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Lights go out from Claresholm to Edmonton

Motorists enjoy 420 kilometres of free-flow traffic on Highway 2

Calgary... The last set of traffic signals has been removed from the Deerfoot Trail in Calgary, creating 420 kilometres of non-stop travel on Highway 2.

The signals were removed with the partial opening of the new Douglasdale Boulevard interchange. Motorists can now drive from Claresholm to Edmonton on Highway 2 without having to stop.

"Free flowing traffic is both safer and more efficient," said Dr. Lyle Oberg, Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation. "The new interchange is good news for Calgarians and all users of Highway 2 in southern Alberta."

The \$22-million interchange, which will be completed later this fall, is the last link in a greater project to extend the Deerfoot Trail south to Highway 2. This takes pressure off main roads in south Calgary, such as Macleod Trail, and provides a free-flow route through the city. The Deerfoot Trail and Highway 2 are important components of the North-South Trade Corridor, a multi-lane 1,175-kilometre highway corridor running from the Alberta-B.C. border west of Grande Prairie to the Alberta-Montana border at Coutts.

"For the last few years, we've worked hard with the Province to see this day come - free-flow traffic on Alberta's busiest road," said David Bronconnier, Mayor of Calgary. "It demonstrates the Province's commitment to building and maintaining major transportation corridors in Calgary, including the ring roads."

The Alberta government has invested approximately \$350 million to expand and upgrade the Deerfoot Trail over the past five years. For more information on highway projects in the Calgary area, visit www.infra.gov.ab.ca, click on "Highway Construction Projects" and then "Calgary Provincial Highway Projects."

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