

June 29, 2005

Heavily travelled route receives heavy investment

Edmonton... The Alberta government will invest \$32 million this year in the province's most heavily travelled highway corridor.

The Queen Elizabeth II Highway (formerly Highway 2) runs 260 kilometres between Calgary and Edmonton and is used by approximately 20,000 to 54,000 vehicles per day, depending on location.

"Investing in highway infrastructure improves safety for motorists and contributes to Alberta's economy," said Dr. Lyle Oberg, Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation. "This is Alberta's busiest highway and these investments are necessary to keep it operating safely and efficiently."

Several construction projects may cause detours and delays for motorists, who are urged to drive carefully in construction zones and obey all signs and flag people. Visit www.travelinfotest.ab.ca for real-time information regarding closures, detours, or delays on the Queen Elizabeth II Highway.

Major projects during the 2005 construction season include:

- Ramp construction on the Big Hill Springs interchange;
- Rehabilitation of the bridge over the Red Deer River near Red Deer;
- Illumination from south of Mackenzie Avenue to south of Highway 2A junction near Red Deer (Gasoline Alley);
- Rehabilitation of the Black Gold Drive overpass in Leduc;
- Rehabilitation of a local road flyover structure south of the Highway 13 interchange near Wetaskiwin;
- Median widening for 21 kilometres between Acme and Carstairs;
- Median widening for 15 kilometres north of Bowden;
- Completion of the south Innisfail interchange;
- Paving 10 kilometres of service roads for the south Innisfail interchange;
- Construction of the north Airdrie interchange with Highway 567.

The Alberta government will invest \$669 million for construction and preservation of the province's highway network in 2005-06.

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