

October 4, 2006

## **Highway 11 receives two new lanes**

### **Motorists can drive from Red Deer to Sylvan Lake on a divided highway**

Sylvan Lake... The trip from Sylvan Lake to Red Deer is safer and less congested now that Highway 11 has four lanes.

The 13 kilometres worth of new eastbound lanes open to traffic Oct. 5 from Highway 11's junction with Highway 596 near Red Deer to its junction with Highway 20 at Sylvan Lake. The project also includes a new bridge over Cygnet Lake and upgrades to the intersection of Highways 11 and 20.

"This newly-divided highway will improve safety for motorists and ease traffic congestion in this rapidly-growing part of Alberta," said Ty Lund, Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation. "Investing in Alberta's highway network supports the province's strong economy and contributes to Alberta's future growth."

Construction began in the spring of 2005 on the \$16-million project. Luke Ouellette, Minister of Restructuring and Government Efficiency and MLA for Innisfail-Sylvan Lake, said the highway improvements are welcomed by his constituents.

"My constituents are pleased to see this important project completed," said Ouellette. "Travel has been increasing steadily over the past number of years between Red Deer and Sylvan Lake and the newly-expanded road will accommodate these increases now and into the future."

Between 8,500 and 13,000 vehicles use the highway each day, depending on location. On average, twinning a highway reduces collisions by 47 per cent.

Including this project, the Alberta government will invest a record \$1.3 billion this year to build, repair, and maintain the province's highway network. The Alberta highway network contains approximately 31,000 kilometres of roadway, of which more than 24,000 kilometres are paved and 2,200 kilometres are divided multi-lane. The network also contains 4,000 bridge structures.

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