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## **Median barriers to be installed to improve Deerfoot Trail safety**

New barrier system makes first appearance on an Alberta road

Calgary... The Alberta government will install a new barrier system on northern sections of the Deerfoot Trail to prevent vehicles from crossing the road's median into oncoming traffic.

Construction will start this spring on a new post-and-cable barrier system on Deerfoot Trail from 16 Avenue North to Country Hills Boulevard. This marks the first time such a system has been used on an Alberta road, though such systems are used in the United States.

"Traffic safety is a priority of this government," said Dr. Lyle Oberg, Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation. "The new barrier system has worked well in other jurisdictions and I am confident it will prevent the fatalities and serious injuries associated with head-on collisions at highway speeds."

The barrier system includes collapsing posts threaded by flexible steel cables. The system acts similar to a spider web in that a vehicle leaving the road gets caught in the barrier and stops before it has a chance to cross the median into oncoming lanes of traffic. Vehicles avoid the hard impact associated with a concrete barrier collision, resulting in less serious injuries to occupants and less damage to vehicles. The post-and-cable system also prevents vehicles from ricocheting back into traffic.

The decision to install the barriers comes after a safety review of Deerfoot Trail, which was ordered by Oberg following two fatal collisions involving vehicles crossing the road median during the summer of 2005. The review recommended barriers between 16 Avenue North and Beddington Trail.

"We're extending the barrier system further north than what was recommended," Oberg said. "Typically, barriers are not required in wider medians, but Deerfoot Trail is not a typical highway. It is far and away Alberta's busiest road and measures need to be taken to ensure it's as safe as it can be."

The barrier system will cost an estimated \$1 million. Approximately 60,000 to 140,000 vehicles per day use Deerfoot Trail between 16 Avenue North and Country Hills Boulevard, depending on location.

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### **Editors Note:**

Video demonstrations of post-and-cable systems are available at [www.brifan.ca](http://www.brifan.ca). Click on "Test Videos", then on "TL4 Test Video."

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