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Highway improvements for Morinville area moving ahead

Improved link to Edmonton, safer intersection in the works

Morinville...A safer highway, an improved intersection and a more pleasant morning commute are the payoffs from two new construction projects taking place near Morinville.

Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation plans to upgrade Highway 642 between Morinville and Highway 28.

"Besides making Highway 642 safer to drive, this project will benefit motorists commuting to Edmonton from the Morinville area," said Dr. Lyle Oberg, Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation.

The eight-kilometre project, estimated to cost \$7.25 million, involves widening Highway 642 from Morinville to Highway 28. The existing pavement surface will be overlaid as part of the work. The project will go to tender in mid-August. Most of the construction will take place next year and be completed by October 2006.

A new dual culvert will replace a small existing bridge structure near Highway 28, and improvements will also be made to the intersection at Roseridge Road.

"Improving traffic safety is a priority for government," said Ken Kowalski, MLA for Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock. "When you make improvements to a road or an intersection, you make it safer."

There are also plans to upgrade the intersection at Highway 2 and Cardiff Road, just south of Morinville.

Improvements include: widening of the southeast quadrant; construction of a concrete island; and extension of the existing concrete meridian. Adjustments are also being made to lighting, guardrails and signage.

The Highway 2/Cardiff Road project has been put out to tender, and a contract should be rewarded by September. Construction should be completed by Oct. 15 of this year. That project is expected to cost \$101,000.

- 30 -

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