Lessons Learned on Assessing Climate Risk

Elizabeth Smalley, Transport Canada November 19, 2019







1 | Provide overview of Transport Canada's adaptation work

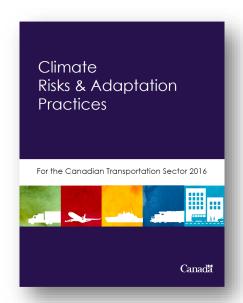
PURPOSE

2 | Introduce the Transportation Assets Risk Assessment (TARA) initiative

3 | Highlight lessons learned and recommended practices

TC's Role in Adaptation

- Support adaptation research, analysis and policy development
 - Knowledge Broker
 - Building adaptive capacity and mainstreaming
- Provide funding support through two key initiatives:
 - Northern Transportation Adaptation Initiative
 - Transportation Assets Risk Assessment initiative
- Convening, engagement and collaboration – domestic and international





(Illustration created by www.soaringtortoise.ca)

About TARA

- \$16.35M over five years
- To better understand climate risks
- Limited to federally-owned and/or managed transportation assets
- Three eligible activities:

Full climate risk assessment

Sub-components of a climate risk assessment

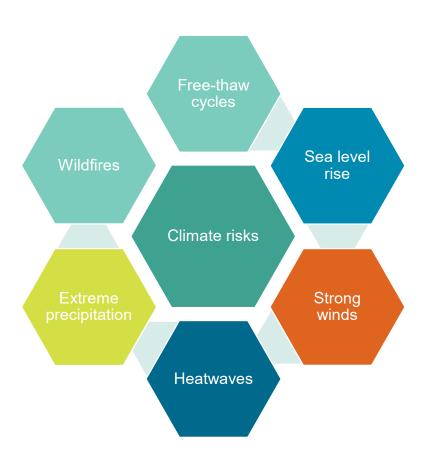
Climate risk assessment research

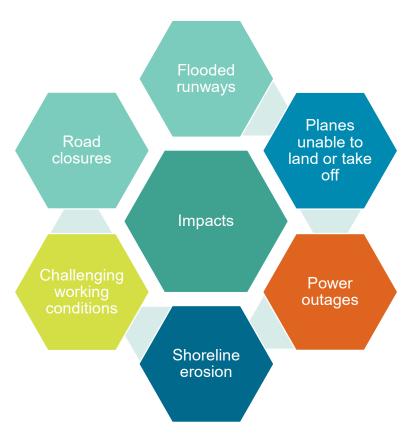
TARA projects

Mode		Projects	
	Air	14 assets in 7 provinces	
=	Marine	15 assets in 6 provinces	
	Surface	6 assets in 4 provinces	

Why assess climate risk?

Because the effects of climate change are already being felt by Canadian transport assets





Starting a climate risk assessment

- Most projects use a consultant
- But it's not a plug-and-play process
- Your decisions before starting:
 - What tool do you use?
 - What inputs do you select?
 - What do you want to get out of it?

What tool to use?



U.S. DOT Vulnerability Assessment Scoring Tool













Fisheries and Oceans Canada

A National Coastal Infrastructure Vulnerability Index (CIVI)







How to select a tool

1) Risk
2) Risk
3) Risk
4) Risk Treatment and
Analysis
Evaluation
Adaptation Measures

Common flow, but different emphases:

- Assessing criticality
- Assessing vulnerability
- Assessing interdependencies
- Assessing engineering resilience

Which is right for you?

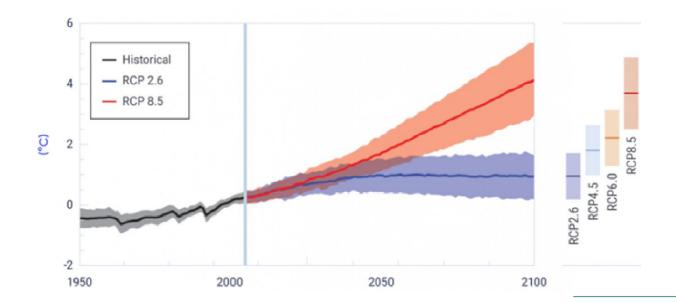
Review of PIEVC Climate Risk Assessments

- Use of publicly available PIEVC climate risk assessment reports
- Focus on the Canadian transportation system
- Establish an understanding of common recommendations

Type of recommendation	Development/update of policies and previous evaluations	Studies and instrumentation	Monitoring	Management and operational changes	Engagement to gather additional information and/or further apply assessment results	Engineering solutions	Vulnerability ranking and criticality parameters
Number of recommendations	35	33	24	6	5	5	2

Conditions for success

- Definition of scope, considering:
 - Interdependency of assets and risks
 - Sensitivity to weather events
- Choosing appropriate RCP



Conditions for success

Operator involvement

impact analysis is anecdotally based

Need understanding of:

- on-the-ground impacts & current issues
- cumulative impacts



What do you want to get out of it?

Expectation	Reality
Decision-making toolsCapital	 Better understanding of your vulnerability
recommendations • Engineering solutions	 Recommendations for further analysis and planning
 Simple integration with existing plans 	pianing

How do you get closer to what you want?

When approaching your climate risk assessment, consider including and analysis of:

- Mapping Risk Over Time
- Asset Life Cycle
- Confidence Levels



In discussions with management, consider:

- Level of Service
- Risk Tolerance

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Many decisions to be made
- Involve the operator!
- Final product can be strengthened

Questions / Comments?

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