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Innovative P3 approach earns national recognition for Alberta

National award honours Anthony Henday Drive S.E. project

Toronto... The Alberta government has received national recognition for its innovative approach to building the Anthony Henday Drive Southeast, the province's first road to be constructed as a public-private partnership (P3).

Dr. Lyle Oberg, Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation, accepted the Award of Merit for Project Financing at a November 28 national awards ceremony in Toronto hosted by the Canadian Council for Public Private Partnerships.

"It's an honour to accept this award on behalf of the Alberta government," said Oberg. "Not only will this road help to significantly reduce traffic congestion in Edmonton, but it will also serve as a model of excellence for us and others to follow for future P3 projects."

Anthony Henday Drive S.E. was among six projects across Canada that received 2005 National Awards for Innovation and Excellence. The Alberta project was honoured for an innovative agreement between the Alberta government and Access Roads Edmonton Ltd. Under this agreement, the Access Roads Edmonton consortium assumes responsibility for the design, construction, financing, and operation and maintenance of this leg of Edmonton's ring road, and provides a 30-year guarantee.

The agreement was the result of extensive research of P3 projects across North America and the world. By adapting practices for use in this project, the Alberta government created a made-in-Alberta approach that will see this major Edmonton road project constructed more quickly and cost-efficiently than if it were undertaken using the traditional government-financed manner.

Upon completion, Anthony Henday Drive S.E. will connect Highway 2 to Highway 14/216. It will include 11 kilometres of highway with six lanes between Highway 2 and 50th Street and four lanes between 50th Street and Highway 14/216. Twenty-four separate bridge structures including five interchanges are being constructed and there will be no traffic lights on this section of Anthony Henday Drive.

Construction is scheduled to be complete in the fall of 2007.

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