

May 8, 2008

Seal coating disrupts traffic between Calgary and Airdrie

Airdrie... Motorists can expect lane closures and speed reductions on the Queen Elizabeth II Highway between Calgary and Airdrie due to chip-seal coating work.

The work starts May 12 at 6 a.m. and affects both northbound and southbound traffic. At times, traffic will be reduced to two 3.2-metre lanes in each direction and the speed limit lowered to 50 km/h. Pilot vehicles will be used to guide traffic through the construction zones. To minimize delays, northbound lane closures will be in affect from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily while southbound lane closures will occur between 9:30 a.m. and 10 p.m. daily. Vehicles wider than 3.2 metres are advised to use alternate routes.

The chip-seal coating will be completed by May 16 at 4 p.m., weather permitting. Speed will be reduced to 80 km/h for the following few days until the roadway lines are repainted.

Chip-seal coating involves putting a layer of rock chips and liquid asphalt on top of the road surface. The coating provides better traction for motorists and also protects the road infrastructure. Pilot vehicles and speed reductions are used during coating operations to reduce damage to vehicles from loose rock chips.

Motorists are asked to use caution in the area and obey all signs, flag persons, and pilot vehicles. Motorists are reminded that fines for speeding are doubled through construction zones when workers are present.

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