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## ***Managing growth pressures***

*August 30, 2007*

### **New interchange to connect three highways**

#### ***Interchanges are the safest way to enter or exit a highway***

*Langdon...*

A new interchange will provide a safer and more efficient connection for motorists using Highways 1, 9, and 797.

Construction is underway on the \$40-million interchange, which will open to traffic by September 2008.

“Interchanges significantly reduce the number and severity of collisions at highway intersections,” said Luke Ouellette, Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation. “They also promote more efficient movement of people and goods, which contributes to Alberta’s strong economy.”

The new interchange replaces an at-grade intersection that has a relatively high collision rate. The interchange eliminates potentially risky manoeuvres such as crossing or turning left across multiple lanes of highway-speed traffic and larger vehicles jutting out onto Highway 1 from median crossovers. On average, interchanges reduce overall collisions by 45 per cent and eliminate t-bone and head-on collisions at highway speeds that frequently result in serious injuries or fatalities.

“The new interchange enhances safety and is key to supporting the growth in our area,” said Carol Haley, MLA for Airdrie-Chestermere. “I am very pleased to see this important project move ahead.”

The improved intersection and service roads also allow government to remove eight less-safe accesses and four median crossovers in the interchange’s vicinity. Approximately 14,000 vehicles per day use Highway 1 in the area.

The Alberta government will invest \$1.3 billion for the construction and preservation of the province’s highway network in 2007-08.

Improving the safety and efficiency 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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