
Managing growth pressures

October 5, 2007

Highway 43 twinning to go through Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation

Government negotiations successfully conclude

Edmonton...

The Alberta government has acquired approximately 200 acres of land to twin Highway 43 through the Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation. The acquisition of this land will allow the highway to be twinned along its existing route.

“The Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation came forward this past summer with a desire to re-open negotiations on the Highway 43 land,” said Luke Ouellette, Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation. “I’m very pleased we were able to successfully conclude the negotiations. This allows the province to expand existing infrastructure and provide continued access through the Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation.”

The agreement is pending Government of Canada approval for the land transfer, expected to be complete within a year. The highway right-of-way will be vacated and cleared by the Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation within a year of the land transfer. Construction on the final 38 kilometres of Highway 43 twinning could begin as early as fall 2009.

“The Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation and communities along the current Highway 43 route have come to rely on the existing highway access,” said Mel Knight, Minister of Energy and MLA for Grande Prairie-Smoky. “I’m pleased this section of highway will continue to service local communities and support future development.”

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 \$566 million since 1998 to twin Highway 43.

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:

Jerry Bellikka
Communications
Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation
780-415-1841

To call toll free within Alberta dial 310-0000.

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