



**Riverland Recreational Trail Society**  
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N.E. Muni-Corr Ltd.  
5015 – 49 Avenue  
St. Paul, AB. T0A 3A4

**Re: Owlseye Road Proposal**

August 22, 2016

Dear Board Members,

Look at what we've done together! Alberta's Iron Horse Trail is now thirteen years old and stands as a testament to all of us; municipalities, volunteers, tourism and other stakeholders working towards a common goal. Here in Alberta, we have been fortunate to be a part of an economic boom which brought a lot of people to the Lakeland region. With the downturn in the economy, it is family roots and quality of life in that region that will keep those that can stay to invest in their futures, if they see it being at least somewhat possible. Besides the recreation, there are dynamic tourism opportunities left in the wake of the economic change we are experiencing now. Alberta's Iron Horse Trail has helped us all to push the envelope of what recreational, municipal and volunteer development can bring to "shine" as we have here today.

Maintaining and further improving that "shine" will be one strong element in retaining the high quality of people and investment in our Lakeland.

Riverland Recreational Trail Society and N.E. Muni-Corr Ltd. have always had a good partnership with both working together to build Alberta's Iron Horse Trail into an iconic tourist attraction while balancing the needs of the municipalities to better their communities. It is with this in mind that RRTS brings forward an option they hope touches on the concerns both N.E. Muni-Corr Ltd. and RRTS Board members have expressed concerning the sale of part of the 99 foot right of way for road development in Owlseye. Improving as we have opportunities to do so and celebrating those improvements further validates that commitment to quality of life and future investments.

Two concerns have been expressed over the course of the past year and a half. One is the danger of setting precedence in selling off a portion of the 99 foot right of way. Many RRTS Board members have been around since before the acquisition of the CN property. They sat at the table with the founding members of N.E. Muni-Corr Ltd. and were involved in many of the decisions including the one that requires a 100% unanimous decision to sell off any portion of the 99 foot right of way. The reasons for setting this up are varied but the main one is so that no one municipality can use the 99 foot right of way for it's own gain. N.E. Muni-Corr Ltd. is made up of ten municipalities and anything to do with the 99 foot right of way is to be in the best interests of the organization and all ten

partners collectively. The decision to sell off a portion of the right of way can not be made lightly and future considerations must be taken into account. We should be asking ourselves, what are the mitigating factors in this situation that would set it apart from future claims? What criteria, if any, should be documented to assist the decision making process in the future?

The second concern expressed is one of safety. We realize the safety of residents is one of the reasons the County of St. Paul is asking to have the road moved. RRTS is concerned with the safety hazard created between road traffic and trail users if this road were to be moved. When asked how many metres there will be from the edge of the road to the edge of the trail, we've been told anywhere from 3 to 6 metres (9.5 – 19.5 feet). The County of St. Paul has offered to put a chin link fence between the two. RRTS feels there is still an unaddressed danger. Trail traffic does not only occur during the daylight hours. With the road in such close proximity to the trail and the curvature of the trail and road, night time trail users with their lights on can be a great danger to oncoming traffic and vice versa. This is a situation where both sets of drivers could be distracted and confused. With only a mere 10 feet between them or less, even with a chain link fence, this has the potential to be a huge liability.

Riverland Recreational Trail Society would like to propose the following solution that may solve the issues for all three parties; RRTS, N.E. Muni-Corr Ltd. and the County of St. Paul.

We strongly feel that any opportunity we have to enhance the trail user experience should be fully explored and this may be such an opportunity. If the County of St. Paul would consider rebuilding the trail surface to the northeast of the existing trail and into the siding land that N.E. Muni-Corr Ltd. owns and plant trees between the side of the trail and the road allowance, we feel this would greatly enhance the trail experience. It would eliminate the danger of having ATV/Snowmobile and vehicle traffic in such close proximity and it would also eliminate the danger from headlights.

As your Trail operator and core owner of our Alberta's Iron Horse Trail, we, RRTS must ask and implore and validate that if any such change to ownership might become necessitated by proven need and then by unanimous vote, that it be conditional in that the quality and safety of the recreational experience and other foreseen public service possibilities not become compromised. Instead we ask it be complimented and improved upon in any such decision.

Sincerely,



Marvin Bjornstad  
President, Riverland Recreational Trail Society