

June 30, 2010

Major interchange in Airdrie opens ahead of schedule

QE2-Yankee Valley Boulevard interchange gets \$42-million rebuild

Airdrie... Motorists are now able to use a revamped interchange in Airdrie months ahead of schedule, yielding excellent value for taxpayers.

The Alberta government invested \$42 million for the upgraded interchange at Queen Elizabeth II Highway and Yankee Valley Boulevard. The project, which started in fall 2008, opened months ahead of its original completion date of fall 2010.

“Investing in our provincial highway network supports thousands of jobs today, lays the foundation for future economic growth, and supports our communities,” said Luke Ouellette, Minister of Transportation. “With 55,000 vehicles per day using the highway in this area, this upgraded interchange will improve safety and traffic flow and accommodate Airdrie’s future growth.”

The project, built by Graham Infrastructure, included construction of new bridges to carry Queen Elizabeth II Highway over Yankee Valley Boulevard, new entrance and exit ramps, upgrades to nearby storm water sewers, improved street lighting, and widening the bridge that carries Yankee Valley Boulevard over Nose Creek. Yankee Valley Boulevard was also widened to six lanes from two, both east and west of Queen Elizabeth II Highway. Interchanges are considered the safest way to enter or exit a highway.

“The City of Airdrie fosters a developing partnership with Alberta Transportation, as we work together to improve traffic flow in Airdrie,” said Linda Bruce, Mayor of Airdrie. “The Yankee Valley Boulevard interchange is one example of the caliber of projects that carries huge benefits for our residents.”

The Government of Alberta has a clear plan for a strong economic recovery. *The Way Forward* will bring Alberta back into a surplus position in three years by trimming government spending; using cash reserves to protect key programs; continuing to invest in public infrastructure; and ensuring that our province's industries are competitive and continue to attract investment to provide jobs and prosperity.

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