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Cost-sharing helps pave missing highway link

Oyen... A cost-sharing agreement between the Alberta government and the Special Areas Board will help pave a gravel section of highway sandwiched between two paved sections.

The Special Areas Board will contribute \$2 million of the \$6.6-million cost of paving Highway 570 from its junction with Highway 884 near Big Stone east to its junction with Highway 886. The Alberta government will fund the remaining \$4.6 million.

"I'm really pleased to see the province and the board come together in partnership to complete this important project," said Shirley McClellan, Deputy Premier and MLA for Drumheller-Stettler. "It's not just a matter of convenience. Improved roads are safer roads and completion of the paving on 570 offers those who drive it greater peace of mind."

The cost-sharing agreement with the Special Areas Board allows the project to proceed sooner than it would through traditional financing.

"This agreement is a model I plan to use with other municipalities to accelerate important highway projects," said Dr. Lyle Oberg, Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation.

The project eliminates the final 31 kilometres of gravel road on Highway 570. Work begins on August 15, 2005, and will be completed by the summer of 2006.

"This is great news to have this project go ahead and the Special Areas Board is very pleased to contribute financially," said Jay Slempe, Chair of the Special Areas Board. "This project has been on our list for a long time."

A few kilometres to the east, Highway 895 will receive its final paving from its junction with Highway 570 north to Oyen. The Alberta government will pay the full \$1.5 million cost. Construction of both projects has been awarded to South Rock Ltd. of Redcliffe.

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