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Construction to begin this spring on new access road to hospital

Hinton...Construction work on a new access roadway to the Hinton Healthcare Centre and parking lot improvements are set to begin this spring, providing a safer access and visually attractive entrance to the facility. Project construction is expected to be completed this summer, weather permitting.

"The improved access roadway to the Hinton Healthcare Centre is a priority, as it will increase safety for patients, visitors and staff accessing the facility," said Luke Ouellette, Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation. "I am pleased to announce that the successful contractor, E Construction Ltd., will begin construction on this important project this spring."

Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation tendered the project in December 2006, and received bids from four contractors. The project was awarded to the lowest bidder for \$1,031,900. The project will include road access improvements, parking lot improvements, lighting, and other site improvements, including a fence along the Alberta Sustainable Resource Development storage yard.

"As a long-time supporter of the project, I'm pleased to see construction moving forward," said Ivan Strang, MLA for West Yellowhead. "The new entrance to the hospital will make a significant difference for community residents, improve driver safety, and provide a fitting entrance to one of Hinton's most important facilities."

The existing entrance was considered unsafe with poor sight lines to traffic coming down the hill toward the entrance.

The department previously tendered the project in June 2006, but received no response from bidders due to industry activity at the time.

- 30 -

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