



November 7, 2005

New interchange serves fast-growing community of Brooks

New structure better accommodates high levels of truck traffic

Brooks... Construction has been completed on a new interchange that will allow traffic to move more safely and efficiently in one of Alberta's fastest-growing communities.

Canada Transport Minister Jean-C. Lapierre and Alberta Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation Dr. Lyle Oberg opened the new interchange on Trans-Canada Highway 1 at Cassils Road in Brooks on November 7. This \$20-million project received \$7 million in federal funding and \$13 million in provincial funding under the Strategic Highway Infrastructure Program. Construction began in October 2003 and was completed in November 2005.

"The Cassils Road interchange is an example of what governments can achieve when working together," said Lapierre. "The new interchange will enhance safety for motorists and increase the highway's capacity to move goods quickly and efficiently throughout southern Alberta."

The project replaces an at-grade intersection with a diamond interchange and realigns both Cassils Road and an existing service road. This section of Trans-Canada Highway 1 averages 7,500 vehicles per day, 25 per cent of which are trucks. This percentage compares to the provincial average of 15 per cent and illustrates this highway's significance in the transportation of goods across Alberta.

"This new interchange is great news for Alberta's newest city and for all users of the highway," said Oberg. "On average, interchanges reduce collisions by 45 per cent in Alberta and I expect this new interchange will meet or exceed that average. Projects like these make it easier to transport goods and contribute to Alberta's strong economy."

Canada and Alberta signed the Strategic Highway Infrastructure Program agreement in 2001. Since that time, the governments of Canada and Alberta have directed more than \$92 million to improving infrastructure on National Highway System highways in Alberta.

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