

ON TRAC



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Transportation & Logistics Program

Alaska/Canada Rail Link; Feasibility Study

Building on our relationship with the University of Alaska at Fairbanks, the Institute was asked to develop a report that identifies and reviews the regulatory requirements for obtaining the permits, licenses, and approvals necessary to construct and operate the proposed Alaska/Canada rail link. The Institute engaged Shirocca Consulting to prepare the report. The report was developed with the advice of a number of highly skilled individuals who were retained by Shirocca Consulting for this purpose.

The project involved multiple political jurisdictions in the United States, Canada, Alaska, Yukon and British Columbia, as well as Alaska Native and Canadian First Nations interests.

This exhaustive report identified the regulatory requirements applicable to the project. The report was based on interviews of government officials, consultations with experts, an analysis of the rail regulatory frameworks of the relevant jurisdictions including a review of key documents such as pertinent legislation, regulation, policies, guidelines and rules. In addition to direct input from Shirocca Consulting, we received the benefit of expert input and commentary from an attorney who specializes in railroad regulation and rate and services issues.

The Institute, in conjunction with Shirocca Consulting, also carried out an assessment of the risk opportunity of construction operations and regulatory approvals.

To carry out this assignment, we assembled a group of experts who, while familiar with railway construction and operations, had not been directly involved in developing the routes and cost estimates. This was purposely done to cast fresh eyes on these areas as part of the risk analysis.

Alberta SuperNet Conference

In partnership with the Government of Alberta's Department of Restructuring and Government Efficiency, the Van Horne Centre for Information and Communication held a public conference on the Alberta SuperNet; a project that originated out of this Centre. The conference took place on June 20-22 at the Calgary TELUS Convention Centre. It was an opportunity for the Alberta SuperNet Alliance to showcase the work they had done, for communities to learn about the new opportunities available to them due to the deployment of broadband, fibre optic access, and for government, industry, associations and communities to share information. The conference discussed how the deployment of a broadband network across the province could enhance societal services, e-business, technology and community development. The Institute wishes to commend Dr. David Mitchell, the lead investigator and the entire Alberta SuperNet Research Alliance on providing the material with this very informative conference on connecting Albertans with the opportunities of the SuperNet.

Programs

First International Conference on Funding Transportation Infrastructure

On August 2-3 the Institute partnered with the University of Alberta's Institute for Public Economics to host the First International Conference on Funding Transportation Infrastructure. We welcomed delegates from 14 countries across the globe in a forum that looked at the relationship between pricing of transportation infrastructure and investments. Speakers presented papers on a variety of topics, including Funding in Federal Systems, Public Private Partnership Experience in Europe and North America, Airport Pricing and Financing, and Financing Intercity Rail Infrastructure. Conference proceedings can be found on the Van Horne website at www.vanhorne.info.

Transportation Security Conference

In partnership with the Centre for Military and Strategic Studies at the University of Calgary, the Van Horne Institute will host a conference on Transportation Security in Calgary on October 2-4, 2006. The program will address the current state of security with respect to transportation in Canada and Internationally. The conference will also address the emerging transportation security issues that will be faced across all modes of transport.

North-East Alberta Transportation Conference – Fort McMurray

The Institute will host a conference on October 23-25, 2006 in Fort McMurray. The Conference will inform delegates about the developments with the oil sands in the Wood Buffalo Region of Alberta for the next 20 years and discuss the challenges that will be faced by the transportation system to facilitate the regional growth and transportation of the petroleum products resulting from that growth. The role that transportation will play in facilitating these developments will be contrasted with the identified shortcomings in the current transportation system serving the region.

Reality Check 2006

As we are all well aware, skilled employees in the transportation industry are a valuable commodity. Reality Check 2006 will provide a forum in which an innovative conference process, OneSmartWorld, will be used to negotiate solutions for the low industry image and the lack of skilled labour in the transportation, logistics and supply chain sectors in western Canada. This solution-based conference will use the experience and expertise of the delegates to formulate a realistic and practical action plan to be implemented by the industry. Reality Check 2006 will take place on November 16 & 17, 2006 in Calgary.

Distinguished Speaker Breakfast

Mr. Paul Tsaparis
President & CEO
Hewlett-Packard (Canada) Co.

Event Date: September 20, 2006

Mr. Tsaparis was appointed President & Chief Executive Officer of Hewlett-Packard (Canada) Co. in September of 1998. He is responsible for all aspects of HP's operations in Canada. Additionally he is responsible for business development initiatives, such as alliances and partnerships that increase HP's presence in Canada and enable it to continue to add value to customers, partners, economies and communities it serves. Mr. Tsaparis will discuss the role of focused partnerships between governments, academia and public companies in driving meaningful and relevant innovation and examine the impact these partnerships are having on regional competitiveness and on the lives of all Canadians.

Member Update: New TELUS Representative

Mr. Terry Nemeth recently joined the Board of Directors of the Van Horne Institute. As the TELUS Communications Transportation Vertical Sales Executive, Terry is the Director of Business Solutions and has been with TELUS since 1998. Terry's team delivers I.T. solutions to improve productivity, safety and compliance to the transportation industry in Canada. He notes that his practical transportation experience takes him back to the 70's, when he hauled liquid sulphur across northern Alberta. We are delighted to have Terry join the Board of the Van Horne Institute, and we look forward to working with him in the future.

New Members

The Institute is delighted to welcome the following companies and organizations as new members:

Athabasca University
Government of the Northwest Territories
Stantec Consulting Ltd.
Yanke Group of Companies

The Van Horne Institute is pleased to announce that we have signed an Affiliation Agreement with Athabasca University. Both the University and the Institute have a common interest in distributed learning in transportation regulatory affairs and information and communication. Dr. Rory Campbell will represent Athabasca University on the Institute's Board of Directors.

Government of the Northwest Territories , Department of Transportation has a mandate to provide public transportation infrastructure to 33 communities spread out over an area more than 1.3 million square kilometres. This entails the operation, maintenance and improving of a transportation network now comprised of 27 airports, over 2200 kilometres of all-weather highways and some 1400 kilometres of seasonal winter roads. The department also provides ferry services at five river crossings.

The Honourable Michael McLeod is the current Minister of the Department, which has over 350 employees. Jim Stevens, Director of Planning and Policy, will represent the Government of the Northwest Territories Department of Transportation on the Board of Directors of the Van Horne Institute.

Stantec Consulting Ltd. was founded in 1954 and now offers services throughout North America and the Caribbean. Stantec provides professional design and consulting services in planning, engineering, architecture, surveying, and project management. They have been involved in transportation planning and engineering projects including major corridor studies, transit service studies, and various road projects. Their practice areas service clients in a diverse range of markets.

One of Canada's Top 100 Employers and 50 Best Managed Companies, Yanke Group of Companies, is a Saskatchewan based International Transportation Company, committed to being a community and industry leader. Yanke strives to provide unequalled transportation solutions through its diverse business units as follows: Road Division – operating a fleet of approximately 400 power units across North America; Multimodal Operations – providing rail services on both CN and CP rail; Container Port of Saskatchewan/Manitoba – providing international freight forwarding on ocean marine containers; Cool Blue Xpress – refrigerated division; Logistics – brokerage division.

The Yanke Group of Companies and its employees are committed to quality on-time service. Their commitment to new, modern equipment, state-of-the-art computer, satellite monitoring and communications systems, and their on-going training process ensure their customers receive the best transportation service available.

Transportation & Logistics Program

We are working closely with the Public Affairs Teams of Enbridge and Canadian Pacific Railway to develop the materials and campaign for the raising of funds for the program. Watch for future developments.

VAN HORNE INSTITUTE MEMBERS

Acclaim Energy Inc.
Air Canada
Air Transport Association of Canada
Alberta Energy & Utilities Board
Alberta Electric System Operator
Alliance Pipelines Ltd.
Altalink L.P.
*Athabasca University
Aviation Alberta
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Calgary Airport Authority
Calgary Economic Development
Canadian Air Transport Security Authority
Canadian Freightways Limited
Canadian Pacific Railway
Canadian Transport Lawyers' Association
Cargolux Airlines International S.A.
CN
DHL Global Forwarding
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*Stantec Consulting Ltd.
Sultran Ltd.
Teamsters Canada
TELUS Corporation
TransCanada PipeLines Limited
Transport Canada
University of Alberta
University of Calgary
Vancouver Port Authority
VIA Rail Canada Inc.
Western Transportation Advisory Council
WestJet Airlines Ltd.
*Yanke Group of Companies

* Denotes new members

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The Van Horne Institute has been established to address important transportation and related regulatory issues confronting industry and government, in North America and internationally, through education and research. The Institute was incorporated federally in 1991 as a not-for-profit organization, and was granted affiliation with the University of Calgary in January 1992, the University of Alberta in 1998, and with SAIT in January 2000.