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## **Work on Highway 55 to be done sooner than planned**

### **Province's strong first-quarter results make funds available sooner**

Cold Lake... Highway 55 in the Cold Lake area will undergo upgrades sooner than planned.

Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation is going to tender an upgrade to the highway this fall. The project involves widening and a pavement overlay of 18 kilometres of Highway 55 from its junction with Highway 41 at La Corey to its junction with Highway 892 west of Cold Lake.

"I'm very pleased to be able to move this important project forward," said Dr. Lyle Oberg, Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation. "Alberta's strong fiscal position allows extra funding to be allocated to the highway construction program.

The project will cost an estimated \$11 million. Depending on tender results, construction could begin late this fall or in Spring 2006 with completion expected in Fall 2006. Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation is also in the process of hiring an engineering consultant to begin the design work needed for upgrading Highway 55 from Iron River to Highway 41.

"My constituents are very pleased to see this project go ahead," said Denis Ducharme, MLA for Bonnyville-Cold Lake. "The widened highway better accommodates the needs of the agricultural community and the growing amount of heavy truck and industrial-based traffic using the road."

Funding for this project is provided through an extra \$100 million allocated for infrastructure following the province's strong first-quarter financial results.

The Alberta government will invest \$850 million for the construction and preservation of the province's highway network in 2005-06.

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