

December 10, 2004

New interchange makes highway travel more safe and efficient

Medicine Hat... Medicine Hat's newest interchange at Highway 1 (Trans-Canada Highway) and 13th Avenue S.E. was officially opened today by Infrastructure and Transportation Minister

Dr. Lyle Oberg and other provincial and municipal representatives.

"The safety of motorists and the efficient movement of goods and services throughout Alberta is a provincial priority," said Oberg. "The city and local MLAs Rob Renner and Len Mitzel should be commended for their support of this project as well as area residents who were patient and cooperative during construction."

The \$10-million interchange and related work, funded completely by the Alberta government, included:

- east and westbound bridges, taking the Trans-Canada Highway over 13th Avenue S.E.
- reconstruction of 13th Avenue S.E. from Trans-Canada Way to Strachan Road
- new on and off ramps
- construction of an additional lane between 13th Avenue S.E. and College Avenue on the north side of the Trans-Canada Highway.

"Medicine Hat has seen a lot of growth over the years, said Medicine Hat Mayor Garth Valley. "I thank the province for recognizing the need for a new interchange to improve safety and reduce traffic congestion."

Interchanges are the safest way to enter and exit a highway and are known to reduce collisions by about 45 per cent. About 16,000 vehicles a day travel Highway 1 in the location of the new interchange.

Construction began on the interchange in 2003 and was open to traffic on Nov 12. The contractor for the project was Walter Construction Corporation of Calgary and the engineering consultant was UMA Engineering.

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