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## **Cost-sharing drives new blacktop for southern Alberta**

Province, county invest in highway projects

Brooks... Motorists in the County of Newell are in for a smoother and safer ride thanks to two new highway projects that will be completed by next year.

Dr. Lyle Oberg, Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation, has given the green light for two highway projects in southeastern Alberta. One project will be cost-shared with the County of Newell while the other will be funded solely by the Alberta government.

"Improved highway infrastructure enhances motorist safety and contributes to the efficient movement of goods and people," said Oberg. "Good highways contribute to Alberta's economy and provide economic opportunities for the communities they serve. I appreciate the county's contribution to this project."

The County of Newell will invest \$2.8 million of \$7.9 million to pave 22 kilometres of Highway 876 from its junction with Highway 544 north to the Red Deer River near Patricia. The province will fund the remaining \$5.1 million for the project. Construction will get under way this year and will be complete by fall 2006.

"We're pleased to make progress with the province to improve our three-digit highways," said Molly Douglass, County of Newell reeve.

The second project involves widening the median on Highway 1 at its junction with Highway 36 near Brooks to better accommodate turning movements and traffic attempting to cross Highway 1. The project's estimated cost of \$3 million will be paid for by the province. Work will begin in 2006.

Total funding from the Alberta government for the two projects is \$8.1 million.

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