

July 8, 2004

116 Street in Grande Prairie to be widened

Grande Prairie... Additional funds are being provided to the City of Grande Prairie for the widening of 116 Street from two to four lanes between 97 Avenue. and 104 Avenue and the upgrading of the two lane section of the road from 104 Ave. to 132 Ave. The Province and the City are cost-sharing the \$5 million project.

The Province is providing \$3 million to the project; \$830,000 was provided last April to advance the project design and over \$2 million will now be invested for construction in 2005. The City of Grande Prairie is investing \$2 million in the project. Construction will take place from May 2005 to July 2006 and will be administered by the City.

"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."

"This street is developing as an important route for the movement of goods and people," said Gordon Graydon, MLA for Grande Prairie-Wapiti. "A widened road will enhance safety and efficiency and will address current and future traffic needs which is important for this growing city."

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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