributions.

There are some limitations to RRUP support:

1. Preference is given to projects that serve community interests: private roads or driveways are not eligible for support under this program;
2. The program is not designed for land developers or land sellers who receive financial benefits rather than transportation-based benefits from upgrading projects;
3. RRUP financial support to proponents is contingent on availability of Yukon Government (YG) funding.

While RRUP work may result in an upgraded road that meets the standards for government funded maintenance, a separate process is required to apply for maintenance under the Rural Road Maintenance Program (RRMP).

Annual RRUP deadlines and the timing of application reviews are as follows:

1. Initial intake deadline is the last business day of April with reviews completed by the last business day of May;
2. Final intake deadline is the last business day of July with reviews completed by the last business day of August.

The remainder of this document outlines RRUP objectives, principles, selection criteria, construction standards and the nature of the application and approval process.

DEFINITIONS:

Rural Road: Generally means a road used for rural residential, recreational, commercial, or institutional purposes, located on public land outside municipal boundaries.

Road User: Local residents, First Nations, licensed or registered commercial users (such as: trappers, outfitters, wood cutters, tour companies, etc.), registered institutions.

POLICY OBJECTIVES:

1. To serve the transportation needs of Yukoners;
2. To upgrade non-industrial rural roads in Yukon, whether currently maintained by YG or not;
3. To upgrade rural roads based on requests and input from communities, property owners and other stakeholders;
4. To accomplish the work with local contractors where available;
5. To evaluate projects on a geographical basis to ensure all regions of Yukon benefit from the program;
6. To develop cost share arrangements for projects that are not in the current inventory of YG maintained roads.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

The RRUP Guidelines are based on the following guiding principles.

Responsiveness to Needs of Rural Yukoners:

The provision of funding for upgrading projects is in response to requests made from the public as well as the need to service public roads already maintained by YG.

Public Participation:

The public from all rural areas of Yukon are invited to apply. Proponents will be required to demonstrate local support for the project. If appropriate, YG may consult with local government or community officials to determine community priorities.

Local Economic Opportunities:

The emphasis will be on distributing benefits throughout Yukon, and stimulating the local economy by accomplishing the work with local Contractors.

Environmental Stewardship:

Activities undertaken through RRUP projects may have potential impacts upon the natural and/ or socio-economic environment. As a part of each application, proponents will work with Transportation Engineering Branch (TEB) to identify the requirements of the project, which will include identifying potential environmental impacts and the requirements to mitigate, reduce or remove those potential impacts.

Proponents are advised that dependent upon the activities they are proposing, specific permitting or assessment processes may be required prior to commencement of construction. TEB can provide assistance in the identification of the assessment processes, however the final determination and acquisition of the necessary permits or licenses is the sole responsibility of the proponent.

Proponents who receive approval for their projects, will be required to provide copies of permits and/ or licenses prior to funding being appropriated for the project. TEB will provide a list of Mitigating Conditions for each project, if required.

CRITERIA:

1. Funding is limited to the upgrading or minor relocation of existing roads and parts thereof, such as culverts and bridges.

Road upgrading could consist of:

- clearing and/or grubbing;
- ditching;
- widening and straightening of roads;
- adding granular material;
- excavating soft spots; and
- upgrading road surfaces.

Culvert and bridge work could consist of:

- installing new culverts or multi-plates;
- replacing, repairing or extending existing culverts or fluming;
- repairing or modifying bridges;
- excavating for drainage improvements; and
- installing or repairing erosion protection.

Projects could also include the installation or modification of boat ramps on highways or rural roads or improvements to other transportation infrastructure.

2. The road, or facility, must be:
 - available for use by the public;
 - within a surveyed right-of-way where designated; and
 - located on public land, or if on private land, the road must be formally recognized as a highway (i.e. public road).
3. The upgrading of a road under these Program Guidelines does not automatically qualify the road for maintenance by YG unless the section upgraded currently receives maintenance.
4. Projects involving rural roads that are not presently maintained by the Transportation Maintenance Branch (TMB) will generally require some type of contribution by the proponent(s). The rating of applications will be influenced by the level of contribution and will take into account factors such as the use of the road, number of beneficiaries, size of the project, and expected benefits to Yukon.

For cost share projects, approved in-kind contributions by the proponent(s) would normally consist of securing all required permits, the provision of labour, the supply of materials such as culverts or gravel, and/or the use of equipment.

5. Applications from land developers will not be considered under this program. Land developers, in this case, broadly describes individuals, companies or other entities that have or will benefit through the sale of land. Roads which primarily serve one business or property will also be ineligible.
6. Funding for this program is limited and in order to spread the funds around, no single project will be funded to the extent that it dominates the program. Larger projects may be split so they are funded over more than one year.

STANDARDS:

The standard to which the work is performed will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. There are many factors involved, including but not limited to:

- primary use of the road;
- potential for future development;
- geometrics of the road (horizontal and vertical alignment);
- the desires of the residents;
- traffic volumes;
- speed of traffic; and
- whether YG maintenance will be requested.

For roads that are likely to be maintained by YG in the future, the road will be constructed to minimum standard in the current Rural Road Maintenance Policy. After an evaluation of the project, a higher standard may be used if warranted by the factors listed above.

For roads that are not likely to ever become part of the inventory of maintained roads, the project will be evaluated to determine if the recommended standard is appropriate for the specific proposed project.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

Applicants can apply directly to Yukon Government through several avenues:

Online: http://www.hpw.gov.yk.ca/pdf/rrup_guidelines.pdf

In person at: Transportation Program Development Coordinator
 Transportation Engineering Branch
 461 Range Road
 Whitehorse, Yukon
 Y1A 3A4

By Email: roadprograms@gov.yk.ca

Proponents are encouraged to submit requests as early as possible. Depending on the project, permits or environmental regulations may be required and can take additional time, which will affect the timing of the construction project. Examples include Land Use Permits which may take up to six (6) weeks, Water Licenses may take up to six (6) months and Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessments reviews may take up to six (6) months.

Projects not approved in the current year, and requests for projects received after all funds have been committed, will be placed on a list for consideration in the next fiscal year. Provision of funding from year to year is not guaranteed. If ongoing road maintenance is desired, a subsequent application will have to be made under the Rural Road Maintenance Policy, *this application does not mean maintenance will be provided.*

APPROVAL PROCESS:

An evaluation of all projects will be conducted by TEB and the proponent(s) will be contacted regarding the status of the project, or if additional information is required. If the project is approved, the proponent(s) will be notified of the next step in the process, whether it is the work commencing or the application for the required permits.

When cost share arrangements are part of a project, the proponent(s) and HPW will sign an agreement prior to any work being performed. Any work done prior to all documentation being approved will not be eligible for the approved project. The likelihood of project approval will increase with a higher percentage of contribution from the proponent(s).

When cost share arrangements are part of a project, the proponent(s) and HPW will sign an agreement prior to any work being performed.

Costs incurred by YG to administer this program shall form part of the RRUP funding. The cost of materials supplied to a project, such as crushed aggregate or culverts, will be included in the initial cost estimate and charged to the individual project.

The initial application intake deadline is the last business day of April. Applications will be assessed by the last business day of May. A second and final intake deadline is the last business day of July with assessments completed by the last business day of August. After each assessment period, proponents will be notified regarding the status of their application.