

Managing growth pressures

June 26, 2007

Improvements to Highway 9 increase safety for motorists

Approximately 45 kilometres of highway to be rebuilt in southern Alberta

Drumheller... Work is underway to widen and straighten Highway 9 into the Drumheller area, making the road easier and safer to drive.

Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation will rebuild approximately 45 kilometres of Highway 9 between Beiseker and Highway 840 north of Rosebud. Work has started on a 15-kilometre section from east of Highway 836 to east of Highway 840. This \$25-million initial phase of construction will be completed in October 2007.

"Investing in Alberta's highways supports the province's strong economy by providing a safe, efficient way to move people and goods," said Luke Ouellette, Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation.

The work includes building new road and widening the existing highway to the modern standard of 12 metres with full shoulders. Currently, the highway is nine metres wide. The project also involves straightening the highway's alignment to reduce the severity of grades and curves. As part of the National Highway System, improvements to Highway 9 will ensure the road is up to modern standards.

"These improvements will make driving Highway 9 safer and more enjoyable," said Richard Marz, MLA for Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills.

Over the next three years, work will commence on rebuilding or widening the 30-kilometre section of the highway from Beiseker to Highway 836. Total estimated cost of these additional phases of construction is \$55 million.

"Upgrading Highway 9 is key to supporting the growth in our area and I am glad to see it move ahead," said Carol Haley, MLA for Airdrie-Chestermere.

Approximately 2,500 to 3,000 vehicles per day use the highway between Beiseker and Highway 840.

Expanding the capacity of Alberta's highways is one of the actions under Premier Ed Stelmach's plan to manage growth pressures. Other priorities for the government are to govern with integrity and transparency, improve Albertans' quality of life, build a stronger Alberta, and provide safe and secure communities.

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