

May 2, 2008

Highway construction ready to roll in northwestern Alberta

Grande Prairie... The Alberta government is ready to roll on a number of major highway projects in northwestern Alberta areas such as Grande Prairie, Watino and Sexsmith.

“Government will invest a record amount this year for highway infrastructure,” said Luke Ouellette, Minister of Transportation. “A safe and efficient highway network supports Alberta’s economy and contributes to the province’s continuing prosperity.”

Major projects include:

- Ongoing construction on the Highway 43 Bypass at Grande Prairie. The two-lane overpass bridge for the future eastbound lanes will be completed this year at a cost of \$5.3 million and the railroad overpass adjacent to Highway 43 is expected to be tendered and completed later this year. The first leg of the Grande Prairie Bypass is scheduled to open to traffic following the completion of three kilometres of roadway connecting 116 Street (Range Road 63) with the overpass bridge. Land negotiations for the Highway 43 bypass right-of-way are ongoing and the roadwork is expected to begin in spring 2009.
- Repaving 8.7 kilometres of Highway 43 on the eastbound and westbound lanes through the City of Grande Prairie at a cost of \$11.9 million. Work will extend from the airport road to the north city limits and will be completed before the end of October.
- Ongoing construction on the replacement of the Smoky River Bridge on Highway 49 near Watino at a cost of \$46 million. The new bridge is scheduled to open to traffic by October 2009.
- Construction will be completed on twinning Highway 2 at Sexsmith from north of Highway 59 to south of Highway 672 at a cost of \$23.5 million. The new section of twinning is scheduled to open later this summer.
- Deck replacement on the Dunvegan Bridge will begin in May 2008 at a cost of \$17.8 million. The work is expected to take two construction seasons to complete, 2008 and 2009.

Province-wide in 2008, government will re-pave 1,240 kilometres of highway, including 82 kilometres of widening work. In addition, government will complete 50 kilometres of new paved highway. Based on the 2008-11 Capital Plan, government will invest \$5.2 billion in Alberta’s provincial highway network over the next three years, an increase of \$548 million from 2007-10 levels.

In construction zones motorists must observe the posted speed. When workers are present, fines for speeding in these areas will be doubled.

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