

May 17, 2006

## **Construction work on Highways 16 and 14 will improve traffic flow**

Sherwood Park... The Alberta government will invest \$20 million this summer to improve traffic flow through Sherwood Park and Strathcona County, including widening Highway 16 and improving access to and from Highways 16 and 14.

Work will include expanding the number of lanes on Highway 16, making major improvements to three interchanges, and repaving 33 kilometers of Highway 16 and Highway 14.

"These projects will help reduce congestion and improve the movement of traffic," said Iris Evans, Minister of Health and Wellness and MLA for Sherwood Park. "These improvements will make a dramatic difference for businesses in the area and residents in Sherwood Park."

Construction recently started, with ground preparation work to be completed during the day and the majority of the pavement work expected to occur at night. Lane reductions are expected to start May 23 and will occur periodically throughout the construction season. The work is expected to be completed by mid-October, weather permitting.

"Improvements to Highways 16 and 14 will support the movement of goods and services throughout the region," said Rob Loughheed, MLA for Strathcona. "Although roadway construction can be frustrating at times, I look forward to the improved traffic flow and safer exit and access along these highways where there is heavy rural, urban and truck traffic congestion."

The number of lanes on Highway 16 will be increased from two to four lanes from Highway 216 to Broadmoor Boulevard, and increased from two to three lanes from Broadmoor Boulevard to east of Sherwood Drive.

"This summer will be a very busy highway construction season across the province, as government invests more than \$1.1 billion in improving and expanding our provincial highway system to support Alberta's vibrant economy," said Ty Lund, Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation.

Improvements to the Broadmoor Boulevard interchange will include a second exit lane on the southeast loop with improved on and off ramps for eastbound traffic. A set of traffic control signals and a through lane will be added to the intersection north of Highway 16 on Broadmoor Boulevard.

Construction at the Sherwood Drive intersection will lengthen the on and off ramps for eastbound traffic as well as the Highway 16 westbound off ramp to Range Road 232.

The Clover Bar Road interchange improvements will include lengthening the merge and exit lanes for westbound and eastbound traffic. A set of traffic control signals and dedicated double left turn lane will also be added for southbound traffic coming off the southeast loop exit onto Clover Bar Road. Northbound traffic coming off the southeast loop will be able to access a right turn lane before the intersection. Drainage under Clover Bar Road will also be improved.

Highway 16 will be repaved from Edmonton's city limits to east of Highway 21 and Highway 14 will be repaved from south of the Whitemud interchange to the Highway 21 interchange. Some sections of Highway 14 will not be paved at this time and will be completed with the Anthony Henday paving. Merging and exit lanes will also be added at the Highway 14 intersections with Range Roads 232 and 231.

Lane closures on Highways 16 and 14 will not occur during the morning and afternoon rush hours or on

holiday long weekends. Motorists are asked to use caution in this area and obey speed limits and other traffic control devices.

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