

June 27, 2005

Road construction further divides Highway 43

Edmonton... Another 50 kilometres of four-lane road on Highway 43 will open to traffic by the end of this year's construction season, beginning with a 14-kilometre stretch that will open this month.

Highway 43 forms the northwest leg of Alberta's North-South Trade Corridor and runs 432 kilometres from its junction with Highway 16 west of Edmonton to Grande Prairie. The Alberta government will invest approximately \$52 million in the highway in 2005, bringing the total investment in Highway 43 to \$450 million over the past six years. The federal government is also investing \$29 million in the highway under the Strategic Highway Infrastructure Program.

"The twinning of Highway 43 will improve the safety and efficiency of this important North American trade corridor," said Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, Anne McLellan on behalf of Jean-C. Lapierre, federal Minister of Transport. "It demonstrates the Government of Canada's commitment to working with its provincial partners to strengthen highway infrastructure across the country."

A 14-kilometre segment of newly twinned highway will open to traffic by the end of June, between Cherhill and Glenevis, followed by another 36 kilometres by the end of the 2005 construction season. That will leave only 56 kilometres of two-lane road along the 432-kilometre highway. Work will continue this year on four-laning these remaining 56 kilometres and will be complete by the fall of 2007.

"Continuing to twin Highway 43 is a major step toward completing the North-South Trade Corridor," said Dr. Lyle Oberg, Minister of Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation. "This vital highway link fosters the safe and efficient north-south movement of people and goods, and supports Alberta's growing trade with the United States and Mexico."

The North-South Trade Corridor will be a continuous 1,175-kilometre, four-lane highway link from the Alberta-Montana border at Coutts to the B.C.-Alberta border west of Grande Prairie. The corridor will form part of the greater CANAMEX Corridor, which is a highway link from Alaska to Mexico City.

"The continued twinning of Highway 43 is very important to my constituents and is a top priority for me," said George VanderBurg, MLA for Whitecourt-Ste. Anne. "Twinning will make this very busy highway safer and more efficient for all motorists."

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Editors note:

Backgrounder and map attached.

Media enquiries may be directed to:

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To call toll free within Alberta dial 310-0000.

Backgrounder

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Major projects started or completed on Highway 43 in 2005

Open to traffic during 2005

- 14.1 kilometres of final paving from west of Cherhill to west of Glenevis.
- 19.1 kilometres of final paving from west of Sangudo to west of Cherhill.
- 15.4 kilometres of final paving from west of Iosegun Lake to west of Fox Creek.

- **Open to traffic by 2007**

- 14.2 kilometres of base and initial stage paving from south of Township Road 662 to west of Iosegun Lake.
- 18.5 kilometres of grading from east of Green Court to west of Sangudo.
- Bridge construction over the Pembina River near Sangudo.
- Bridge construction on the Rochfort Bridge.
- 17.4 kilometres of grading from south of Township Road 662 to south of Asplund Creek.
- 18.9 kilometres of paving from west of Iosegun River to west of Two Creeks.
- 15.1 kilometres of final paving from Highway 658 to east of Green Court.
- Bridge construction over the Little Paddle River west of Mayerthorpe.
- Bridge construction over the Paddle River east of the Rochfort Bridge.

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Editors note:

For more information on highway construction projects, visit Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation's web site at www.infra.gov.ab.ca and click on "Highway Construction Projects." For more information on the North-South Trade Corridor and CANAMEX Corridor, click on "Planning and Policy" and then "Roads."

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