

July 29, 2010

New Grande Prairie bypass opens to traffic for long weekend

Grande Prairie... The new Grande Prairie bypass will open to traffic on the afternoon of July 30, providing an alternate route for traffic and helping to reduce congestion in the city.

“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 bypass will improve traffic flow in Grande Prairie and provide an important transportation and economic link for the region.”

The Alberta government invested \$24 million for the construction of the bypass, providing four kilometres of twinned highway and nine kilometres of service road improvements.

“The new Grande Prairie bypass will help to ease congestion in the city and improve the transport of goods across northwestern Alberta,” said Mel Knight, Minister of Sustainable Resource Development and MLA for Grande Prairie-Smoky.

The roadway has been designated Highway 43X and connects Highway 43 from west of Highway 2 to 116 Street. “The new bypass allows large industrial and commercial traffic to move smoothly around the outside of the city, helping to reduce congestion and improve traffic safety for motorists,” said Wayne Drysdale, MLA for Grande Prairie-Wapiti.

Construction on the proposed second phase of the bypass will extend west from 116 Street and connect with Highway 43 west of the airport. Government is currently completing the detailed design on the project.

The Government of Alberta has a clear 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; continuing to invest in public infrastructure; and ensuring that our province's industries are competitive and continue to attract investment to provide jobs and prosperity.

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