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Upgrading continues on Highway 58

Widening will improve traffic flow and driver safety

Peace River... Work will begin this fall on the widening of a section of Highway 58 east of Rainbow Lake. Upgrading will also provide a new asphalt overlay extending the previous work on this northern road -- all part of the province's efforts to bring this highway up to current engineering standards and make it safer for local, recreational and commercial traffic.

The Government of Alberta is investing approximately \$11 million for the latest construction, which will involve grade widening, and asphalt concrete paving for approximately 17 kilometres on Highway 58 east of Rainbow Lake to west of South Zama access. The project continues the grade widening of approximately 25 kilometres of already completed highway.

"It's critical that Alberta's highways measure up to the latest engineering standards," said Dr. Lyle Oberg, Minister of Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation. "Road safety is one of government's highest priorities and not only will the work on this section of Highway 58 continue previous work, but it will help to make travel smoother and safer for everyone."

"This is a high traffic area for residents of these communities, recreational traffic and logging trucks," said Frank Oberle, MLA for Peace River. "Once widening is complete, drivers will enjoy improved and safer driving conditions on this stretch of highway."

Upgrading on Highway 58 is scheduled to be completed by the end of summer 2006. During construction, it is anticipated that while drivers may experience slowdowns or possible short detours, traffic will continue to flow with no lane closures.

Funding for this highway construction is part of the Alberta government's \$684 million investment for construction and preservation of the province's highway network in 2005-06.

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