

July 8, 2004

Widening of Mayor Magrath Drive continues

Lethbridge... Mayor Magrath Drive, between 34th Avenue South and 40th Avenue South, will be widened from three to six lanes thanks to a partnership between the Province and the City of Lethbridge.

"Alberta's cities face many transportation pressures because of the province's rapid growth," said Ed Stelmach, Minister of Transportation. "This funding partnership, which encourages private sector involvement, means that larger projects can be undertaken - projects which may not have been possible otherwise."

Construction will begin this month and be completed by July 2005. It will be administered by the City of Lethbridge. This project ties into the widening of Mayor Magrath Drive between Scenic Drive and 34th Avenue South which the Province provided \$3 million for last November.

"The widening of Mayor Magrath Drive is a major initiative and will improve the movement of goods and people throughout our city," said Clint Dunford, MLA for Lethbridge West. "When complete, this road will serve current and future traffic needs which is important for our growing city."

Through the Cities Special Transportation Grant program, the Province is providing \$3 million to the project and the City of Lethbridge is providing \$1 million. When this project is complete next year, Mayor Magrath Drive will be six lanes from Scenic Drive to 40th Avenue south.

Cities Special Transportation Grants are part of a cost-shared program. The Province provides up to 75 per cent for eligible projects (to a maximum of \$3 million) while the city picks up the remaining 25 per cent. The grants are available to Alberta cities, other than Edmonton and Calgary, to address road, transit or airport growth. Edmonton and Calgary have their own grant program based on five cents per litre of "road use" fuel sold in those cities.

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