

February 14, 2006

Residents get a peek at north Edmonton ring road plans

Edmonton... Edmonton and area residents will have opportunities this week to provide input into the province's plans to complete the missing links in Edmonton's ring road system.

The province is hosting two open houses as part of its functional planning for the northern legs of Anthony Henday Drive. The northern legs will stretch from the junction of Anthony Henday Drive and Highway 16 in Edmonton's west end to the junction of Highways 16 and 216 on the city's eastern boundary, thus completing the ring road around the entire city. Functional planning studies examine potential routes, connection points, land requirements, and potential environmental and social factors.

"The study is an important step toward the design and eventual construction of the road," said Dr. Lyle Oberg, Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation. "This study updates a similar one done in 2001 and responds to changing future traffic volumes and changes to our design criteria."

The updated study also takes a longer-term view of future needs, in excess of 50 years, and will be based on a metro Edmonton population in excess of two million. The study area is approximately 30 kilometres long. The updated study will take approximately a year to complete.

The open houses, which were advertised in Edmonton-area newspapers in early February, are an important part of the study and will feature displays, information sheets, and opportunities for public input. Representatives from Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation, the City of Edmonton, City of St. Albert, and ISL consultant group will be on hand to provide additional information and answer questions. Open house times and locations are as follows:

Wednesday, Feb. 15, 2006
Ukrainian Youth Unity Complex
9615 - 153 Avenue, Edmonton
4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 16, 2006
St. Albert Inn
Gate Avenue and St. Albert Road, St. Albert
4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Anthony Henday Drive has been completed from Highway 16 on Edmonton's west side to Terwillegar Drive in the southwest. The stretch running further east from Terwillegar Drive to Calgary Trail will be completed in fall 2006, while the southeast extension from Gateway Boulevard to Highways 14 and 216 will open to traffic in fall 2007. With the opening of these two major sections, Edmonton's ring road will be 60 per cent complete.

Construction date and cost for the northern legs has not yet been determined.

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Backgrounder attached

Media enquiries may be directed to:

Trent Bancarz
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(780) 427-0623

To call toll-free within Alberta dial 310-0000.

Background

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Northern leg of Anthony Henday Drive ring road



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