

July 19, 2010

## **Construction on new Drayton Valley Bridge breaks ground**

*Drayton Valley...* Construction is underway on the new Drayton Valley Bridge crossing the North Saskatchewan River on Highway 22. The new bridge will feature a wider deck and improved approaches that will enhance safety for motorists and access for industrial traffic and wide-loads.

“Investing in our provincial highway network supports thousands of jobs today, lays the foundation for future economic growth, and supports our communities,” said Luke Ouellette, Minister of Transportation. “The new Drayton Valley Bridge and road improvements will increase safety and traffic flow for motorists.”

The first phase of construction will include clearing of the future lanes on the east side of the North Saskatchewan River and constructing the east approach to the bridge, including a pile wall for slope stability. In addition, construction work will include the development of six kilometres of recreational trails. This first phase is scheduled to be completed by Oct. 15, 2010 at a cost of \$2.5 million.

“The new Drayton Valley Bridge will improve access for residents and industry and provide a safer access to the bridge from the roadway approaches,” said Diana McQueen, MLA for Drayton Valley-Calmar.

Construction on the bridge structure and remaining road improvement work will be tendered following completion of the final land agreements. Construction on the second phase is expected to begin by spring 2011.

The original two-lane bridge structure was built in 1956 and has a width of 8.5 metres with seven piers. The new two-lane bridge will have a width of 13.4 metres and three piers. The old bridge structure will be removed following the opening of the new bridge.

Continuing to invest in public infrastructure is a key part of the Government of Alberta’s plan for a strong economic recovery. *The Way Forward* will bring Alberta back into a surplus position in three years by trimming government spending; using cash reserves to protect key programs; and ensuring that our province’s industries are competitive and continue to attract investment to provide jobs and prosperity.

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