

November 8, 2005

## **Province opens new section of Anthony Henday Drive SW**

Road improves commute for Edmonton-area motorists

Edmonton... Edmonton-area drivers are in for safer and more efficient motoring as Anthony Henday Drive SW moves closer to its rendezvous with Calgary Trail and Gateway Boulevard.

Dr. Lyle Oberg, Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation, was joined by Dave Hancock, Minister of Advanced Education and MLA for Edmonton-Whitemud, and Edmonton Mayor Stephen Mandel to open a six-kilometre section of Edmonton's southwest ring road between Lessard Road and Terwillegar Drive on Nov. 8.

"This new road is another major step toward completion of the vital southwest leg of Edmonton's ring road," said Oberg. "Safe, efficient roadways support Alberta's strong economy, and in the case of Edmonton's ring road, support our capital's continued growth and its connections to the Capital Region."

The section includes the new twin bridges over the North Saskatchewan River. Each bridge is 360 metres long and will initially have two lanes, although both are designed to eventually accommodate four lanes of traffic. The southbound bridge features an illuminated pedestrian walkway underneath the bridge deck. The walkway ties into a trail network through Edmonton's river valley park system.

"The City of Edmonton is pleased to be partnering with the Government of Alberta to realize the completion of Edmonton's ring road," said Mayor Mandel. "This exciting project responds to the needs and priorities of our citizens, and further solidifies the capital city's role as a service hub to the North."

Anthony Henday Drive SW also features a concrete road surface, which requires less maintenance than traditional asphalt. The concrete surface can last up to 30 years before needing resurfacing or twice as long as asphalt.

"It's very exciting to see this leg of the Anthony Henday open up," said Hancock. "I have spent the last eight years working with my fellow Capital Region MLAs to make this project a government priority and we are all very pleased that the project is nearing completion."

The entire southwest leg of Anthony Henday Drive will be completed by fall 2006, providing a direct connection between Highway 2 and Highway 16. The Alberta government's total investment in the southwest ring road is approximately \$245 million.

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