

September 30, 2004

## **Safer Drivers and Roads, and Stronger Partnerships were the focus for Alberta Transportation in 2003-04**

Edmonton... Alberta Transportation enacted some of North America's most comprehensive traffic safety legislation in 2003-2004. It also invested significantly in rural and urban transportation infrastructure, revamped traffic fines, launched an independent review of traffic safety programs and began work on its first public/private partnership as highlighted in the ministry's annual report.

"Our focus has been on creativity, innovation and progressive ideas that help us achieve our position as a leader in transportation excellence," said Ed Stelmach, Minister of Transportation. "With Albertans' support, we made considerable progress in reaching that goal last year."

### **Highlights of the 2003-2004 annual report:**

- Alberta Transportation invested over \$877 million in provincial highways, water/wastewater projects and other municipal partnerships.
- The new *Traffic Safety Act* was brought into force - some of the most comprehensive legislation of its kind in North America.
- Graduated driver licenses were introduced to help reduce incidents involving new drivers.
- Traffic fines were overhauled to send a message that government is serious about dealing with violators.
- The North/South Trade Corridor was nearly 84 per cent complete in 2003-2004. From the Alberta/Montana border to the Alberta/B.C. border in the northwest, 982 km of the corridor's 1175 km have been twinned.
- Plans began for a new joint-use Alberta/BC commercial vehicle inspection station, which will result in savings of approximately \$2 million in capital costs and \$300 thousand in annual operating costs.
- The Little Bow Reservoir Project near Vulcan was completed, resulting in a more secure water supply to communities and irrigated farmland in southern Alberta.
- In Calgary, a 10-kilometre extension on the Deerfoot Trail and the MacKenzie Interchange were opened.
- The request-for-proposal process was begun for delivering Edmonton's Southeast Anthony Henday Drive as a public-private partnership (P3).
- Grading and structural work continued on the Anthony Henday Drive Southwest project.

"Our province is experiencing strong growth, with an escalating population and an expanding economy that relies on exporting 60 per cent of the goods produced in Alberta," said Stelmach. "We're committed to a viable, well-maintained transportation infrastructure that can sustain that economic growth and set the standard for excellence."

Copies of Alberta Transportation's 2003-04 annual report can be downloaded from [www.trans.gov.ab.ca](http://www.trans.gov.ab.ca) or obtained by calling (780) 415-0698.

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