

May 30, 2006

Finishing touches put on Deerfoot Trail extension

Contractor minimizes disruptions by working during off-peak hours

Calgary... The most southerly leg of the Deerfoot Trail will receive its final layer of pavement this summer.

Work begins June 9 for final paving of both the northbound and southbound lanes of Deerfoot Trail from the Ivor Strong Bridge over the Bow River to the junction with Highway 2A just south of Calgary's city limits. The project also includes final paving of Highway 2A (extension of Macleod Trail) from the junction with Highway 2 to two kilometres north. The project will cost an estimated \$12 million.

New Alberta highways are paved in two stages. The initial stage paving allows motorists to use the road for a period of time to help determine any weaknesses or trouble spots, which can be corrected by the second stage pavement. Staged paving also increases the time before rehabilitation is needed.

"The Deerfoot Trail extension has been a real blessing for motorists in south Calgary since it opened in 2003," said Art Johnston, MLA for Calgary-Hays. "The extension has eased congestion on major roads such as Macleod Trail."

The majority of the paving work will take place between 7 p.m. and 5 a.m. daily to minimize traffic disruptions. During those hours, traffic may be reduced to as little as one lane in each direction through the active construction zones. Motorists are asked to slow down, use caution and obey all signs. Motorists are also encouraged to use alternate routes during the active construction hours. Work will be completed by the end of September, weather permitting.

"This investment in the Deerfoot Trail responds to the tremendous growth Calgary is experiencing and supports both the city and our province's strong economies," said Ty Lund, Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation.

Construction to extend Deerfoot Trail from Highway 22X (Marquis of Lorne Trail) to Highway 2A started in Fall 2000 and the new roadway opened to traffic in Fall 2003. The Alberta government has invested approximately \$350 million in the Deerfoot Trail since 2000, including \$100 million for the south extension. Between 17,000 and 35,000 vehicles per day use this section of Deerfoot Trail.

- 30 -

Media enquiries may be directed to:

Trent Bancarz
Communications
Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation
(780) 427-0623

To call toll-free within Alberta dial 310-0000.

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