

**Managing growth pressures**

September 20, 2007

**Latest twinned section on Highway 43 improves safety for motorists*****Divided roadway between Green Court and Sangudo opens to traffic***

*Mayerthorpe...*

Motorists travelling between Green Court and Sangudo will enjoy 18.5 kilometres of newly divided highway, as the province officially opens the latest twinned section on Highway 43 at a cost of \$22.3 million.

“Twinning Highway 43 between Edmonton and Grande Prairie is nearly complete, providing a safer and more efficient highway for one of Alberta’s major economic corridors,” said Luke Ouellette, Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation. “By twinning this important stretch of the North-South Trade Corridor, Alberta is investing in the economic future of the province.”

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 has invested \$1.3 billion to develop the North-South Trade Corridor since 1998, including \$566 million since 1998 to twin Highway 43.

“As a long-time supporter of the twinning of Highway 43, I’m pleased this very busy section of highway will be safer for motorists and will help support economic development throughout the region,” said George VanderBurg, MLA for Whitecourt-Ste. Anne.

Two additional Highway 43 projects are currently underway. Final paving of 34 kilometres of previously twinned Highway 43 between Sangudo and Glenevis is expected to be finished by the end of September at a cost of \$9.5 million. An additional 35 kilometres of Highway 43 twinning will also open to traffic later this fall, weather permitting, between Asplund Creek and Iosegun Lake at a cost of \$46 million. Detailed engineering work and construction on the final 38 kilometres of Highway 43 twinning near Sturgeon Lake will be completed after the road alignment is finalized.

New highway construction is one of the actions under Premier Ed Stelmach's plan to manage growth pressures. Other priorities for the government are to govern with integrity and transparency, improve Albertans’ quality of life, build a stronger Alberta, and provide safe and secure communities.

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**Media enquiries may be directed to:**

Heather McLachlan  
Communications  
Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation  
(780) 422-7070  
(780) 717-3913

To call toll free within Alberta dial 310-0000.

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