

For immediate release:

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Secondary Hwy 794 status changed

Edmonton . . . Secondary Highway 794 from Highway 16 north to Highway 18 at the Town of Westlock will be reclassified to primary highway status.

"New information contained in a consultants report clearly indicates that motorists are using the highway for provincial travel, not just for trips within the local area. It is this new data that has convinced me that we should change the status of this highway," said Infrastructure Minister, Ed Stelmach.

"My thanks to both urban and rural municipalities, local interest groups and my colleagues who supported this request," said Ken Kowalski, MLA Barrhead-Westlock.

There is now a significant amount of pre-planning that needs to be done with respect to the highways renumbering, its signage and construction schedule. This information will be announced as it becomes available.

The consultants report was paid for by Parkland County, Sturgeon County and Westlock County. The work was completed in late 1998 and provided to Alberta Infrastructure for review. Acceptance of the recommendation means that the province will pay for the full construction upgrade, as well as maintenance, rehabilitation and the purchase of any additional rights-of-way.

Under the new transportation policy announced by Premier Klein last week, Infrastructure will take over responsibility for all secondary highways on April 1, 2000.

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