February 2, 2007

Medicine Hat Drivers Will Benefit From Extension And Improvements To South Boundary Road

Medicine Hat, Alberta... The City of Medicine Hat will benefit from a $6 million investment from Canada's New Government and the Government of Alberta in two municipal infrastructure projects.

Improvements will reduce traffic congestion, support growth in the south sector of Medicine Hat and provide greater access to business districts within the city. The projects will also increase safety and reduce maintenance costs.

Through the Canada-Alberta Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (CAMRIF), the federal and provincial governments will each contribute $2.85 million towards the upgrading and extension of South Boundary Road, as well as $150,000 each towards the synchronization of traffic signals along a 7.5 km portion of roadway.

The Honourable Monte Solberg, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development, on behalf of the Honourable Rona Ambrose, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Minister of Western Economic Diversification, and Len Mitzel, MLA for Cypress-Medicine Hat, on behalf of the Honourable Luke Ouellette, Minister of Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation, made the joint announcement today.

"Canada's New Government is getting things done for the people of Medicine Hat," said Minister Solberg. "This investment will increase the safety of commuters, help reduce traffic congestion as well as promote business growth opportunities."

"This project will improve traffic flow and safety for motorists on South Boundary Road as well as address growth in this area of the city," said Mitzel. "Providing safe and secure communities and managing growth pressures are two of the Government of Alberta's five priorities."

"Given Alberta's unprecedented growth and the challenges municipalities face meeting transportation infrastructure needs, the CAMRIF funding is a welcomed relief. Alberta's urban municipalities are striving to achieve long-term sustainability economically, culturally, socially and environmentally, and this funding will help the City of Medicine Hat build the infrastructure to support this goal," said AUMA President Bob Hawkesworth.

The Canada-Alberta Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund is a joint initiative between the Governments of Canada and Alberta that enables communities to address local infrastructure needs. Over the course of CAMRIF, the federal and provincial governments will each contribute $88 million in funding for municipal infrastructure renewal.

Eligible projects under CAMRIF include water and sewage treatment, solid waste management, public transit and energy improvements to municipal buildings.

The fund also supports better roads and bridges, cultural, recreational and tourism projects and improved broadband Internet access. Projects are selected on a competitive basis from applications received from Alberta communities.

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Backgrounder

Canada-Alberta Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (CAMRIF)

The following projects are receiving funding under the Canada-Alberta Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (CAMRIF).

City of Medicine Hat

South Boundary Road

Combined federal / provincial investment: $5,700,000 (pending environmental assessment)

This project will upgrade 1.7 km of roadway and provide an 800-metre extension to South Boundary Road.

Synchronization of Traffic Signals

Combined federal / provincial investment: $300,000

This project will synchronize traffic signals along the 7.5 km north-south corridor of Dunmore Road, Allowance Avenue, Maple Avenue, Altawana Avenue and Division Avenue North.

Backgrounder

Fact Sheet

Canada-Alberta Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (CAMRIF)

Partnership Program

- The Canada-Alberta Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (CAMRIF) is designed to address local infrastructure needs in rural and urban Alberta. It ensures all Albertans, whether they live in large,

small or remote communities, share in the benefits of infrastructure investments.

- Through the fund, the Governments of Canada and Alberta invest in local infrastructure projects. These projects are vital to sustaining strong economic growth and quality of life in Canadian communities.
- The federal-provincial CAMRIF Agreement provides $88 million each in federal and provincial funding for municipal infrastructure renewal, reflecting shared federal and provincial priorities. With matching one-third contributions from municipalities, total program funding will be at least $264 million.
- CAMRIF is implemented by Western Economic Diversification Canada and Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation, and is administered by a joint secretariat.

Program Priorities

- A minimum of 55 per cent of funding under CAMRIF targets "green infrastructure" projects that contribute to community economic development and environmental quality of life. These include water, wastewater, solid waste, environmental energy improvements and public transit. The fund also invests in recreational infrastructure, tourism and cultural projects, local roads and broadband connectivity.
- At least 80 per cent of CAMRIF funding is dedicated to rural municipalities with a population of less than 250,000. The remaining 20 per cent is available to urban municipalities with a population greater than 250,000.
- At total of $880,000 is also available to municipalities for Municipal Capacity Building (MCB) projects. Projects may include, but is not limited to, the acquisition of infrastructure planning software, training to use that software, planning studies to determine the inventory and condition of infrastructure assets in the municipality or the development of a demand asset management system.

Local input and collaboration

- CAMRIF is managed by a six member Management Committee consisting of two federal representatives, two provincial representatives, and two members representing Alberta's municipal associations-the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association and the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties. The Management Committee develops the Management Committee guidelines and oversees the project review and selection process. Projects are selected on a competitive basis from applications received from Alberta communities. The deadline to submit applications for the first intake was July 31, 2006.
- Applications for the second intake will be accepted in Spring 2007.

Environmental Assessment

- CAMRIF projects are required to successfully complete applicable environmental assessment processes, and funding is conditional on compliance with all applicable federal and provincial requirements.

How to apply

- For more information, contact the Canada-Alberta Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund Joint Secretariat by phone (toll free) at 1-800-396-0214, by e-mail at camrif@gov.ab.ca or visit the website www.camrif.ca.
- Information about Government of Canada and Alberta's infrastructure programs is available at www.infrastructure.gc.ca and www.infratrans.gov.ab.ca.

Send us your comments or questions

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