

Date: April 7, 2021

Report To: Economic Development Executive Committee

From: Cody Vangel, Chief Building Official & Municipal Planner

Re: Ranier Bridge Feasibility Study – CN Railway

In late February 2021 Town administration was contacted by Gannett Fleming Inc, a U.S. based civil engineering firm, seeking hydraulic flow information as it pertains to the floodplain around Fort Frances, Rainy Lake and the Rainy River. Through this correspondence it was determined that CN Railway has engaged Gannett Fleming Inc. to conduct a feasibility study on the Ranier Railway Bridge to identify options to replace or retrofit the existing bridge.

Town administration provided Gannett Fleming Inc. with several contacts to reach to gather some of the data they were seeking.

Given the extreme importance of the existing channel at the Ranier Bridge and the natural and existing flood protection that it provides to the Town, it was formally requested that Gannett Fleming Inc. keep the Town of Fort Frances informed of future progress including design works (if any) with regards to this project as it has a direct impact on the Town.

H2O Power was also included into the correspondence chain as this project would directly impact them as well. H2O subsequently issued a formal request to Gannett Fleming Inc. requesting to be informed on progress of the project as well.

It is imperative that this item remain on the Town's radar and that it not be taken lightly as alterations to the channel at the Ranier Bridge can have significant to catastrophic repercussions.

This item was brought forward to the Planning and Development Executive Committee where it was asked to bring forth to the Economic Development Executive Committee to recognize a potential tourism attraction by creating a foot-traffic border crossing to Ranier. As this bridge is the property of CN Railway, discussions would need to be conducted with CN to determine if they would entertain such idea.

Approval of this report is not required as it is for information only.

Respectfully submitted.



Cody Vangel
Chief Building Official & Municipal Planner