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Proven European Technology to be Used on Front Street in Dawson City

WHITEHORSE – The Department of Highways and Public Works is pleased that a new highway paving product called bituclair has been delivered and will be used in the Front Street paving project in Dawson.

Bituclair produces a lighter coloured pavement that will minimize solar absorption and help minimize melting of the underlying permafrost.

“We are eager to be the first ones in North America to utilize this product that can potentially assist the department in dealing with issues created by the effects of melting permafrost,” Highways and Public Works Minister Archie Lang said. “The look of the lighter surface is also in keeping with Dawson City’s heritage theme.”

Klondike MLA Steve Nordick is also supportive of the project and is pleased with the progress and the combined efforts of the department and the City of Dawson.

“I am glad that we have undertaken this work in response to requests from Front Street businesses for a better road surface that is more capable of withstanding the heavy traffic from buses and recreational vehicles,” Nordick said.

The Government of Yukon is the first to try the bituclair product in North America, although it is routinely and successfully used throughout Europe. Bituclair was manufactured in France, shipped in totes via the Panama Canal to Vancouver and transported by truck to Dawson City.

Skookum Asphalt began the preliminary paving of Front Street on August 28 with the usual darker asphalt as a base layer, followed by a surface layer of bituclair. The project is slated to be finished by September 9.

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