

July 29, 2005

New interchange improves intersection safety

Spruce Grove... One of Alberta's most collision-prone highway intersections has been replaced by the province's newest interchange.

The new interchange at Campsite Road and Highway 16 near Spruce Grove eliminates the need for motorists to cross six lanes of highway-speed traffic or three lanes when turning at the intersection. Senator Tommy Banks, on behalf of Transport Minister Jean-C. Lapierre and Dr. Lyle Oberg, Alberta's Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation, officially opened the new interchange on July 29.

"This is good news for commuters, commercial traffic and visitors to the area," said Banks. "Thanks to the new interchange, we can all enjoy a safer roadway for years to come."

"The Government of Canada is committed to meeting and surpassing the public's expectations by providing them with a safer, more efficient highway system," said Lapierre. "This interchange is one way we are working to improve the movement of people and goods in Alberta."

The federal and provincial governments jointly funded the interchange through the Strategic Highway Infrastructure Program. The federal government provided \$10 million, while the Alberta government provided the remaining \$13 million.

"This new interchange alleviates a serious safety concern and better moves traffic in this rapidly growing region," said Oberg.

In Alberta, interchanges reduce collisions by 45 per cent on average and are considered the safest way to access or exit a highway. The new interchange also provides a direct connection from Highway 16 to the recently-opened TransAlta Tri Leisure Centre, a major recreation facility serving the residents of Spruce Grove, Stony Plain, and Parkland County.

"My constituents are extremely pleased to see this interchange open and are looking forward to travelling more safely through the area," said Doug Horner, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development and MLA for Spruce Grove-Sturgeon-St. Albert.

"The new interchange is a great addition to our community and provides better and safer access for local residents and highway users," said Fred Lindsay, MLA for Stony Plain.

Canada and Alberta signed the Strategic Highway Infrastructure Program agreement in 2001. Since that time, the governments of Canada and Alberta have directed more than \$92 million to improving infrastructure on National Highway System highways in Alberta.

Trent Bancarz
Communications
Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation
(780) 427-0623

Kirsten Goodnough
Communications
Transport Canada, Ottawa
(613) 993-0055

To call toll free within Alberta dial 310-0000.

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