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Motorists using Highway 595 in for a smooth ride

Province to fund additional leg of construction between Range Road 250 and Highway 21 South

Delburne... Longer-lasting and safer to drive-that's the promise of a soon-to-be-rebuilt east-west highway in Central Alberta.

Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation is moving ahead with its plan to rebuild a 12-kilometre section of Highway 595 between Range Road 250 and Highway 21, southeast of Red Deer.

The stretch of road will be built to modern standards, meaning it will be wider and more capable of handling heavy loads. The improvements will include gentler curves, better sightlines and improved intersections.

"It all adds up to improved safety," said Dr. Lyle Oberg, Minister of Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation. "We're essentially re-building this section of highway from scratch."

"This work will complement other work already underway between Highway 808 and Range Road 250," said Luke Ouellette, MLA for Innisfail-Sylvan Lake. "Work on that section began this summer and should be completed late this fall or early next spring."

The new project, estimated to cost \$11 million, will be put out to tender in late August and awarded in mid-September, with some preliminary work possibly beginning this fall. The job should be finished in October 2006. Work on both sections may be going on simultaneously in the fall. If that happens, motorists may expect additional delays in late September and October.

Approximately 1600 vehicles travel highway 595 each day. The road is used primarily for commuter traffic between Highway 2 and Highway 21. Truck traffic is currently around 21 percent, but this may increase once the new structure is in place.

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