October 3, 2002

## New Grande Prairie interchange now open to traffic

Grande Prairie...A new \$23.7 million interchange on Highway 43 is now open to traffic.

"This interchange is an example of Alberta's commitment to a safe and efficient highway network," said Ed Stelmach, Minister of Transportation. "It benefits those who travel this roadway every day and is another step toward the completion of the North-South Trade Corridor."

The interchange, located about two kilometres north of Grande Prairie at the intersection of Highways 43 and 2, was funded 100 per cent by the provincial government. The construction, which got underway on Aug.7, 2001, was completed on time and under budget.

"We thank the province for this much needed highway upgrade," said Wayne Ayling, Mayor of Grande Prairie. "This interchange enhances the safe movement of our citizens and trade goods."

About 14,000 vehicles per day travel this section of Highway 43, which is a part of the North- South Trade Corridor. The trade corridor stretches from the Alberta-British Columbia border west of Grande Prairie to the Alberta-Montana border at Coutts. It is one of Alberta's most important trade routes and is expected to be complete by 2011.

"The interchange is essential for the safe travel of all motorists using Highways 43 and 2 and the county wishes to thank our MLAs for the work they have done to bring this project to completion," said Roy Borstad, Reeve of Grande Prairie No. 1.

The interchange was officially opened by Minister Stelmach, Gordon Graydon, MLA (Grande Prairie-Wapiti), Mel Knight, MLA (Grande Prairie-Smoky), Mayor Ayling and Reeve Borstad.

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