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Province enjoys successful highway construction season

Edmonton... Despite relatively wet, cool weather in many parts of Alberta this spring and summer, the province's highway system continued to expand and improve.

The major portion of a successful highway construction season wrapped up in November.

"Investing \$660 million in Alberta's highway network is critical to the province's economy and ongoing prosperity," said Dr. Lyle Oberg, Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation. "Infrastructure improvements also make highways safer, which is a priority for this government."

Construction highlights for 2005 include:

- Paving 434 kilometres;
- Twinning 46 kilometres;
- Completing seven interchanges and starting eight others;
- Chip seal coating 425 kilometres;
- Grading 60 kilometres.

Highlights of major projects include:

- Completed the Douglasdale interchange on Deerfoot Trail in Calgary, making Highway 2 completely free-flow from Claresholm to Edmonton.
- Completed the South Innisfail interchange on Highway 2, Cassils Road interchange on Highway 1 near Brooks, the Campsite Road interchange on Highway 16 near Spruce Grove, and two interchanges on Anthony Henday Drive at Whitemud Drive and 87th Avenue.
- Completed and opened Anthony Henday Drive in Edmonton between Lessard Road and Terwillegar Drive, including new twin bridges over the North Saskatchewan River.
- Started the southeast leg of Anthony Henday Drive, Alberta's first highway project using a public-private partnership.
- Completed 44 kilometres of twinning on Highway 43 between Edmonton and Grande Prairie.
- Completed 24 kilometres of new paving on Highway 881 between Lac La Biche and Ft. McMurray.

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Media enquiries may be directed to:

Bart Johnson
Communications Director
Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation
(780) 415-1841

To call toll free within Alberta dial 310-0000.

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