

*November 3, 2010*

## **Deerfoot Trail construction wraps up busy year**

*Calgary...* Motorists who use Deerfoot Trail in Calgary will enjoy a smoother ride and more visible pavement markings following a busy construction season on Alberta's most-travelled road.

The Alberta government invested more than \$20 million in 2010 for Deerfoot Trail work with the federal government contributing more than \$6 million through the Infrastructure Stimulus Fund.

"Investing in our provincial highway network supports thousands of jobs today, lays the foundation for future economic growth, and supports our communities," said Luke Ouellette, Minister of Transportation. "Deerfoot Trail is a key part of our province's world-class transportation network and we will continue to invest in upgrades to support the safe and efficient movement of people and goods."

Major Deerfoot Trail projects completed this year include:

- Adding a lane to southbound Deerfoot Trail between Beddington Trail and 64 Avenue North.
- Replacement of the Ogden Road flyover bridge deck.
- Re-paving 21 kilometres of the road from the Ivor Strong Bridge to south of 17 Avenue SE. The project will include installation of durable pavement markings by spring 2011.
- Re-paving the southbound lanes between Stoney Trail and McKnight Boulevard, including installation of durable pavement markings.

With the completion of these latest projects, approximately 70 per cent of Deerfoot Trail will have durable pavement markings. The inlaid plastic markings are a key improvement because they are expected to last five to 10 years before needing replacement whereas traditional markings need to be repainted up to four times per year on some sections of the road.

Visit [www.transportation.alberta.ca/drftom-gp.htm](http://www.transportation.alberta.ca/drftom-gp.htm) for more information on Deerfoot Trail.

The Government of Alberta has a clear plan for a strong economic recovery. The Way Forward will bring Alberta back into a surplus position in three years by trimming government spending; using cash reserves to protect key programs; continuing to invest in public infrastructure; and ensuring that our province's industries are competitive and continue to attract investment to provide jobs and prosperity.

**Media inquiries may be directed to:**

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To call toll free within Alberta dial 310-0000.

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## Deerfoot Trail Facts

- Deerfoot Trail is 50 km long and contains 21 interchanges.
- Deerfoot Trail is Alberta's busiest highway. Between 27,000 and 158,000 vehicles use the road each day, depending on location. The next busiest highway is the Queen Elizabeth II Highway between Leduc and Edmonton with an average daily traffic count of 70,000.
- The road's first sections opened to traffic in 1975 and were built by the City of Calgary.
- In 2000, the Alberta government assumed responsibility for the construction and ongoing maintenance of Deerfoot Trail. Since that time, the Alberta government has invested more than \$190 million to upgrade and expand the road.
- In 2003, Deerfoot Trail was extended from Highway 22X to the Highway 2/2A interchange north of Okotoks.
- In 2005, Deerfoot Trail became completely free-flow with the opening of the Douglasdale Boulevard interchange and the removal of the last set of traffic lights from the main line.
- Deerfoot Trail was named after Api-kai-ees, a Siksika (Blackfoot) long distance runner from the 1880s who went by the name Deerfoot. He died in 1897 and over a century later, he was recognized with the 1998 Achievement Award from the Alberta Sports Hall of Fame.

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