

July 8, 2004

Highway 39 widening continues

Leduc... Another section of Highway 39 will be widened thanks to a partnership between the Province and the City of Leduc. Through the Cities Special Transportation Grant program, the Province will provide \$800,000 while the City will fund the remainder of the \$1.1 million project.

"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."

Highway 39 will be widened from two to four lanes from Alton Drive to Grant MacEwan Boulevard. Construction is expected to begin in spring 2006 and be completed in fall 2006. The City of Leduc will administer the project.

This project ties into the four-laning of Highway 39 from Highway 2 to Alton Drive which is expected to start in 2005. In April, the Province provided \$3 million for the Highway 2 to Alton Drive widening project.

"Leduc has been growing at an accelerated rate," said Albert Klapstein, MLA for Leduc. "Highway improvements will ease traffic congestion and improve safety for those who use this road regularly."

About 15,000 vehicles per day travel Highway 39 near the location of Highway 2. The highway is also an important truck route which helps serve oil, gas and agricultural sectors.

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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