

Title: Hwy 63:06/08, S. of Marians Lake to N. of Mariana Lake

Memorandum (or Approval) Date: January 16, 2014

Design Exception Request Date: October 22, 2013

Region: Fort McMurray

Approval Status: Approved

Project Location					
Highway	Control Section	At km	From km	To km	Existing AADT
63	06/08		27.00/0.00	43.70/8.00	4330

Project Type (Mark all that apply with an X)			
Functional Planning:	New Construction: X	Reconstruction:	Paving/Surfacing:
Bridge:	Operations:	Geotechnical:	Environmental:
Shoulder Widening:	Detailed Design: X		

Summary
According to AT HGDG – Design Bulletin 70/2010, for new rural divided highway cross-sections, where the land is considered to be lower value, a 55m centerline (CL) spacing is considered desirable and a 40m minimum CL is considered acceptable. The design exception request is for a 25m CL median separation from station 33+011 to 37+176.

Rationale for Approval/Rejection
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The economic benefit/cost analysis comparison undertaken by the consultant between a 55m and 25m CL median separation indicates the 25m CL separation is considered more cost effective than the 55m CL median separation. According to the consultant, there is a capital cost savings of approximately \$11.58M due to the separation between the existing west pipeline corridor and existing Highway 63 for this section of highway. There are no proposed median crossovers and/or intersections within the proposed 25m median separation segment. High tension cable barriers (HTCB) although cost effective, will not be installed on the reduced median section at this time. The safety performance will be monitored by the region and HTCB can be installed in the future, if required. This is considered acceptable, as there are other highway sections in the Province which currently have narrower medians and/or are ranked higher in terms of HTCB installation priority.

Additional Information
There were constraints associated with this project with the presence of a utility corridor on one side and a lake on the other side.

Key Words
Reduced median spacing, cross-section, horizontal alignment

