

September 22, 2006

## **Twinning work plows ahead on Highway 21**

Sherwood Park...Construction is underway to twin Highway 21 near Sherwood Park. The initial 9.5 kilometres of grading will be completed from Highway 628 to south of Highway 16 at a cost of more than \$9 million.

"The twinning of Highway 21 will significantly improve the traffic flow in the area and relieve the growing congestion," said Iris Evans, Minister of Health and Wellness and MLA for Sherwood Park. "Residents of Sherwood Park look forward to the improved access and safety of the four-lane highway."

The new divided highway will better accommodate the growing traffic on Highway 21 and will improve safety for motorists, said Rob Lougheed, MLA for Strathcona.

"As a long-time supporter of the project, I am pleased to see the start of construction this fall," said Lougheed. "The economic growth in Strathcona County has increased the need for the improved highway access and will be a welcome relief for urban, rural and industrial traffic."

The complete twinning project for Highway 21 will include the grading and paving from south of Highway 628 to north of Highway 16, the interchange upgrade at Highways 16 and 21, and intersection upgrades at Highway 628, Baseline Road, Wye Road, and Lakeland Drive. The twinning project will take a minimum of three years to complete.

"Investing in Alberta's highway network is necessary to support the province's strong economy and contribute to future growth," said Ty Lund, Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation. "The land has been purchased for the main section of the Highway 21 twinning and negotiations are progressing well on the remaining sections of the twinning project that when completed, will improve safety of motorists."

Heavy equipment will be working on Highway 21 and the initial grading work is expected to be completed by mid-November, weather permitting. Motorists are asked to slow down and observe warning signs through the construction zone. Speed limits will be reduced to 80 km/h and 50 km/h at various locations through the construction zone.

The Alberta government will invest a record \$1.3 billion this year to build, repair, and maintain the province's highway network. Approximately 10,000 vehicles per day use this section of Highway 21.

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