

February 1, 2008

County of Barrhead upgrades improve safety and airport access

County of Barrhead... The federal and provincial governments are investing \$1.7 million to restore and upgrade Township Road 592/Range Road 40. Rob Merrifield, Member of Parliament for Yellowhead, on behalf of the Honourable Rona Ambrose, President of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Minister of Western Economic Diversification, and Ken Kowalski, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and MLA for Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock, on behalf of Luke Ouellette, Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation, announced the funding of \$1,737,932, through the Canada-Alberta Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (CAMRIF).

"Today's announcement reflects our government's commitment to investing in infrastructure that helps build a stronger, more sustainable economy for Alberta," said MP Merrifield. "This investment in our transportation system will increase safety for travelers, and improve industry and local access to the Johnson Industrial Airport."

Reconstruction of the road will increase safety for drivers and the traveling public, including tourists. The communities in the County of Barrhead and the Yellowhead region, as well as the businesses in the area, will enjoy economic benefits, as the airport and recreation areas will be easily accessible and travel will be safer, as well as more pleasant.

"This is an important local road that will improve the County residents' quality of life," said Kowalski. "Improving roads throughout the province reflects Premier Ed Stelmach's plan to secure Alberta's future by building communities, greening our growth and creating opportunity."

Under the initial CAMRIF Agreement signed in June 2006, the federal and provincial governments each committed \$88 million to the fund, with participating local governments expected to make up the remaining costs. This year, the Government of Canada and the Province of Alberta have each provided an additional \$19 million to the Canada-Alberta Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund as part of their commitment to help smaller communities meet their pressing infrastructure needs. The total amount available from the CAMRIF, with federal and provincial investment and matching local government contribution in projects, is \$321 million.

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, cultural projects, local roads and broadband connectivity. Projects are selected on a competitive basis from applications received from Alberta communities.

Donna Kinley
Communications Manager
Western Economic Diversification Canada
Edmonton, Alberta
Tel: (780) 495-6892

Jerry Bellikka
Director of Communications
Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation
Edmonton, Alberta
(780) 415-1841

Canada-Alberta Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (CAMRIF)

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

County of Barrhead

Township Road 592 /Range Rd 40, Base and Pave

Combined federal / provincial investment: \$1,737,932 (pending environmental assessment)

This project involves base paving of Township Rd 592/ Range Road 40 from Hwy 33 west for 3.2 km and north for .80 km. This road is an essential component of the County of Barrhead roadway system as it is the road to the County/Town of Barrhead Johnson Municipal Airport and the Barrhead Golf and Recreation Area. This road is fundamental to the economic growth and tourism for the Town and County of Barrhead.

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.
- Under the initial CAMRIF Agreement signed in June 2006, the federal and provincial governments each committed \$88 million to the fund, with participating local governments expected to make up the remaining costs.
- This year, the Government of Canada and the Province of Alberta have each provided an additional \$19 million to the Canada-Alberta Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund as part of their commitment to help smaller communities meet their pressing infrastructure needs.
- The total amount available from the CAMRIF, with federal and provincial investment and matching local government contribution in projects, is \$321 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.
- A total of \$724,584 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 second intake was May 31, 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.

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 <http://www.camrif.ca/>.
- Information about Government of Canada and Alberta's infrastructure programs is available at <http://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/> and <http://www.infratrans.gov.ab.ca/>.

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