

September 27, 2006

New interchange bridges two hospitals

New 16 Avenue NW interchange provides access to health facilities

Calgary... Motorists now have quicker and safer access to the Foothills Medical Centre and the new Alberta Children's Hospital via a new interchange on 16 Avenue NW.

The \$23-million interchange opened to traffic on Sept. 27. Its bridge deck will provide a direct road connection between the two health care facilities. Construction began in the spring of 2005.

"The new interchange provides safe, effective access to these two important health care facilities," said Ty Lund, Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation. "This is especially important for emergency vehicles when seconds count."

The Alberta government invested \$18 million for the interchange while the City of Calgary contributed \$5 million. The city will own the interchange and be responsible for its operation and maintenance.

"The new interchange is an important link. It will mean employees, patients and visitors will be able to access the new children's hospital and Foothills Centre safely and quickly," said David Bronconnier, Mayor of Calgary. "As a city, we're very pleased to partner with the Province and the Calgary Health Region in this transportation upgrade for these essential health facilities."

The interchange opening also coincides with the opening of the new Alberta Children's Hospital and the transfer of patients from the old children's hospital.

"We appreciate the work of the provincial government, the city, project consultants, and contractors in getting this interchange done and providing improved access to the two hospitals," said David Tuer, Chair of the Calgary Health Region. "This project is very important to us and the people we serve."

On average, interchanges reduce collisions by 45 per cent and are considered the safest way to enter or exit a road or highway.

Including this project, the Alberta government will invest a record \$1.3 billion this year to build, repair, and maintain the province's transportation infrastructure.

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Media enquiries may be directed to:

Trent Bancarz
Communications
Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation
(780) 427-0623

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

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