

October 16, 2006

## **Province officially opens Anthony Henday Drive Southwest to 30,000 daily motorists**

### **First completed ring road section in Alberta opens to traffic**

Edmonton...Motorists travelling between Highway 2 and Highway 16 around Edmonton have a new, more efficient travelling option, as the province officially opened the final eight-kilometre section of the Anthony Henday Drive Southwest Ring Road.

Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation Ty Lund, joined by Edmonton Mayor Stephen Mandel, marked the official opening of the first complete leg of a ring road in Alberta.

"The completion of the southwest ring road supports the ongoing growth of the Capital Region and creates a new and vital economic link within the province," said Lund. "Investing in Alberta's highway network, and in ring road infrastructure, supports the province's strong economy and contributes to Alberta's future growth."

The provincial cost for completing the 18-kilometre southwest section of the Anthony Henday Drive was \$310 million and includes five interchanges (Calgary Trail/Gateway Boulevard, Terwillegar Drive, 111 Street, Whitemud Drive, and 87 Avenue), three ravine crossings (Blackmud, Whitemud, and Wedgewood), and twin bridges over the North Saskatchewan River.

"One of the City of Edmonton's key priorities is the swift completion of Anthony Henday Drive, and the opening and the southwest ring road is another important step toward realizing this goal," said Mayor Stephen Mandel. "The City is proud to work with the Government of Alberta on this project, as it both reinforces Edmonton's position as the service hub for northern development and meets the transportation needs of our citizens and the entire capital region."

The expected traffic volume on Anthony Henday Drive Southwest is approximately 30,000 vehicles per day. Anthony Henday Drive SW features a concrete road surface, which requires less maintenance than traditional asphalt and can last up to 30 years before needing resurfacing.

The newest eight kilometres of Anthony Henday Drive Southwest connect with the six-kilometer segment of roadway that opened in 2005, the four-kilometres segment that opened in 2001, and the more than 20 kilometres of roadway that were previously opened. In total, motorists can now travel on 40 kilometres of Anthony Henday Drive from Highway 2 (Calgary Trail/Gateway Boulevard) to Highway 16 (Yellowhead Highway).

Anthony Henday Drive Southeast will open in October 2007, providing an additional 11 kilometres of roadway. With the opening of the southwest and southeast portions, the ring road will be more than 50 kilometres in length. With the future completion of the north ring road, the total length will be 80 kilometres.

- 30 -

### **Media enquiries may be directed to:**

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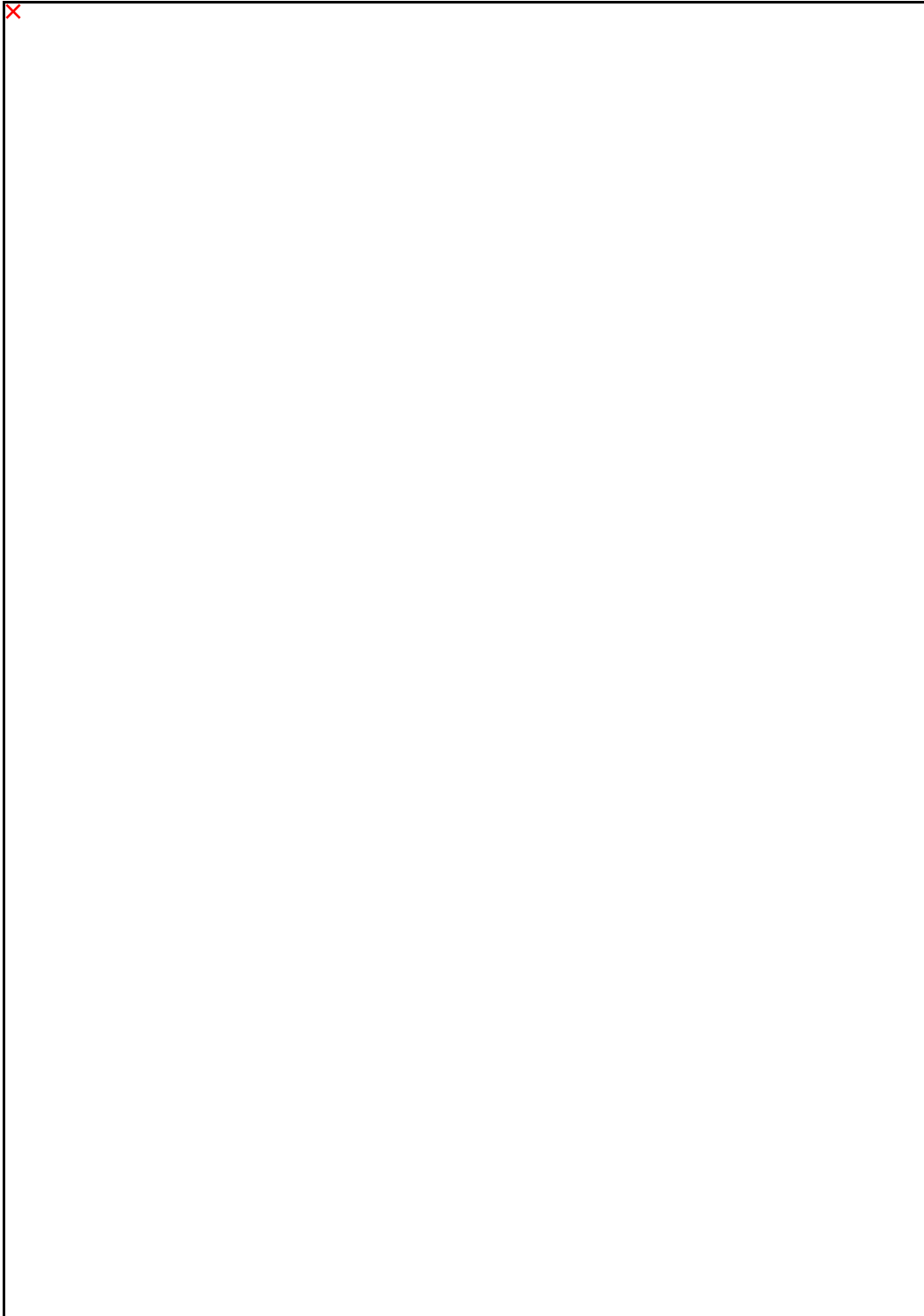
To call toll-free within Alberta dial 310-0000.

**Backgrounder**

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**Edmonton Ring Road**



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**Backgrounder 2**

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**First concrete roadway built by the province**

The concrete road surface on Anthony Henday Drive Southwest is approximately 14 kilometres in length and is the first concrete roadway built by the province.

The concrete road surface was selected because it lasts longer and requires less maintenance than traditional asphalt. The surface does not rut, washboard or shove, and can last up to 30 years before resurfacing is needed, or twice as long as asphalt.

The roadway uses steel dowels to keep the surface level and ensures motorists will not feel the joint lines in the concrete. The longitudinal grooves provide friction and reduce the noise of the roadway, as compared with the traditional grooves that run across the roadway from shoulder to shoulder.

Concrete roadway details:

- 14.4 kilometres of divided highway
- 230 mm concrete pavement over 150 mm granular base course
- 105,000 cubic meters Portland cement concrete pavement

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Return to Government Home Page

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